



THE BOOK OF RUTH

The Predicament of Naomi (Chapter 1)



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST – Sermon by Ray Reynolds (8-7-16 AM)

INTRODUCTION: Ruth was a young foreign girl, raised in paganism, immersed in idolatry, and a descendent of Moab. However, despite all odds, Ruth weaves her way into the greatest story ever told (the story of Jesus). This book connects us to the past of Israel and propels us into the future kingdom. Without this little book we couldn't connect the house of David to the tribe of Judah. It is a story of tragedy, hope, and redemption. Let's study together...

DISCUSSION:

I. A SIGNIFICANT FAMINE IN BETHLEHEM (v.1)

- A. The Specific Timing
- B. The Special Town
- C. The Sudden Tragedy

II. A FATEFUL SOJOURN IN MOAB (vs.2-5)

- A. The Immediate Family
- B. The Family Tree
- C. The Failure of the Family

III. A FAITHFUL RETURN TO JUDAH (vs.6-18)

- A. The Decision of Naomi
- B. The Decision of Orpah
- C. The Decision of Ruth

IV. A FUTURE AWAITS NAOMI & RUTH (vs19-22)

- A. The Boastful Crowd
- B. The Bitterness of Naomi
- C. The Blessings of God

CONCLUSION: These ladies (Naomi and Ruth) returned to Judah/Bethlehem during the barley harvest. This sets the tone for the next part of the story. This is not the end of their journey. This story is about making tough choices. Elimelech, Mahlon, Chilion, Ruth, Orpah, and Naomi all had to make tough decisions and they had to live with consequences (good and bad). When we read this story we realize that we also have tough decisions ahead of us. We will all face a predicament like this one. Will you choose what is right or will you choose what is wrong (**Matthew 6:33**)? Do not wait to do the right thing! Follow God!