

Timeline of Truth – Ruth 1:5-7 – Naomi Makes Difficult Decisions

<p>THEME (Overall Book Idea): God <i>always</i> rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - even when we cannot know what He is doing - even when it takes many years - even when God allows us to suffer 	<p>A rhyme that captures these ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God is <i>always</i> in control Though we may be <i>unaware</i>. - And God may work over <i>many years</i> - And allow troubles <i>hard</i> to bear. - But God is <i>always</i> in control We can <i>trust His loving care</i>.
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Two Memory Verses:

<p style="text-align: center;">4:14</p> <p>Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed <i>be</i> the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4:17</p> <p>Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He <i>is</i> the father of Jesse, the father of David.</p>
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Ruth 1:1-5 – Trouble Comes with Life

We are impacted by large-scale and personal apostasy, adversity, and tragedy, but God is always actively in control.

<p>¹ Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon ["sickly"] and Chilion ["failing"] -- Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.</p>	<p><i>In the days of horrific APOSTASY</i></p> <p><i>They faced widespread ADVERSITY</i></p>
<p>³ Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. ⁴ Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, And they dwelt there about ten years. ⁵ Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.</p>	<p><i>Then they faced personal TRAGEDY</i></p>

Ruth 1:5-7 – Naomi Makes Difficult Decisions (Another secondary lesson, but one that is evident here.)

<p>⁵ Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.</p>	<p>1. Situation: _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aware of her own circumstances – self-assessment • Prov 22:3 A prudent <i>man</i> foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.
<p>⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab,</p>	<p>2. _____: Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have to get beyond analysis to decisiveness. • Sitting as a victim solves nothing. • You cannot solve situations if you do not make decisions.
<p>for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.</p>	<p>3. _____: Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naomi was aware of changes in Israel (key information) • Circumstances can change over time requiring personal changes and hard decisions (weather, economy, politics, health, job, etc.) • Often, God uses time rather than miracles to work things out according to His plan. Either way, He remains in control. • Acted on need, not fleshly desires (1 John 2:15-17; Luke 8:14) • Compare with Lot (Genesis 13:1-13; cf. 1 Pet 4:1-3) • Prov 3:5-6 and Titus 2:11-14 should govern our decisions.
<p>⁷ Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her;</p>	<p>4. _____: Departure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting on the decision • Including all that is important (discarding the unimportant)
<p>and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.</p>	<p>5. _____: Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions often take ongoing steps before they are complete.

Creation is an excellent example of planning ahead, acting on the plan, and the methodical carrying out of the process.

We are to make wise decisions built from the truths of the Bible to honor God.