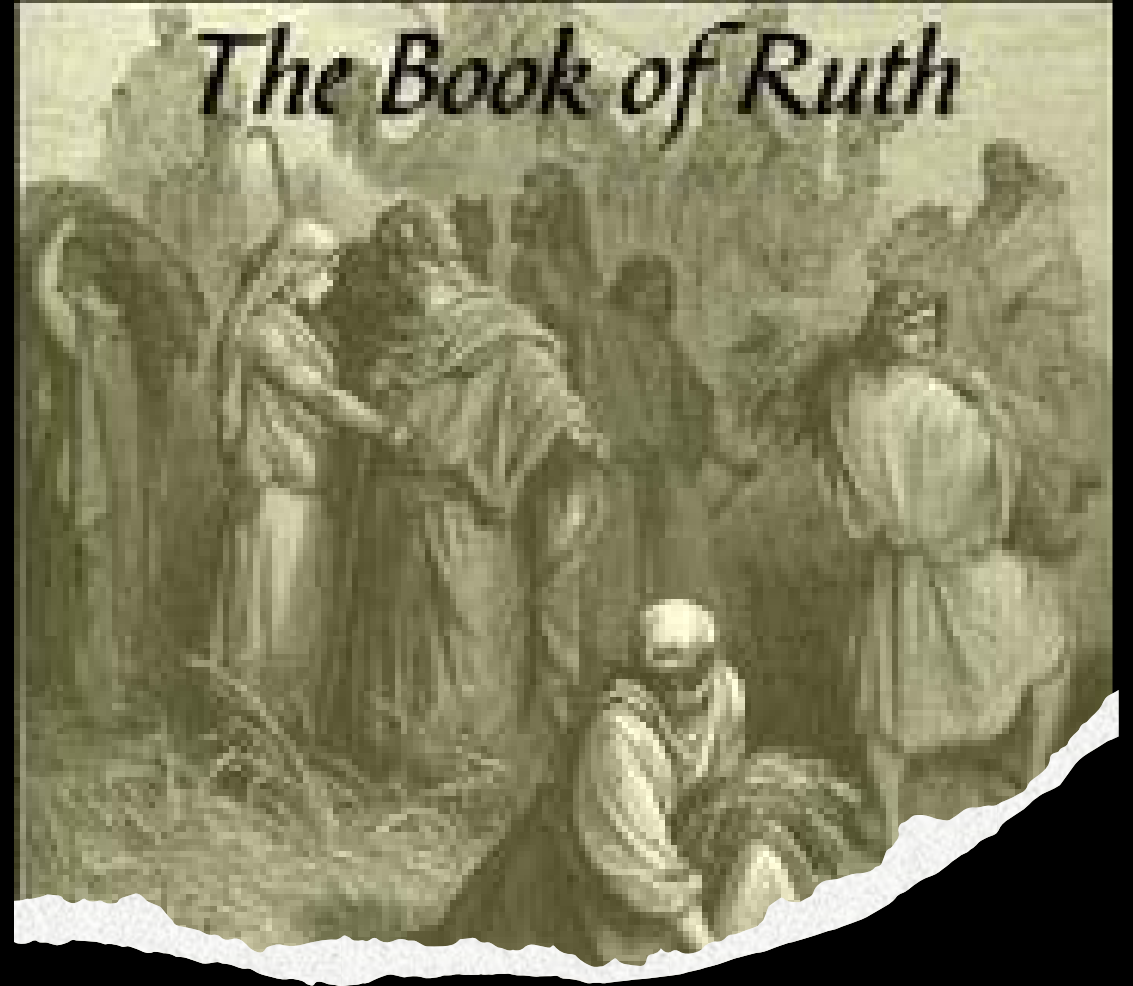



***WHEN YOU THINK
GOD DOES NOT
CARE***

Ruth 1:1-22

August 27, 2023





Tragedy
Ruth 1:1-2

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 Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

² The name of the man *was* Elimelech, the name of his wife *was* Naomi, and the names of his two sons *were* Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

Tragedy

- The Days of the Judges
- Famine in the House of Bread
- Family abandons Judah for Moab





