

When Life Seems to be in Ruins
Elimelech and Naomi's Ruin in Moab
(Ruth 1:1-5)

Intro to Ruth: 5 Reasons to journey through the book of Ruth

- 1. It's a love story of hope!** The book of Ruth is a love story ending with redemption written during the time of Judges (1381-1051 BC) a very dark time of turmoil. This book gives us great hope!
- 2. It's a picture of God's design of manhood and womanhood.** In a mixed up confused world, this book clearly shows God's beautiful design in manhood and womanhood.
- 3. It's a book that breaks the ethnic mold in the Old Testament.** The book opens the door to ethnic diversity and redemption for those outside of the Jewish lineage. Ruth was a Moabite, considered an unclean Arab pagan until she followed the one true God. In Matthew Chapter 1, there are only four women mentioned in the lineage of Jesus Christ, Ruth is one of them and this is no accident. Everyone can come to Christ, regardless of tribe or nation, as long as it's by faith in Him! This was a huge deal in Acts 10 and debated in Acts 15. Jesus is very clear in Matthew 24 and 28 that all ethnicities are to come to him and can come to him!
- 4. It shows hope in dark times.** In this book we see God at work in the darkest of times! There is always hope in Christ! The time of Judges was horrible, but the book of Ruth shows a faithful contrast during a faithless period of history.
- 5. It points to Jesus Christ, the Great Redeemer.** This book is a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, the Great Redeemer!

(Before we get into the text this morning, I want to show you different pictures of ruins from around the world). When I see these ruins, it makes me wonder, what happened? Why did such a magnificent creation crumble? Our lives can seem to fall into ruins can't it? There are only two choices in life: 1. to go into ruins, 2. or to be revived! Many of us after VBS need to be revived!

When life seems to be in ruins:

A Season of Unrest (Ruth 1:1) "In the days when the judges ruled..." This was a time of spiritual, political, and social unrest. We clearly see this in Judges chapters 2-3 and chapter 21. On top of these hardships, there was a famine. You want to talk about unrest, think of searching for food, when there is none! Bethlehem literally means house of bread. So a man, Elimelech, from Bethlehem comes to Moab, a distance of around 30 miles. It's a season of unrest, life seems to be in ruins.

A Situation that is Untimely (Ruth 1:2-4) Elimelech, from the tribe of Judah, in the lineage of Christ Jesus, passes away leaving Naomi.

A Sense of Uncertainty (Ruth 1:5) Not only are things untimely, they're getting worse. As a widow, Naomi had two sons and two daughter-in-laws, but now these two sons have passed

away also. The overwhelming question is what will I do? It's a sense of sure uncertainty, and life seems to be in ruins.

As you well know a life in ruins must be revived if it is to continue! The book of Ruth and the book of Job both show hope in the power of God!

Unrest + Untimeliness + Uncertainty = Unanimous need for a Redeemer. The only one who can bring life out of the ruins is Jesus Christ. The only one who can raise the dead is Jesus!

How to be revived:

Find rest in Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:28-30 ***"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."***)

Faithfully reside in the sovereignty of God (Colossians 1:16 ***"For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him."***, Psalm 115:3, Romans 11:33) The opposite of untimeliness is God's sovereignty!

Forcefully run from uncertainty (Philippians 4:4-6 ***"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."***) How do you forcefully run from uncertainty and anxiety? You do so through prayer!

Focus on being revived with the support of the Church. (Hebrews 10:24-25 ***"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."***) The answer to the poor in spirit is the presence of God. Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The New Testament presence of God is His bride the Church. The Church is the gathering of the priesthood of believers who; walk with you, pray for you, equip you to continue, and encourage you to stay the course! You want to see the power of God to turn ruins into revival, surround yourself with the people of God, who are empowered by God, for the God glorifying purpose of God, our good and His glory!

Rest in Christ, reside in Christ, Run to Christ, and your life that seems to be ruined will indeed be revived by Jesus Christ!