

Richard Todd Merz serving Christ meaning maturing each day / this occurs through study and then living!! Scripture, the most accurate book on the planet written over 1,500 years by an approximate (give or take a few per the dictionary) 40 authors [MOD 1 applied January 16, 2022]

RUTH CHAPTER 1

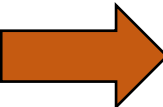
Scripture passage included then commentary underneath each verse

King James Version (KJV)


Verse (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.

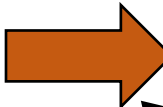
The frontmatter is that the book of Ruth is a foreshadow of the church (Scofield, 1996).


Scofield, C. I. (Ed.). 1996. *The holy bible*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press

 This is most plausibly in the early days of the judges as it discusses Bethlehem as the forerunner to the Christ with Ruth specifically being in the lineage (Henry, 2008). That foundation piece is vital because this Ministry Website Owner discussed in the Foundational Guide document on this Ministry Website, that Ruth is a Gentile.

Henry, Matthew. (2008). Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole bible. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC

 Notice that Pontius Pilot factually/historically, as a matter of record, Joined early on King Herod proclaiming the innocence of Jesus during the trial period before the crucifixion making the fact that there is no Jew or Gentile in the Christ true and the lineage of the Gentile Ruth a significant matter because Salvation is available to all – Jew or Gentile. Reference Luke 23:12-15 (King James Version), “And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves. And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.”

 For more information on Pontius Pilot and King Herod Antipas please visit:

 Fletcher, E. (2022, June 20). *New websites – Jesus' story, Bible women*.

<https://www.jesus-story.net/about-the-author/>

Fletcher, E. (2022, June 20). *Jesus, Pontius Pilate & Herod Antipas*.

[https://www.jesus-story.net/herod-](https://www.jesus-story.net/herod-pilate/#:~:text=What%20happened%3A%20Only%20the%20Roman%20governor%20could%20condemn,back%20to%20Pilate.%20Jesus%20taken%20to%20Pontius%20Pilate)

[pilate/#:~:text=What%20happened%3A%20Only%20the%20Roman%20governor%20could%20condemn,back%20to%20Pilate.%20Jesus%20taken%20to%20Pontius%20Pilate](https://www.jesus-story.net/herod-pilate/#:~:text=What%20happened%3A%20Only%20the%20Roman%20governor%20could%20condemn,back%20to%20Pilate.%20Jesus%20taken%20to%20Pontius%20Pilate)

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Verse (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.

This verse provides the characters of the Book of Ruth who are the husband Elimelech, the wife is Naomi, and the two sons Mahlon and Chilion. This would indicate to this Ministry Website Owner that Naomi brings Ruth into the Book of Ruth. Ruth is not in this initial discussion of characters. Given this, knowing the reason they departed Bethlehem and came into the country of Moab is vital.

The reason provided is because of the famine in the land of Bethlehem at that time (Fee & Stuart, 2002). Go back to verse (1), and this is confirmed from the text.

Fee, G. D. & Stuart, D. (2002). *How to read the bible book by book*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan

Verse (3): And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

Notice this, having left God's chosen land of Bethlehem, "...Elimelech Naomi's husband died". So, this then prepares the story for the return of Naomi with Ruth back to God's chosen land of Bethlehem. This indicates to this Ministry Website Owner that Elimelech took matters into his own hands and did not heed to God. There is no evidence in the text that there was a mass exodus out of Bethlehem at this time. Therefore, Elimelech took matters into his own hands. In laymen's terms, Elimelech's attitude of "I am out of here" came at the cost of his life unto God. In fact, notice in verse (1) the emphasis was on a "certain man" who "promptly" left and not on a mass exodus. Elimelech was a man of God who before God almighty unfaithfully took matters into his own hands.

Verse (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.

The "a certain man" of faith who "promptly" left Elimelech, two sons took "...wives of the women of Moab", one being Ruth. As discussed previously by this Ministry Website Owner, Ruth is a Gentile and entered into the lineage of the Christ. See the foundational guide this Ministry Website Owners Website for further discussion about the Christ taking away the Jew and Gentile schism as all are one in the Christ.

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Verse (5): And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

Notice that the two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, died like the father. The woman Naomi was left.

It is reported that Naomi errantly took refuge in her two sons and staying in Moab rather than setting her sights on returning unto Bethlehem (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole bible. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC

Verse (6): Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.

Here, Naomi arose "...with her daughters in law..." (Ruth being one) and understood that the LORD visited His people and provided during the famine. Naomi then sighted to return to God's chosen country of Israel.

Notice this, the opposite here of her husband that died, Elimelech. Instead, Naomi "promptly" thought to return to Israel and her two daughters in law Ruth and Orpah joined Naomi at this time (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole bible. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC

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Verse (7): Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

Notice here that there are two lessons.

Lesson 1: This Ministry Website Owner discussed how the Book of Ruth is a picture of the Church.

- And so...Naomi left her 1st husband in God by leaving the Homeland. There is no 2nd God husband.

Lesson 2: This Ministry Website Owner discussed how the Book of Ruth is a picture of the Church.

- And so...Two Naomi left her 1st husband in God – Elimelech – in life by leaving God. It did great by Naomi to not take on another husband by understanding that Elimelech was her life husband in God from the downfall of point one. See verse 12-13.

Greatness was found as Naomi returned to her 1st husband in God going back to “...the land of Judah” and by not taking on another husband in life. This is the Great Redemption of God.

Verse (8): And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

Naomi was especially kind to Ruth and Orpah by being obliging even with the passing of life among them because Naomi remained faithful to God in the Great Redemption of God (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole bible. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC

God's Great Grace is always Greater than our sin in God's Great Redemption.

