

Ruth 1:6-22: Returning Home to Bethlehem

In these 17 verses before us, we meet the word **‘return’** (Hebrew ‘shub’) twelve times. The choice is between two regions: Bethlehem, the House of Bread, and the pagan land of Moab. Four times Naomi tries to dissuade her two daughters-in-law from going back with her. One takes the ‘sensible’ course and returns to Moab, the other insists on going to Bethlehem. Not only going, but living and dying and serving God regardless of the circumstances.

Introduction

:6-7 – The Decision to leave Moab and return to Bethlehem

- Naomi and her 2 daughters-in-law start on the 50-60 miles journey

:8-13 – The Discussion at the Crossroads

- Naomi attempts to dissuade her daughters-in-law 3 times

:14-18 – Leaving & Cleaving

- a look at Orpah
- a look at Ruth

:19-22 – The Arrival in Bethlehem

- Full and empty
- The barley harvest: a sign of things to come

Concluding Thoughts