

MOVING TO MOAB

RUTH 1

Text: Ruth 1:1

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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.

Introduction:

The book of Ruth is the story of a virtuous woman who lives above the norm of her day. The events of this story took place at a time when there was no king in Israel.

There are two books in the Old Testament that have the names of women; one the book of Esther, the story of a Jew who married a Gentile to the saving of her people, and the other, the book of Ruth, who was a Gentile who married a Jew, Boaz.

Read the Text (Ruth 1:1-5)

The story has a very sad part, but it has a wonderful ending.

Note the last verse of the book of Judges

Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Let's consider:

1. THE FAMILY

This family lived in a little town named Bethlehem-Judah. The name of this town means house of bread and praise.

We have:

- A. Elimelech = "My God is King"
- B. Naomi = "Pleasant one"
- C. Mahlon = "Sickly"
- D. Chilion = "Weakly"

2. THE FAMINE - "THERE WAS A FAMINE IN THE LAND"

We understand that when there was a famine in the land it usually was the judgment of God.

When God allows things in our lives, Spiritual people should respond in a spiritual way.

Before we move we should seek the mind of God.
Remember

2 Chron. 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Turn to Leviticus 26

Note:

Now as we consider these thoughts understand God was speaking to the children of Israel, but God is no respecter of persons and I can't help but think that some of the things that we see happening today in our land is the results of disobedience.

Notice: There are four things that are to be done in the land.

- They were to refrain from Idols (vs 1)
- They were to regard the Sabbath (vs 2)

- They were to reverence the Lord's house (vs 2)
- They were to respect His law (vs 3)

3. THE FAILURE - WENT TO SOJOURN IN THE COUNTRY OF MOAB

Moab was a place of idol worship.

Jeremiah 48:11

Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.

Jeremiah 48:46

Woe be unto thee, O Moab! the people of Chemosh perisheth: for thy sons are taken captives, and thy daughters captives.

Notice:

- A. Unconcern - been at ease
- B. Unfaithful - settled down
- C. Unengaged - hath not been emptied
- D. Unchanged - his taste remained in him

This is the place the Elimelech took his family.

Remember the boys had no choice in the decision.
They had to follow.

So often is the case. People move to Moab over a disagreement or because it looks a little more exciting or prosperous. But they fail to see the end result.

Don't Go

Note: The Bible says that they continued there.

Ruth 1:2

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.

Note:

While there; Elimelech died and also her two sons died.

They never got back to where they should have been.

They died away from home, family and friends.

Close:

Whatever is happening in your life, don't run from God
run to Him!