



Worship Service  
April 26, 2020  
Pastor Bruce Adrian

## RUTH: Finding Hope in a Fallen World

Lesson One • Ruth 1:1

### It Was the Worst of Times

#### Theme of the Book of Ruth

To find hope in a fallen 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—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.

*In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land,  
and a man of Bethlehem in Judah... Ruth 1:1 ESV*

*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... Ruth 1:1 NKJV*

*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. The Worst of Times May Happen at ANY TIME!

#### What made this the worst of times?

- 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*

- There was a PHYSICAL famine in the land of Judah.

#### ***The Irony of Bethlehem’s Name***

Bethlehem means “house of bread,” but now there is  
no bread in the “house of bread.”

### 2. The Worst of Times Prepare Us for GOD’S WORK!

#### ***Why was there a famine in the land of Judah?***

- Perhaps the famine was God’s WARNING LIGHT that something was  
wrong spiritually. *Deuteronomy 28:24*
- Perhaps the famine was God’s WAKE-UP CALL to get things right  
spiritually. *Deuteronomy 11:16-17*

#### **Two Lessons for Finding Hope in the Worst of Times**

- ❖ GOD IS AT WORK in the worst of times.

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

- ❖ 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*