

Introduction

1. After the death of Joshua, Israel moved into the time of the judges
 - a. This was a cyclical period of about 450 years of moral highs and lows ([Ac. 13:20](#); [Jdg. 2:11-19](#))
 - b. It was during this period of judges that the book of Ruth began ([Ru. 1:1](#))
2. Due to a famine, Elimelech took his family from Bethlehem in Judah to the country of Moab ([Ru. 1:2](#))
 - a. Moab's territory was located east of Bethlehem across the Dead Sea
 - b. The Moabites were descendants of Lot and his firstborn daughter ([Gen. 19:30-37](#))
3. Elimelech died in the country of Moab and his sons took wives of Moab ([Ru. 1:3-4](#))
 - a. Elimelech's sons, Mahlon and Chilion, also died in the land of Moab ([Ru. 1:5](#))
 - b. That left three widows: Naomi (Elimelech's wife [Ru. 1:2](#)), Orpah (Chilion's wife), and Ruth (Mahlon's wife [Ru. 4:10](#))
4. Naomi decided to return back to Judah with her daughters-in-law as the famine was over ([Ru. 1:6-7](#))
 - a. Along the way, Naomi instructed her daughters-in-law to return back to their mother's house ([Ru. 1:8-9](#))
 - b. Orpah and Ruth were reluctant to stay in Moab ([Ru. 1:10](#))
 - c. Naomi instructed them again to turn back as she had no more sons remaining and was too old to have a husband ([Ru. 1:11-13](#))

I. From gods to God

1. Orpah left Naomi, but Ruth clung to her ([Ru. 1:14-15](#))
 - a. clung = be joined ([Gen. 2:24](#)) = you shall hold fast ([Dt. 10:20](#))
 - b. Orpah did more than leave Naomi, she walked away from the LORD
 - i. Many will be lost because they walk away from God ([Mt. 7:13](#))
 - ii. Even a child of God can walk away from Him ([2 Tim. 4:10](#); cf. [Col. 4:14](#); [Phm. 24](#))
 - iii. Thus, the need for restoration ([Gal. 6:1-2](#); [Jm. 5:19-20](#))

2. Ruth made the decision to leave her dead and false gods and serve the living and true God ([Ru. 1:16-17](#))
 - a. Others have made this decision ([1 Th. 1:9-10](#))
 - i. Why? Idolatry is foolishness ([Jer. 10:1-10](#))
 - b. To serve God is to fear Him ([Mt. 4:10](#); [Dt. 6:13-15](#))

II. A Virtuous Woman

1. Ruth had a great work ethic ([Ru. 2:1-3](#))
 - a. Glean means to, “take all or most that is left in a field after a first harvest, implying a meager amount gathered in relation to the energy expended” (DBL Hebrew)
 - b. Boaz took notice and provided for her ([Ru. 2:4-9](#))
 - i. Ruth reacted with reverence ([Ru. 2:10](#))
 - c. When we work, we can eat ([Ru. 2:14](#))
 - i. The opposite is also true ([2 Th. 3:10](#))
2. Ruth listened to her mother-in-law ([Ru. 3:1-5](#))
 - a. Reverence results in saying the same thing to God ([Dt. 5:29](#))
3. Ruth was known as a virtuous woman ([Ru. 3:6-13](#))
 - a. A virtuous woman fears the LORD ([Pr. 31:10, 30](#))
 - b. She was a humble woman ([Ru. 3:9](#))
 - i. Humility and the fear of the LORD are connected ([Pr. 22:4](#); [1 Pt. 5:5](#))
4. Ruth was redeemed by Boaz ([Ru. 4:1-12](#))
 - a. When we fear the LORD, we too can be redeemed ([Tit. 2:11-14](#); [1 Pt. 1:13-19](#))

Conclusion

1. Ruth displayed a great amount of reverence toward the God of Heaven
 - a. She left her idols and served God
 - b. She was a virtuous woman which implies she feared the LORD
2. Through Ruth we get Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David ([Ru. 4:13-22](#))
 - a. Ultimately, through her bloodline we get Jesus who is called Christ ([Mt. 1:1-16](#))