

Finding Hope In A Disappointing World

Lesson One • Ruth 1:1
It Was the Worst of Times

An Overview of the Book of Ruth

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4
WEeping (Broken Heart)	WORKING (Comforted Heart)	WAITING (Assured Heart)	WEDDING (Joyful Heart)
A faith that is determined	A faith that is diligent	A faith that is dependent	A faith that produces deliverance

The Theme of the Book of Ruth:

To find hope in a disappointing world TURN TO GOD because He is at work in the worst of times!

“Now It Came to Pass”

Nothing in life happens by ACCIDENT!

What happens in life—both the good and the bad—is brought to pass by the HAND of God, according to the WILL of God, for the GLORY of God.

*Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land.
Ruth 1:1a*

In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:11-12

It Was the Worst of Times:

1. There Was a SPIRITUAL Famine in the Days When the Judges Ruled!

“In the Days When the Judges Ruled”...

Everyone started doing what was right in his OWN EYES instead of doing what was right in GOD’S EYES.

*In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
Judges 21:25*

2. There Was a PHYSICAL Famine in the Land of Judah!

The Irony of Bethlehem’s Name:

The name Bethlehem means “HOUSE OF BREAD,” so there was no bread in the “House of Bread.”

Why was there a famine in the land of Judah?

- Perhaps the famine was a sign of God’s JUDGMENT that something was wrong spiritually. *Deuteronomy 28:15-68*
- Perhaps the famine was a WAKE-UP CALL to get things right spiritually. *Deuteronomy 11:16-17*

Two Lessons for Finding Hope in the Worst of Times:

Lesson 1: GOD IS AT WORK in the worst of times.

Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David. Ruth 4:22

Lesson 2: TURN TO GOD in the worst of times for hope.

*This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!”
Lamentations 3:21-24*