

RUTH: STEADFAST LOVE AND PROVIDENCE  
CH1: Bad Decisions and a Providential Hand  
Vesper 02-20-2022

Main Idea: Providence moves in mysterious ways. He rules, He overrules, He is always, always, working toward the good of his elect.

Introduction: Why do you think the Lord would include the Story of Ruth in the scriptures?

I. FAMINE AND DECISIONS (Ruth 1:1-5)

1. Circumstances

Why famine? (Lev 26:14-20)

Why leave the people of God?

2. Land of idols and Death

Elimelech chose bread over faith. He led his family down this awful path

II. RETURN, RETURN (Ruth 1:6-15)

Shouldn't Naomi have encouraged them to go where the true God is worshiped?

1. Crossroads

Orpah and Ruth were offered the same choice.

2. Test of Faith/Death or life

HER HEART HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY GOD!

“Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you.

III. TRUE CONVERSION (Ruth 1:16-18)

I will never leave you, I will always be with you.

Your God, my God. Ruth is thoroughly, unmistakably, converted.

I will die with you.

II. WHO'S IN CHARGE? (Ruth 1:19-22)

1. Naomi's humility “Call me Mara”

2. Naomi's understanding

The people of God are the only ones whose troubles are sanctified.

3. Hope from the Ashes

Why did the timing fall that they arrived at the barley harvest?

What is our lesson? Do what we want and the Lord will cause all things to work together?

Why do we suffer? There are many angles to that question. Sin/correction one way.

In a general sense... 1 Peter 6-7 “In this you rejoice, (God’s mercy leading to your salvation) though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the **tested genuineness of your faith**—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Naomi’s faith was proved genuine, Ruth’s, Joseph’s, and keep looking. Heb 11

Trials sanctify (set apart, made holy). They turn our eyes to Jesus, they burn away the dross.

Our response: