

## Timeline of Truth – Ruth 2:1-3 – Ruth Seeks to Provide, and God Works Out Details

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

<b>4:14</b> Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!"	<b>4:17</b> Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.
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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.*

<sup>1</sup> Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled,	In the days of horrific <b>apostasy</b>
that there was a <b>famine</b> in the land.	They faced widespread <b>adversity</b>
<sup>3</sup> Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, <b>died</b> ; ... <sup>5</sup> Then both Mahlon and Chilion also <b>died</b>	Then they faced personal <b>tragedy</b>

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.	<b>1. Situation: Dangerous Destitution</b> (aware of personal situation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prov 22:3a A prudent <i>man</i> foresees evil and hides himself...</li> </ul>
<sup>6</sup> Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab,	<b>2. Decision: Plan</b> (decisiveness, make decisions, not sit as a victim)
for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.	<b>3. Reason: Provision</b> (circumstances = hard decisions based on need vs flesh)
<sup>7</sup> Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her;	<b>4. Action: Departure</b> (Acting on the decision)
and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.	<b>5. Process: Journey</b> (chosen paths may take time)

### Ruth 1:8-18 – Naomi Seeks to Provide a Better Future for Her Daughters-in-Law

*God wants us to make significant, permanent, often costly life choices for Him.*

<sup>8</sup> And Naomi said to her two <b>daughters-in-law</b> , " <b>Go, return</b> each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup> "The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them,	<b>1. Naomi Directs Her Daughters-in-Law to Return Home</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision</li> <li>• Protection</li> <li>• Posterity</li> </ul>
and they lifted up their voices and wept. <sup>10</sup> And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people."	<b>2. The Daughters-in-Law Respond</b>
<sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, " <b>Turn back, my daughters</b> ; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? <sup>12</sup> " <b>Turn back, my daughters, go</b> —for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, <sup>13</sup> "would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands?	<b>3. Naomi Repeats the Direction with Explanation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Question: <u>Why</u> will you go with me?</li> <li>b. Issue #1: <u>Ability</u> – Can Naomi still bear sons?</li> <li>c. Issue #2: <u>Age</u> – Is Naomi too old to marry?</li> <li>d. Issue #3: <u>Time</u> – Would you be able to wait?</li> </ul>
No, <b>my daughters</b> ; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!"	<b>4. Naomi Summarizes and Blames Herself</b>
<sup>14</sup> Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.	<b>5. The Daughters-in-Law Respond Again</b>
<sup>15</sup> And she said, " <b>Look</b> , your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; <b>return</b> after your sister-in-law."	<b>6. Naomi Encourages Ruth to Leave Like Orpah</b>
<sup>16</sup> But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people <i>shall be</i> my people, And your <b>God, my God</b> . <sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if <i>anything but death parts you and me</i> ."	<b>7. Ruth Fully Commits to Naomi</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not ask me to leave</li> <li>• I embrace your <b>journey, your home, your people, your God</b></li> <li>• I embrace the <b>same place to die and to be buried</b></li> <li>• May the LORD kill me if I leave you by any means but death.</li> </ul>
<b>Observations and Lessons:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Naomi displays her loving care for her daughters-in-law, even after terrible circumstances and at the cost of her own personal provision and her only remaining loving relationships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) Naomi's influence is demonstrated in Ruth's response.</li> <li>3) There are different results for different people in the same circumstances.</li> <li>4) Decisions are still made by each individual person. Others cannot make life decisions for you.</li> <li>5) Ruth acts on her love for Naomi, even at the cost of her future pleasure, comfort, and posterity</li> </ul>
<sup>18</sup> When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.	<b>8. Naomi Accepts Ruth's Decision</b>

**Naomi Enters Bethlehem (with Ruth) Greeted But Grieved (Ruth 1:19-22)**

<p><sup>19</sup> Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem.</p>	<p><b>1. They Arrive (19a)</b>                      a. Their Identity – The Two of Them                      b. Their Destination – Bethlehem (Naomi's home) – At least 60-75 miles, 7-10 days (safety...)</p>
<p>And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"</p>	<p><b>2. Naomi Is Recognized (19b)</b>                      a. Her Popularity                      b. Their Unbelief – Is This Her? (move, time away, situation, appearance)</p>
<p>?" <sup>20</sup> But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. <sup>21</sup> "I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"</p>	<p><b>3. Naomi's Outburst (20-21)</b>                      a. She Objects to Her Name                      b. She Gives Her Reason                      c. She Gives Her Explanation                      d. She Asks a Question</p>
<p><sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab</p>	<p><b>4. Summary (22a)</b>                      a. No details of place                      b. No details of Ruth</p>
<p>Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.</p>	<p><b>5. Their Timing (22b)</b>                      a. Where (hope)                      b. When (God's hand)</p>

**Ruth 2:1-3 – Ruth Seeks to Provide, and God Works Out Details**

<p><sup>2:1</sup> There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.</p>	<p><b>1. Boaz Is Introduced</b>                      a. His _____: A relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech                      b. His _____: A man of great wealth                      c. His _____: Boaz</p>
<p><sup>2</sup> So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after <i>him</i> in whose sight I may find favor."</p>	<p><b>2. Ruth's Request to Provide</b>                      a. Her Recognition of _____ and Honor                      b. Her _____ Activity                      c. Her _____ Activity                      d. Her _____ of Activity</p>
<p>And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."</p>	<p><b>3. Naomi Sends Ruth</b></p>
<p><sup>3</sup> Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers.  <b>Lev 23:22</b> "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God. "</p>	<p><b>4. Ruth Goes Gleaning</b>                      a. She _____                      b. She _____                      c. As _____ (Lev 19:9-10; 23:22; Deut 24:19)                      d. During the dangerous time of the _____</p>
<p>And she happened to come to the part of the field <i>belonging</i> to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.</p>	<p><b>5. Ruth _____ to Come to the Field of Boaz</b>                      a. No plan on _____ part                      b. But an obvious plan on _____ part</p>

**Lev 19:9-10** "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. **10** "And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

**Deu 24:19** "When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

**Observations & Lessons:**

1. God works through what may appear to be random choices on our part to accomplish His will.
2. God acts on our choices of obedience. This would not have happened if Ruth had not (1) followed Naomi to Bethlehem; (2) taken action to provide for Naomi.
3. God works over long periods of time to prepare the necessary circumstances to accomplish His will.

The presence of Boaz

The capacity of Boaz

The spirituality of Boaz (during Judges!)

Timing of lives

Timing of deaths

Timing of the ending of the famine

Timing of departure from Moab

Timing of arrival to Judah

Timing of harvest

Timing & path of Ruth seeking food

Choice of Ruth to join Naomi

Desire of Ruth to help