

The Book of Ruth

Ruth 1:9-22

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1:1-22, Death and Emptiness

- 1-7, **End of a family line** in Moab
- 8-19a, Dialog on the Road
- 19b-22, Naomi and **townswomen (gate)**

2:1-23, Seeking Short-Term Security

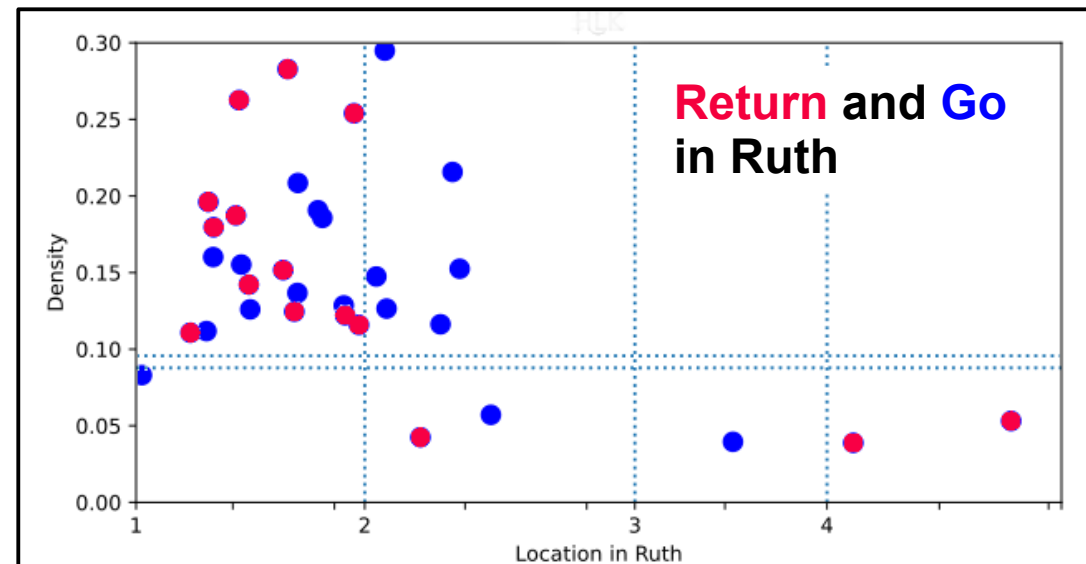
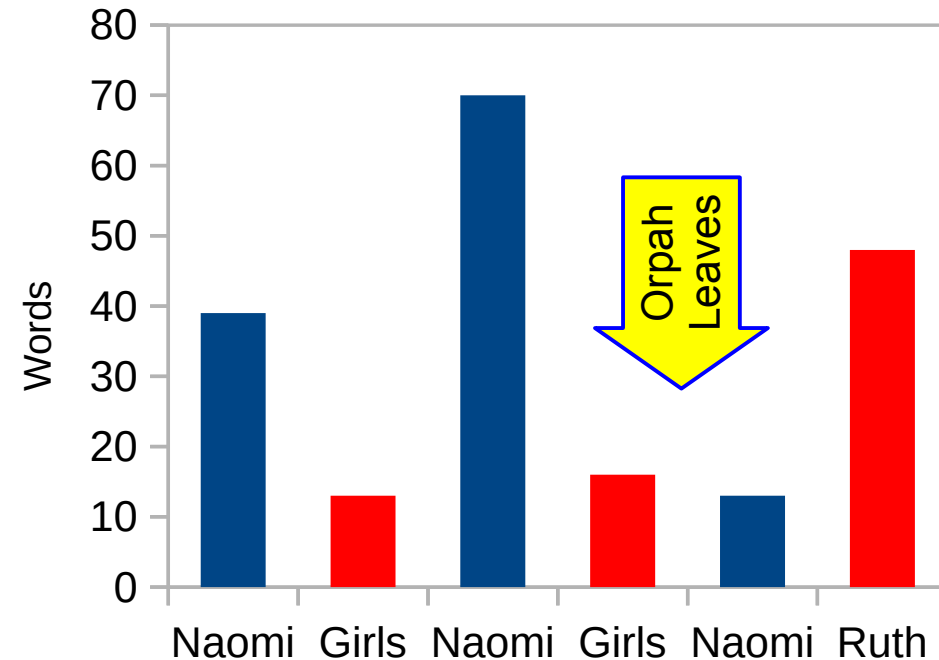
- 1-3, Home: Naomi accepts Ruth's Plan
- 4-17, Field: Ruth meets Boaz
- 18-23, Home: Naomi and Ruth debrief

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



After Peter Lau, *NICOT* (2023)

9b-10, Girls' First Response		14, Girls' Second Response
		14c but Ruth clave unto her.
9b Then she kissed them;		14b and Orpah kissed her mother in law;
and they lifted up their voice, and wept.		14a And they lifted up their voice, and wept again:
10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.		

9-10, The Girls Respond

Return ... unto thy people

Ruth 1:15 Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her **people**, and unto her **gods**:

Ruth 1:16: **thy people** shall be my people, and **thy God** my God.

11-13, Naomi's Remarriage?

Gen 38:6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name was Tamar. 7 And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD slew him. 8 And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and **raise up seed to thy brother**. ... 10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also. 11 Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law, Remain a widow at thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown: for he said, Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren did. And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house. ... 26 And Judah acknowledged them, and said, **She hath been more righteous than I**; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son.

Deu 25:5 If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: **her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife**, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. 6 And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.

Helpful References

1:14 Ruth clave unto her

Gen. 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall **cleave** unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

1:15 her gods ...

Num 21:29 Woe to thee, Moab! thou art undone, O people of **Chemosh**: he hath given his sons that escaped, and his daughters, into captivity unto Sihon king of the Amorites.

1Ki 11:6 And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. 7 Then did Solomon build an high place for **Chemosh, the abomination of Moab**, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

2Ki 3:27 Then he took **his eldest son** that should have reigned in his stead, and **offered him for a burnt offering** upon the wall.

1:16-17, Ruth's Faith

2Ki 5:1 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. 2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. 3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

How did Naaman learn about the healing powers of the prophet of God in these verses?



2 King 5
5 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.

2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

4 And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.

More Helpful References

1:18, end of the conversation

Heb 6:16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

Naomi's Accusations

Rut 1:13 the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.

Rut 1:20 call me Mara [bitter]: for **the Almighty** hath dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, and **the LORD** hath brought me home again empty:

why then call ye me Naomi, seeing **the LORD** hath testified against me,

and **the Almighty** hath afflicted me?

1:21 the Almighty (יְשׁוּׁ shadday H7706)

Gen 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the **Almighty** God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

1:22 the beginning of barley harvest

Exo 9:31 And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the **barley** was in the ear, and the flax was balled. 32 But the **wheat** and the rie were not smitten: for they were not grown up.

Lev 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD'S passover. 6 And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. ... 10... ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: 11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: **on the morrow after the sabbath** the priest shall wave it.

Lessons from Ruth 1

- God works in mysterious ways.
- Our liberty must be used cautiously, lest it lead to worldliness.
- We should treasure being with the Lord's people.
- The Lord can use disaster to guide us.
- We should not confuse God's direction with his wrath.
- A socially inferior person can give spiritual help and encouragement to a social superior.