



The Line to

Christmas

Ruth

Part 1

Ruth Chapter 1

General Info about the book of Ruth

Who wrote the book of Ruth?

When was it written?

Where do the events in this book take place?

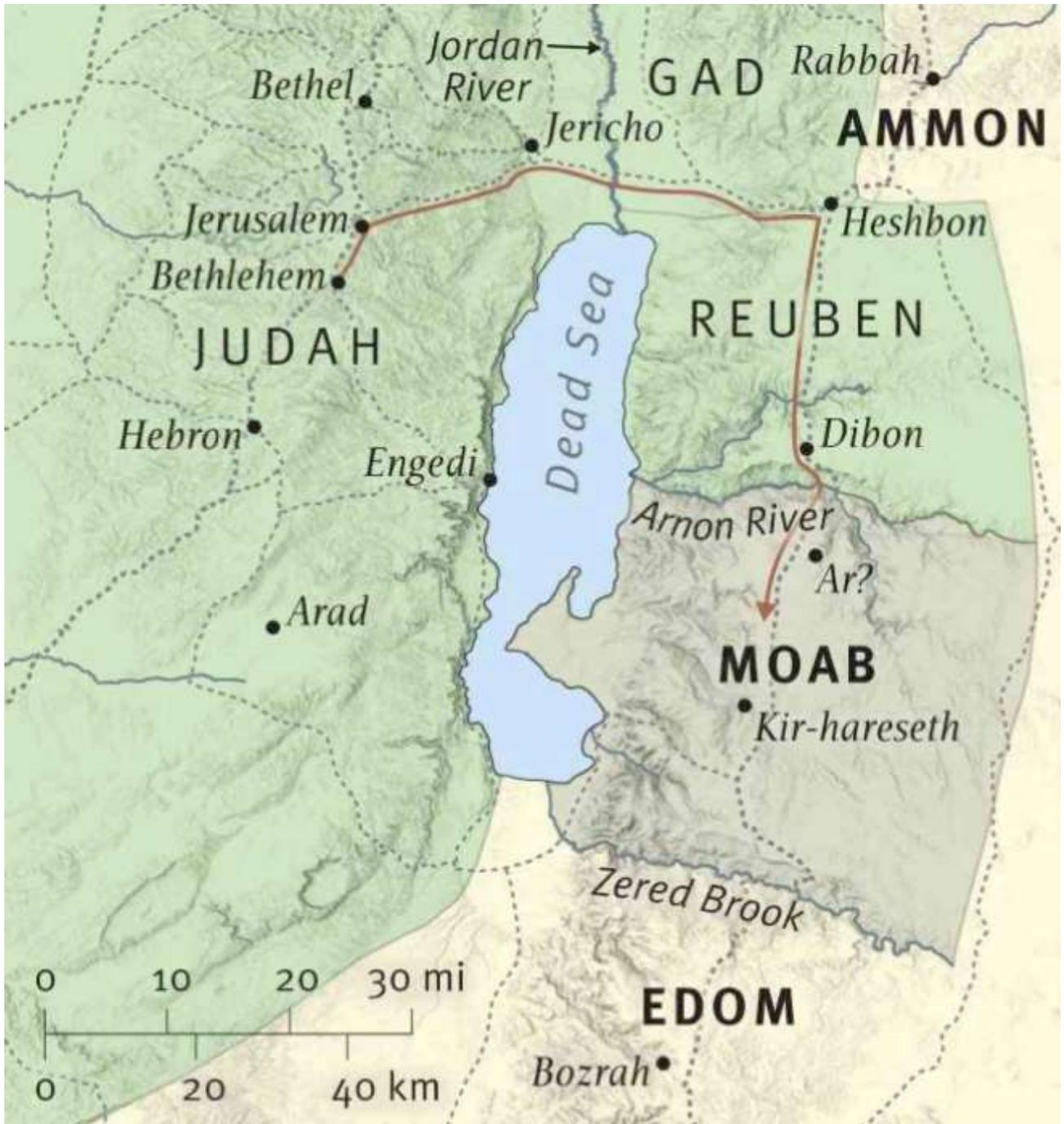
How many books in the Old Testament are named after an ancestor of Christ?

How many are named after a non-Jew?

Based on common belief what does the name Ruth mean?

What is the country of Israel like at this point in history? (Judges 2, 21:25)

What are some of the themes in the book of Ruth?



Underline all references to Ruth and Naomi, preferably in different colors. Also, underline any mention of a location.

Ruth 1: 1-5

1 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 Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Beth-lehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.

4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

What information have you learned about each of the following at this point?

Ruth:

Naomi:

Bethlehem-judah:



Did Elimelech’s sons disobey God? If so, how? (Deuteronomy 7:1-5, 23:3-6)

Why were they supposed to be separate from the others? (Numbers 25:1-3, 1 Kings 11:7)

Where did the Moabites come from? (Genesis 19:30-38)

Why would Elimelech take his family to Moab?

We’ve seen that God sent plagues and famines in the Old Testament. Is it possible that Elimelech was trying to escape the punishment from God? We’ve all wished we could escape the life lessons God is trying to teach us. Why should we simply submit to God and learn the lessons?

Ruth 1: 6-18

6 Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread.

7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

9 The Lord grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

12 Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

13 would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord is gone out against me.

14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

17 where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.



How long has Naomi been gone from Bethlehem? Why is she leaving Moab? Does this give any indication of the spiritual state of the nation?

How were the Israelites supposed to treat the widows? (Deuteronomy 24:17-22, Exodus 22:22-24)

Have you ever felt grief as Naomi did? Putting yourself in her position can you speculate why she didn't leave earlier?

We often look at the book of Ruth and focus on Ruth & Boaz and Ruth & Naomi, but seldom do we look at Naomi by herself. Do you feel she is a kindred spirit to you?

What do you think of the relationship between Naomi and her daughter-in-law's? Why does she try and push them away? Does she not love them?

Put yourself in Orpah's shoes for a moment. Why would you turn back? Did anything good come from her returning home to the strange gods of her people?

In verses 11-13 she speaks of having another child? What is she referencing? (Deuteronomy 25:5-10)

What are your thoughts on this law and why God created it?

The most popular verses of the book of Ruth are verses 16 and 17. What obstacles do you think await Ruth?

Regardless of the trials she could face, she was still willing to push on. Why do you think that is?



Ruth 1: 19-22

19 So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Beth-lehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

20 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

How does Beth-lehem react to Naomi's homecoming?

Naomi has stated twice, in one way or another that God is against her. Can you understand where she is coming from? Was God actually against her?

Do you, like Naomi, ever feel you are dealing with the consequences from you or your family's choices? Do you see any hope in Naomi's story so far?

Naomi was focusing on the past or future? Where should her focus have been?
