

# Scenes in the Book of Ruth

| Ref      | Location         | Characters                        | Time                                   |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1:1-2    | Bethlehem → Moab | Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon, Chilion | During the Judges                      |
| 1:3-6    | Moab             | Naomi, Orpah, Ruth                | Ten years                              |
| 1:7-19a  | Moab → Bethlehem | Naomi, Orpah, Ruth                |  |
| 1:19b-22 | Bethlehem (Gate) | Naomi, townswomen (Ruth)          | Start of barley harvest<br>(April-May) |
| 2:1-2    | Home             | Naomi, Ruth                       |  |
| 2:3-17   | Field of Boaz    | Ruth, Boaz                        |  |
| 2:18-23  | Home and field   | Ruth, Boaz                        | To end of wheat harvest,<br>early June |
| 3:1-5    | Home             | Ruth, Naomi                       | End of harvest                         |
| 3:6-15   | Threshing floor  | Ruth, Boaz                        |  |
| 3:16-18  | Home             | Ruth, Naomi                       |  |
| 4:1-12   | Gate             | Boaz, elders                      |  |
| 4:13-17  | Home of Boaz     | Boaz, Ruth, Naomi, townswomen     |  |
| 4:18-22  | Bethlehem        | Following generations             |  |

# The Book of Ruth

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### 1:1-22, Death and Emptiness

- 1-6, **End of a family line** in Moab
- 7-19a, Dialog en route: Naomi, Orpah, Ruth
- 19b-22, Naomi and **townswomen** (**gate**)

### 2:1-23, Seeking Short-Term Security

- 1-3, Home: Naomi accepts Ruth's Plan
- 4-17, Field: Ruth meets Boaz
- 18-23, Home: Naomi and Ruth debrief

### 3:1-18, Seeking Permanent Security

- 1-5, Home: Ruth accepts Naomi's Plan
- 6-15, Threshing Floor: Ruth and Boaz
- 16-18, Home: Naomi and Ruth debrief

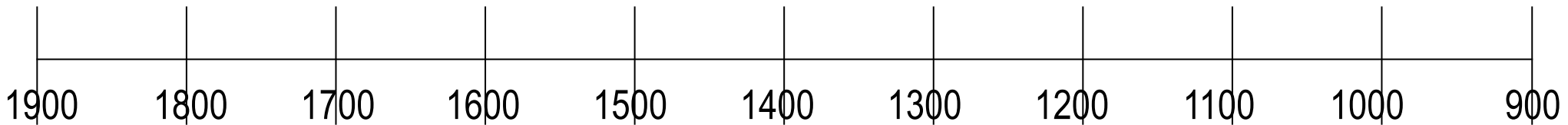
### 4:1-22, Redemption and Fullness

- 1-12, **Gate**: Boaz and elders
- 13-17, Home: Naomi and **townswomen**
- 18-22, **Beginning of royal line** in Israel

Peter Lau, *NICOT* (2023)

# Timeline of Judges

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| (Jacob → Egypt) to Exodus<br>400 years: Gen 15:13, 16; Acts 7:6 | Exodus to Temple 1446-966<br>480 years: 1 Kings 6:1                       |   |  |
|   | 40 yrs: Sinai   | 7 | Joshua, Elders                               |
| (Jacob → Egypt) to End of Conquest<br>~450 years: Acts 13:19-20 | ~300 years: Judges<br>(Individual times add to 410 years)<br>Eli? Samuel? |   | 40 yrs: Saul<br>40 yrs: David<br>4 yrs: Sol. |



