

A BAD TIME IN ISRAEL

(Background for the Story of Ruth)

Introduction

[Israel was in Egypt 400 years – they were slaves in Egypt. Then, about 1400 B.C., Creator God freed Israel with great power. And God promised: I will give Israel the land of Canaan.]

Deuteronomy 9:5

9:5 Why did God give Canaan to Israel? Because the small countries in Canaan were very bad – so God pushed those bad countries out of Canaan.

Joshua 11:15, 23 & 23:1

11:15 Joshua, the leader of Israel, did everything that Creator God told him to do – Joshua obeyed God. 23 Joshua fought the bad countries and took Canaan. Then, there was no more war. 23:1 And God gave Israel rest from all their enemies.

Judges 2:7-21 & [3:6]

2:7 The people of Israel obeyed God while Joshua was living. 8 Then Joshua died – he was 110 years old. 2:21 But Joshua did not finish pushing out all the bad countries.

2:10 After Joshua died, a young generation grew up – but they did not know Creator God – and they did not know what God had done for Israel. 11-12a God had saved Israel from slavery in Egypt, but the young generation forgot about God. [3:6] The young generation married men and women from the bad countries – 2:2b and the young generation worshiped the gods of the bad countries around them. So God was very angry with Israel – God was angry because Israel forgot God. 14 So God sent enemies to attack Israel – the enemies attacked and took Israel's food and belongings. And God gave Israel to their enemies – so the enemies ruled over Israel. 15 Every time Israel fought their enemies, God fought against Israel. And Israel was in great trouble.

16 Then God chose special leaders for Israel. 18 When God chose a leader for Israel, God helped the leader. And God saved Israel from their enemies. God saved Israel because he loved Israel – he heard their groaning – he saved Israel because they were suffering greatly. 19 But when the leader died, Israel became very bad again – Israel became worse than before. Again, Israel worshiped the gods of the bad countries.

[Then God sent enemies to attack Israel again. This cycle continued from about 1300 B.C. to 1100 B.C. During this time special leaders led Israel.]

Judges 21:25

21:25 In those days Israel had no king. So each person did what he thought was good.

RUTH & ORPAH MAKE BIG CHOICES

Ruth 1:1-19

1:1 Special leaders were leading Israel – and in those days there was a **famine** in Israel. A man named **Elimelech** lived in the **town** of **Bethlehem**. There was no food in Bethlehem, so Elimelech went to live in the country of **Moab**. He went with his wife and two sons.

2 His wife's name was **Naomi**. His sons' names were Mahlon and Kilion. 3 But Elimelech died in Moab – so Naomi had **only** her two sons. 4 Naomi's sons married two women from Moab – they married Orpah and Ruth. Then Naomi's family lived in Moab for about ten years.

5 Then Naomi's two sons **also** died. So Naomi had no husband and no sons.

6 Then Naomi **heard**: Creator God **has given** food to his people – God has helped Israel. So Naomi and her **daughters-in-law**, Orpah and Ruth, **prepared** to **go back** to Naomi's **home** in Bethlehem. 7 And they **started walking** on the **road** back to Bethlehem.

8-9 Then Naomi said to Orpah and Ruth, “Go back to your mothers' homes. Go back and **find** new husbands – I **pray** that God will give you new husbands. You have been very **kind** to me – and you have been very kind to my **dead** sons. So I pray that God will be very kind to you also.

Then Naomi **kissed** Orpah and Ruth. And Orpah and Ruth **cried loudly** – 10 and they said, “We will go back with you to your people.” 11-13 But Naomi said, “No, my daughters. Go back to your homes. Why do you want to come with me? I **cannot** have more sons – I cannot give you new husbands. I am too old to get married again. You cannot **wait** for me to have new sons. There is no **hope** for me.”

Naomi said, “[You have hope.] But it is very **bitter** for me – it is more bitter for me than for you. Because Creator God is **against** me.”

14 Orpah and Ruth cried again. Then Orpah kissed her **mother-in-law** good-by. But Ruth **held on** to Naomi. 15 “**Look**,” said Naomi, “your **sister-in-law** is going back to her people. She is going back to her gods. You go back with Orpah.”

16 But Ruth **answered**, “Do not **make** me **leave** you. **Where** you go I will go. Where you live I will live. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. 17 Where you die I will die. Where you are **buried** I will be buried. I promise God: Only **death** will **separate** you and me.”

18 Naomi thought: Ruth will not **change her mind** – Ruth **has decided** to go with me. So Naomi **stopped pressuring** Ruth. 19 Then Naomi and Ruth continued walking – and **finally** they came to Bethlehem.

