

In The Days When The Judges Ruled

Lesson 19

Naomi & Ruth

Ruth 1

Introduction

Even though we know Ruth's story is in the days of the judges (1:1), we don't know which judge was governing Israel at the time. The author apparently wishes to illustrate that though the nation as a whole was estranged from God, there were some who still had faith.

The focus of this chapter is the family of Elimelech, an Ephrathite from Bethlehem Judah. His wife, Naomi, is one of the main characters. We're also introduced to the book's "heroine"... Ruth the Moabitess.

The Sojourn In Moab (vv. 1-13)

- 1) When did the events of this story take place? What else is said about this period? (v. 1)

- 2) Describe the family who was driven into the land of Moab by the famine. (vv. 1-2) Given Israel's spiritual condition at the time, what might explain the famine? (Deut. 28:15, 22-24)

- 3) How long did they live in Moab and what tragedies struck them? (vv. 3-5)

- 4) What moved Naomi to return with her daughters-in-law to her homeland in Judah? (v. 6)

- 5) What counsel did Naomi give to Ruth and Orpah? (vv. 8-9) What was their initial response? (v. 10) How did Naomi seek to convince them otherwise? (vv. 11-13)

- 6) Was Naomi successful? (v. 14) To what else besides family would the young widows have returned? (v. 15)

In The Days When The Judges Ruled

Lesson 19

- 7) How did Naomi view the tragedies that had befallen her in Moab? (vv. 13, 20-21) Do you think there was any truth in this, or was it just Naomi's grief talking?

Ruth's Loyalty & Commitment (vv. 14-22)

- 8) Although both Orpah and Ruth obviously loved Naomi, why do you think Ruth's decision was more than just a matter of *personal* loyalty to her mother-in-law? (vv. 16-17)
- 9) How was Naomi received in Bethlehem? (vv. 19-21)
- 10) What was it that Naomi in her grief could not see? What would eventually happen? (4:16-17)
Thought question: do we sometimes have a similar problem? (2 Cor. 4:17)
- 11) When did Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem? (v. 22)