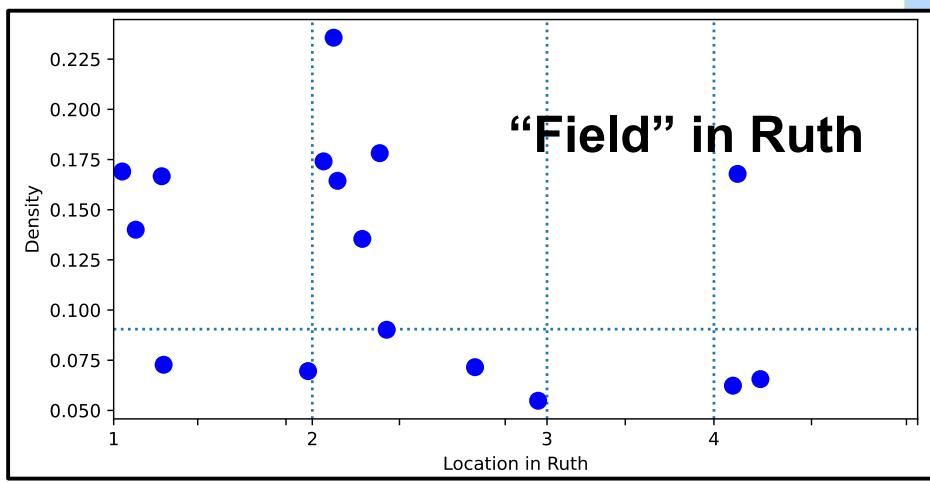
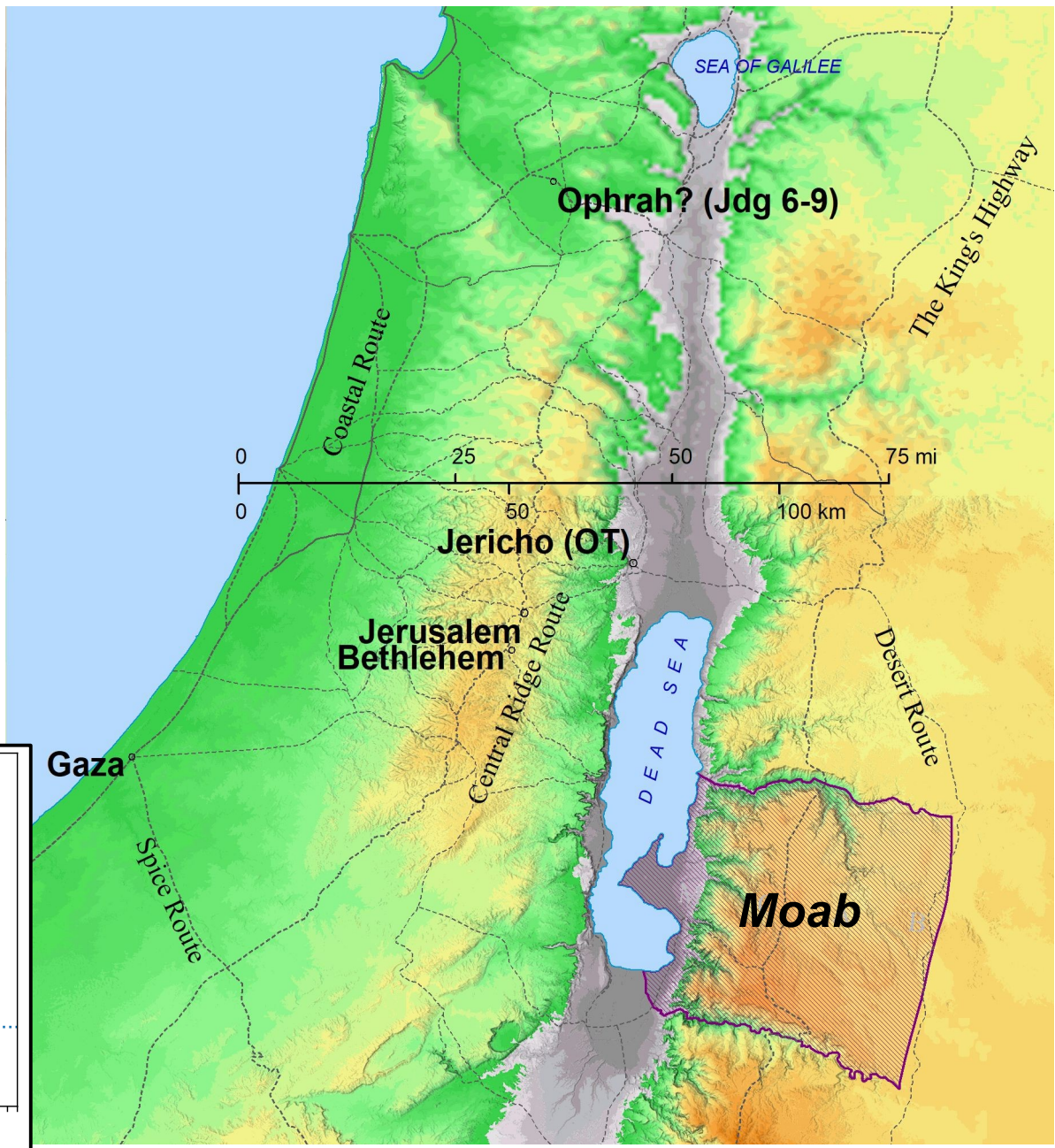
Four Names cover ~350 years:  
 Mat 1:5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab;  
 and Booz begat Obed of Ruth;  
 and Obed begat Jesse;  
 6 And Jesse begat David the king;