CONTENT QUESTIONS**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS****A BAD TIME IN ISRAEL** (Go over this section quickly)

- Where was Israel for 400 years? (introduction)
- What was Israel's situation in Egypt? (introduction)
- What did God do for Israel in about 1400 B.C.? (introduction)
- What did God promise to give Israel? (introduction)
- Why did God give Canaan to Israel? (Deuteronomy 9:5)
- What did Joshua do? (Joshua 11:15, 23)
- How long did Israel obey God? (Judges 2:7)
- Did Joshua finish pushing out all the bad countries? (2:21)
- After Joshua died what did the young generation do? (2:10 to 12b)
- How did God *feel*? (verse 12b)
- So what did God do? (verses 14-15)
- Then, how did God help Israel? (verses 16 and 18)
- Why did God help Israel? (verse 18)
- What happened when the special leader died? (verse 19)
- How long did this cycle continue?
- Did Israel have a king in those days? (Judges 21:25)
- So what did everyone do? (verse 25)

Was this a good time to live in Israel?

[*Ruth* is the story of one family living during this time.]

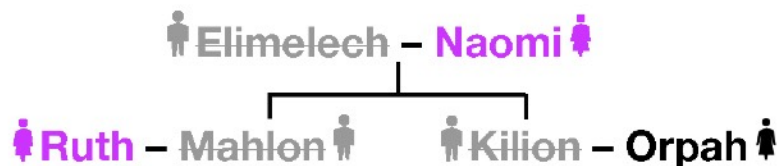
RUTH & ORPAH MAKE BIG CHOICES (Focus on this section)

- What bad thing happened in Israel during this time? (Ruth 1:1)
- Where did Elimelech live? (verse 1) Where did he go with his family? Why?
- What was his wife's name? (verse 2)

- What happened to Elimelech in Moab? (verse 3)

If you were Naomi, how would you feel?

- What did Naomi's sons do? (verse 4) Who did they marry – what were their names?



- After 10 years what terrible thing happened to Naomi? (verse 5)

Now, how would you feel, if you were Naomi?

How do you think Naomi felt about Creator God?

How would you feel about God in this situation?

How do you think Orpah and Ruth felt about losing their husbands?

- What good news did Naomi hear? (verse 6)

Was God still taking care of his people?

- So what did Naomi, Orpah and Ruth decide to do? (verse 6)

Why do you think Orpah and Ruth decided to go to Israel with Naomi?

- But what did Naomi say to Orpah and Ruth? (verses 8-9)

- What did Naomi call Orpah and Ruth? (verses 11-13)

How do you think Naomi felt about her daughters-in-law?

- But what did Orpah and Ruth say to Naomi? (verse 10)

How do you think Orpah and Ruth felt about their mother-in-law?

- Could Naomi help her daughters-in-law in the future? (verses 11-13)

- What did Naomi say about her situation? (verse 13) What did she say about God?

How sad do you think Naomi was? Did she have hope?

Did Naomi stop believing in Creator God because she was so sad?
Or did Naomi still believe in God?

Do you think it is **okay** to talk about our feelings?
Or do you think that we should hide our feelings?

Do you think we should tell Creator God how we feel?

- What does God think about our true feelings?

Be kind to me, O God. ...Write down my **sadness**. Put my **tears** in your **bottle**.

Psalms 56:8

He [Jesus] **carried** our **sorrows**.

Isaiah 53:4

I saw a **new heaven** and a **new earth**. God will live with people. He will **wipe** every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 21:1, 3-4

Do you think God **listened** to Naomi's sorrow?

- What did Orpah decide to do? (verse 14)
- What did Naomi tell Ruth to do? (verse 15)

Naomi knew that Orpah's gods could not help her –
Orpah's gods had no power.
Naomi loved Orpah –
but Naomi sent Orpah back to gods who could not help her.

Was this good?
Why do you think Naomi did this?

- But what did Ruth choose? (verses 16-17) What 5 things did Ruth choose?

What do you think of Ruth's choices?

Why do you think Ruth chose **these** things?

Naomi was very sad and **weak** at the end.
But, how do you think Naomi had **treated** Ruth for 10 years?

What do you think Ruth thought about Creator God?
Ruth was sad **too** – but how big was Ruth's **faith** in God?

- Where did Naomi and Ruth go? (verse 19)

What do you think of Ruth?

***Charm will deceive you,
and beauty is not satisfying – it is quickly gone.
But a woman who respects Creator God is great!
She will get her reward.***