Verse (9): The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

Undoubtedly, Naomi learned from the two lessons this Ministry Website Owner discussed in verse (7).

Naomi said, “The LORD grant you that ye may find rest...in the house of her husband.”

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Verse (10): And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

This is the manifestation of the discussions from verses (7) to (9) concerning Naomi as the mother-in-law. Ruth and Orpah were prepared to return with Naomi.

Verse (11): And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

This is the manifestation of the discussions from verses (7) to (9) concerning Naomi and her understanding of the Great Redemption of God in relation to verses (12) to (13) in that "...the hand of the LORD is gone out against me" [Naomi].

Verse (12): Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

This Ministry Website Owner points toward verse (20) in that Naomi recognized that God per quote, "...dealt very bitterly with me..." [Naomi]. Hence, her name change request from Naomi to Mara was partitioned by her. Notice in verse (22) same Chapter, Scripture picks back up straightway with "So Naomi..."

Interestingly, Scripture did not abide by the name change request. God, in the book of Ruth, called her Naomi yet still.

And so...this was the beginning of the understanding that God's bitterness was upon her life. In this very bitterly, God was providing the opportunity for God's Great Grace. There are instances in Scripture where the God name change remains due to faithfulness. This instead being the case of God's Great Grace.

In this, Ruth and Orpah were provided a choice to either follow God or turn away. The lesson here for Ruth and Orpah is that God provides for the free will. In the carrying out of the free will, either obedience or disobedience is found. Ruth went with Naomi and Orpah departed backward.

But the problem has more depth, in that, Ruth followed God and self-denied and Orpah recognized God but pursued selfishness (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole bible. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC

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Verse (13): Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.

Please see the verse (12) discussion...

- Again, Naomi recognized “...the LORD is gone out against me”.
- Again, Ruth and Orpah had the choice of free will. Ruth’s free will followed God by following Naomi in self-denial and Orpah recognized God but departed from Naomi in selfishness (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). Matthew Henry’s commentary on the whole bible. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC

Verse (14): And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

Please see the verse (12) and verse (13) discussion...

Notice, Ruth “...clave...” unto Naomi but Orpah “...kissed...” Naomi. Ruth demonstrated a lifelong pursuit of God and Orpah recognized God with a kiss of unfaithfulness. Ruth’s free will was eternal and Orpah’s free will was fleeting being in the moment.

Verse (15): And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

Please see the verse (12), verse (13), and verse (14) discussion, in that, this free will of Orpah was fleeting in selfishness concerning departing Naomi “....and unto her gods”.

Verse (16): And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Please see the verse (12), verse (13), verse (14), and verse (15) discussion, in that, this free will of Ruth was eternally lifelong concerning going with Naomi “....thy God my God”.

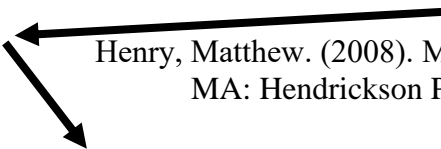
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Verse (17): Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

Ruth here makes the strong case that no matter what she would go with Naomi giving particular due to the LORD's will.

For depth, it is noted that Ruth did demonstrate a weakness in that only death could part them according to Ruth, but in the Christ nothing separates from the Love of God - so our resoluteness must be stronger yet still to understand that in the Christ we are always connected to God's strongest of life bonds (Henry, 2008).



Henry, Matthew. (2008). Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole bible. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, LLC

Romans 8:38-39 (King James Version), "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Verse (18): When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

This Ministry Website Owner has discussed more than once that a strong particular characteristic trait often given to a strong faith in a certain matter is Steadfast at some point in a person's life. This link in Scripture usually does not manifest for up to a Decade later and is, at the time, unforeseeable until it actually occurs.

It is noted that this Ministry Website Owners Website was stood up in 2015 from the identified trait of being Steadfast actually occurring in 2005 (A Decade) - not a coincidence in this case. Of further note, it was a Decade of time Steadfast was given to Ruth (See verse 4 and verse 18). It is for the glory of God – no other reason.

Verse (19): So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

Once this matter of verses (1) to (18) were settled, Naomi and Ruth went and arrived at Bethlehem. God's Great grace was with Naomi who had not yet understood.

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Verse (20): And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

See the verse (12) discussion which was the beginning of Naomi's understanding. Verse (20) is the Naomi's fuller understanding of how God dealt with her. Yet still, as discussed in verse (12) Naomi didn't get the matter that God's Great grace would be the fulfillment – that had not set in yet.

Verse (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?

Naomi came to understand she went out full and came back empty. Naomi was still on the LORD's testifying against her and afflicting her justifiably. However, Naomi yet still did not understand that God was going to do a Great work by His Great grace.

Verse (22): So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

The simple message is that Naomi is to return unto Bethlehem because Naomi only complicated matters upon herself by leaving in the first place. Ruth went with her.

This Ministry Website Owner will end this first Chapter of Ruth with this understanding from the Old Testament and the New Testament:

Scripture is not meant to be overly complicated nor any other life matter. This is because the God-Man set the standard as the authority and made it so that Scholars, Academia, Pastors, or unpaid Lay Ministers can convey the truth of Scripture without eclipsing the truth because God is truth and truth builds upon truth. Among this array of groupings, God expects joint simplicity to more sincerely live (Derived from reading multiple versions of Scripture). There is an accountability unto the truth and the sin nature of humanity. This is a life lesson for all matters under God almighty. This Ministry Website Owner can take it back to the Garden of Eden – the very beginning.

Second Corinthians 11:3 (King James Version), “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”