

The Story of Ruth

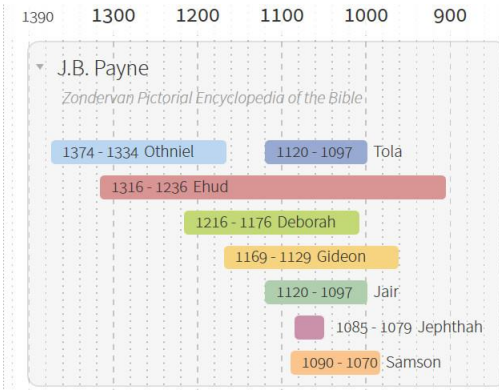
Session 1: The Decision

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For Handouts, Discussion Guide and more, visit dirkscorner.com.

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture passages are taken from the New International Version (2011), Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

1. The Setting: Geography, History, Culture



Time Period:

“when the judges ruled” (Ruth 1:1)

Probably between 1350 BC and 1050 BC

1. The Setting: Geography, History, Culture

Tensions with Moab

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and because they did this evil the Lord gave Eglon king of Moab power over Israel The Israelites were subject to Eglon king of Moab for eighteen years.

Judges 3:12, 14

1. The Setting: Geography, History, Culture

Tensions with Moab

“Jephthah sent back messengers to the Ammonite king,
saying: ‘This is what Jephthah says: Israel did not take the
land of **Moab** or the land of the Ammonites.’”

Judges 11:14-15

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1. The Setting: Geography, History, Culture

Family Dynamics

- Lineage
- Property
- Widowhood

2. The Crisis

Stage 1: The Famine

"In the days when the judges ruled, there was a **famine in the land**. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, **went to live for a while in the country of Moab**."

Ruth 1:1

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2. The Crisis

Stage 2: Husbands & Sons Die

“Now Elimelek, Naomi’s husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.”

Ruth 1:3

3. Surprised by Grace

A Daughter's Faithfulness

“At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth **clung*** to her. ‘Look,’ said Naomi, ‘your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.’”

Ruth 1:14-15

**translates Hebrew, “dabaq”, cling, cleave, unify;
compare Genesis 2:24*

3. Surprised by Grace
A Daughter’s Faithfulness

“But Ruth replied, ‘Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.’”

Ruth 1:16

Faith found in this Moabite woman!

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3. Surprised by Grace

A Stage is Set

So Naomi returned from **Moab** accompanied by Ruth the **Moabite**, her **daughter-in-law**, arriving in **Bethlehem** as the **barley harvest was beginning.**

Ruth 1:22

So What?

God's grace is at work
through faithful people,
even in troubled times.