See notes on Matthew 1 for skipped generations in genealogies

Jdg 6:3 And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; 4 And they encamped against them, and **destroyed the increase of the earth**, till thou come unto Gaza, and **left no sustenance** for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. 5 For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as **grasshoppers** for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land **to destroy it**. 6 And **Israel was greatly impoverished** because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

# The Context of the Book of Ruth

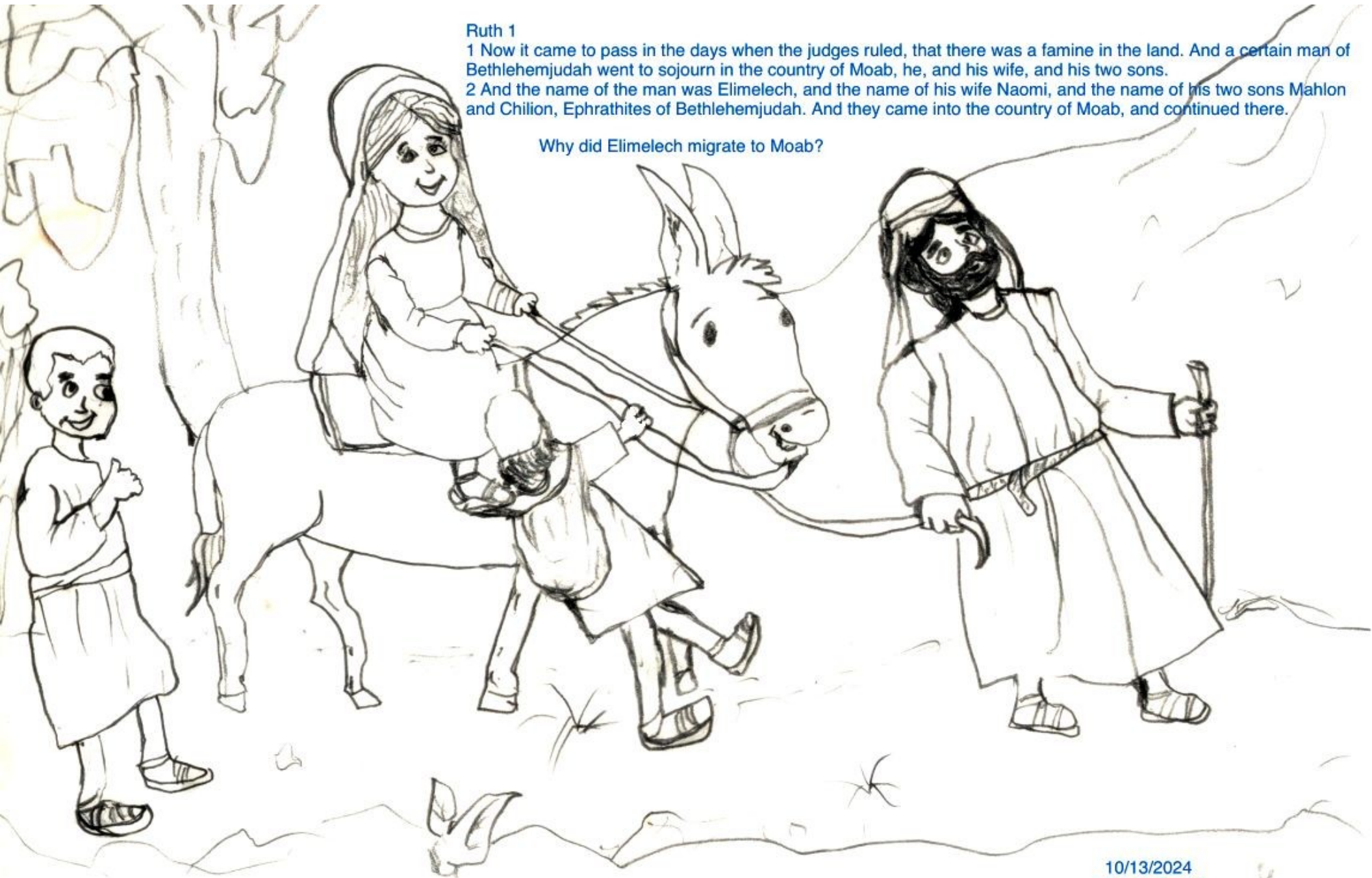


Ruth 1

1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

Why did Elimelech migrate to Moab?