Proverbs 31:30-31

bad	悪い
time	時間、間、時代、～回
Israel	イスラエル
background	背景
Ruth	ルツ（イエス・キリストの先祖）
introduction	前置き
Egypt	エジプト
slave	奴隷
then	そして、その場合、その時、そしたら、それなら
about	について、約
B.C.	紀元前
Creator God	創造者、創造主、天地創造の神様
free	自由、自由にさせる
great / greater / greatest	偉大・より偉大・最も偉大、素晴らしい・より素晴らしい・最も素晴らしい
power	力
promise	約束する、約束
give - gave - given	上げる、下さる、献げる、与える、差し上げる
land	地、土地、陸地、大地
Canaan	カナン（地方）、（現代イスラエル辺り）
why	なぜ、どうして
because	～のため、～のせい、なぜなら
small	小さい
country	国
very	非常に
so	だから、それで、それに従って、そのためには、そんなに
push out	追い出す、追い払う
those	あの～、その～
Joshua	ヨシュア

leader	指導者、リーダー
everything	すべて、全部
tell - told - told	話をする、伝える、命じる、教える、戒める
obey	従う
fight - fought - fought	戦う、喧嘩する、戦うこと、反対する
take - took - taken	連れていく、取る、受け取る、持っていく、奪う
no more	もうない
war	戦争
rest	休む、休み
all	すべて
enemy	敵
while	しながら、～ながら、している間
live	生きる、住む
die	死ぬ
but	しかし
finish	終わる
after	の後、ののち
young	若い
generation	世代、時代
grow up - grew up - grown up	大きくなる、成長する
know - knew - known	知る
had done	やったことがある
had saved	救ったことがある
slavery	奴隷制度
forget - forgot - forgotten	忘れる
marry	結婚する
worship	礼拝をする、拝む
gods	神々
around	に回る、～の回り、（歩き）回る

angry	怒る
send - sent - sent	見送る、送る、使いにやる
attack	攻める、攻撃（する）
belongings	持ち物
rule	規則、掟
every	あらゆる、すべての
trouble	問題、迷惑、面倒、苦労、悩み、困難、患 い、困る、困らせる
choose - chose - (have) chosen	選ぶ、選んだ、選んだことがある
special	特別、特別な、特徴ある、特殊、大事な、大 切な
groan	唸る、唸り、うめく
suffer	苦しむ
again	また、もう一度
than	より
before	前、以前、の前
cycle	周期、循環期
continue	続けて、続く、続ける
during	間中、ながら
lead - led - led	導く、指導する、連れていく
king	王
each	各、一つ一つ、めいめい、それぞれ
think - thought - thought	思う、考える
good - better - best	良い・より良い・最も良い、正しい
Orpah	オルパ（ナオミの嫁）
choice	選択、選び方
famine	飢饉
Elimelech	エリメレク
town	町
Bethlehem	ベツレヘム（ダビデ王の故郷・イエスはこの 町で生まれた）
Moab	モアブ（国）

Naomi	ナオミ（ルツの姑）
only	ただ、のみ、だけ
also	も、それに
hear - heard - heard	聞く、聞こえる [pronunciation = heer - hrd - hrd]
has given	与えたことがある
daughter-in-law	義理の娘、嫁
prepare	準備する、用意する
go back - went back - gone back	戻る
home	家庭、うち
start	始める、始まる
walk	歩く
road	道
find - found - found	見つける
pray	祈る
kind	親切、親切にする
dead	死んでる
kiss	口づけする
cry	泣く、叫ぶ、泣き声、叫び声
loudly	大声で、騒々しく、けばけばしく、音が大きく
cannot	わけにはいけない、できない
wait	待つ
hope	希望、望み、望む
bitter	苦い、苦痛な
against	に対して、に反して、逆らう
mother-in-law	姑
hold on - held on - held on	すがりつく
look	ほら
sister-in-law	義理妹、相嫁

answer	答える、答え
make - made - made	造る、作る、させる
leave - left - left	離れる、去る、出かける、出ていく、出る、残す、残る
where	どこ、所在
bury	葬る、埋める
death	死
separate	引き離す
change your mind	思い返す、気が変わる
has decided	決めたことがある
stop	やめる、止まる、止まれ、止める
pressure	強いる、圧迫、プレッシャー
finally	やっと、最後に

feel - felt - felt	感じる
if... would...	もし～ ... ～だろう
situation	状況、事態、状態
lose - lost - lost	失う
still	まだ、今でも
take care of - took care of - taken care of	(面倒を) 見る、見守る、養う、取り扱う
call	呼ぶ、呼びかける
sad	悲しい
believe	信じる
okay	大丈夫、はい、賛成です、よろしい
sadness	悲しみ
tear	涙
bottle	瓶
carry	持っていく、運ぶ、背負う
sorrow	悲しみ

new	新しい
heaven	天国
earth	地、地球
wipe	吹く、拭う
listen	(わざと) 聞く、聞き入れる、聞き従う、に聞く
these	これら
weak	弱い
end	果て、終わる、最後、終わり
treat	取り扱う、扱う
too	～すぎる、あまりに、も
faith	信仰 (信仰＝信じること・神様を信じること)
charm	口説く、魅了する
deceive	騙す、偽る
beauty	美しさ
satisfy	満足させる、満たす
quickly	急いで、早く、すぐに
gone	なくなってしまう、消えてしまう
respect	敬う、尊敬する
reward	報い、報う