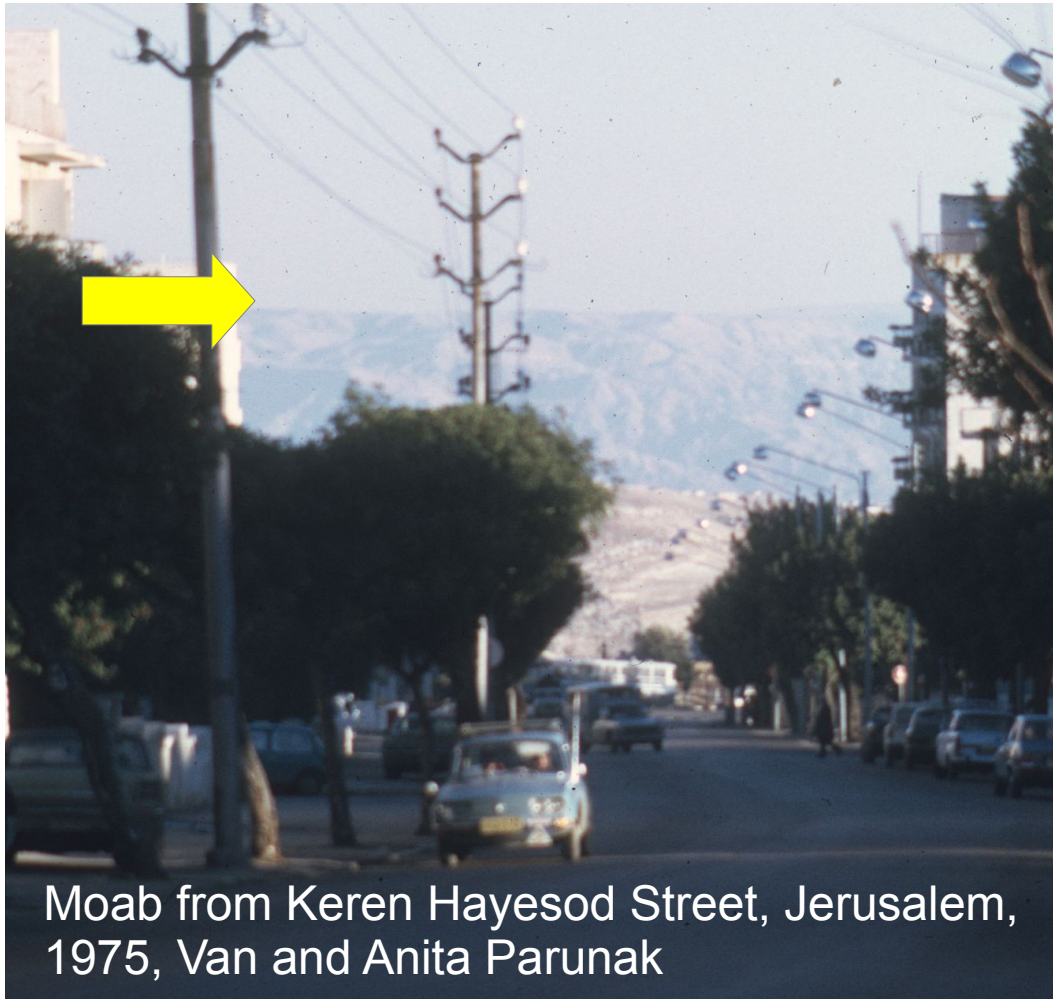




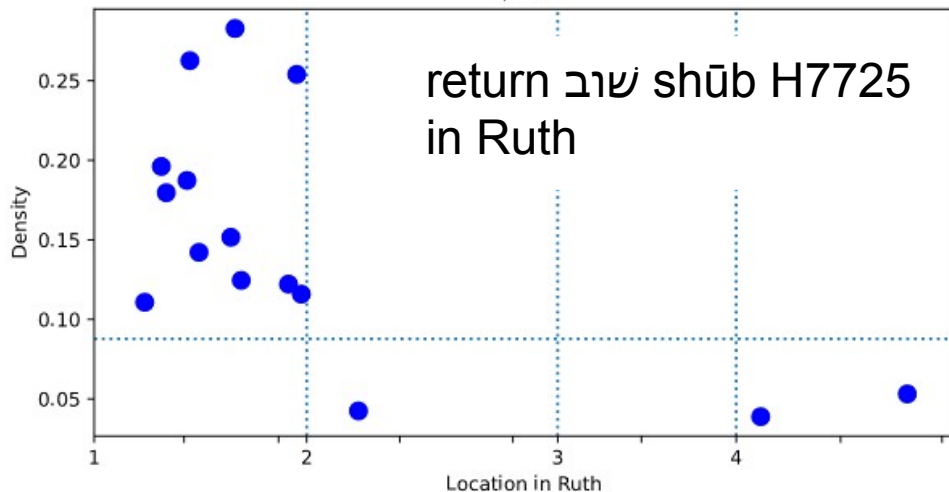
Transjordan from Jerusalem, 1975,  
Van and Anita Parunak



Transjordan from Bethlehem, 1975,  
Van and Anita Parunak



Moab from Keren Hayesod Street, Jerusalem, 1975, Van and Anita Parunak



# Helpful References

1Co 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are **not expedient**: all things are lawful for me, but I will **not** be brought under the power of any. ... 10:23 all things are lawful for me, but **all things edify not**.

Deu 7:1 When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the **Hittites, and the Gergashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites**, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; 2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: 3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

Deu 23:3 An **Ammonite or Moabite** shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

# Chiasm (ABC-D-C'B'A') in 1:1-6

A: 1:1 Now it came to pass in the days when **the judges** ruled, that there was a **famine** in the land.

B: And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah **went to sojourn** in the **country of Moab**, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. [external inclusio]

And they **came** into the **country of Moab**, and **continued there**.

C: 3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband **died**; and **she was left**, and her two sons.

D: 4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

A': for she had heard in the country of Moab how **that the LORD** had visited his people **in giving them bread**.

B': 6 Then she **arose** with her daughters in law, that she might **return** from the **country of Moab**:

C': 5 And Mahlon and Chilion **died** also both of them; and **the woman was left** of her two sons and her husband.