AUTHOR: UNKNOWN

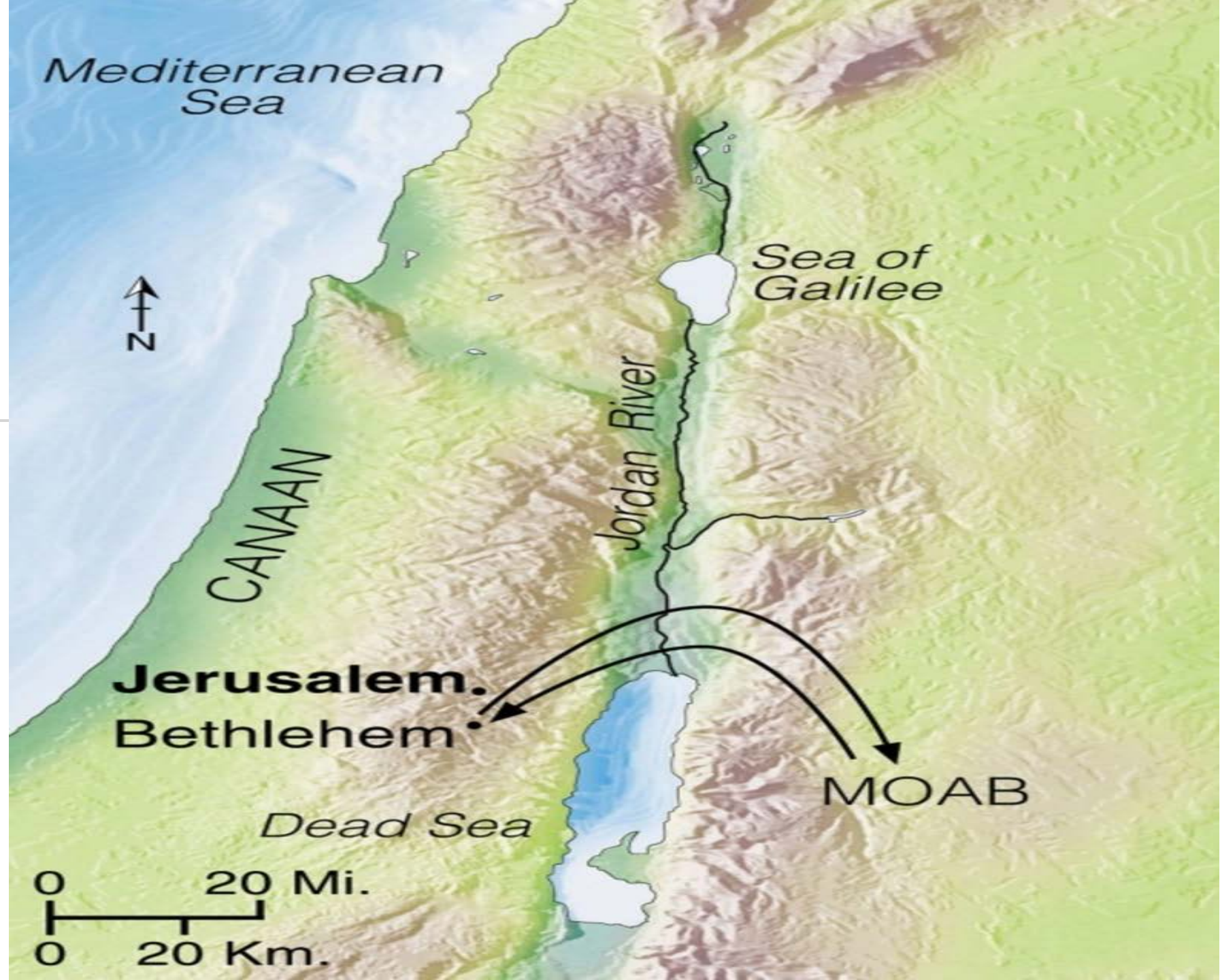
DATE:

- Period of the Judges (1375-1050 BC)
- Probably written 1010-970 BC—
Time of David
- **Ruth 4:22**
"Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse
begot David."

Bethlehem
&
Country of
Moab



Bethlehem
To
Moab



***TRAGEDY
COMPOUNDED***

Ruth 1:3-5

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

⁴ Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.

⁵ Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

ORIGIN OF THE MOABITES

***Genesis
19:36-38***

36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.

37 The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he *is* the father of the Moabites to this day.

38 And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he *is* the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

TRAGEDY COMPOUNDED - Continued

- Elimelech died.
- His sons marry Moabite women—

Deuteronomy 7:1-4

¹“When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,

² and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them *and* utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

³ Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.

⁴ For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.

- A ten-year sojourn
- Mahlon and Chilion died
- Naomi is alone in a man's world.

***HOPE ARRIVES
IN SMALL
PACKAGES***

***Ruth
1:6-10***

Naomi Returns with Ruth

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 that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.

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

8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each to her mother’s house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

9 The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.”

So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

10 And they said to her, “Surely we will return with you to your people.”

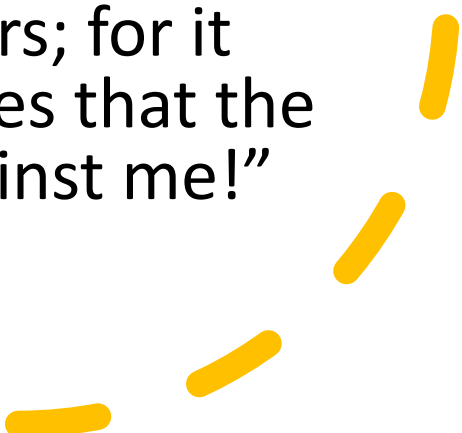
*Hope Arrives
In Small Packages*

*Ruth
1:11-13*

¹¹ But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? *Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?*”

¹² Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, *if* I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,

¹³ would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!”





Hope Arrives In Small Packages
Ruth 1:14-17

14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 And she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”

16 But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you,
Or to turn back from following after you;
For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;

Your people *shall be* my people, And your God, my God.

17 Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried.

The LORD do so to me, and more also,
If *anything but* death parts you and me.”

Hope Arrives In Small Packages

God visited His people.

A tearful separation between Naomi and her daughters-in-law came

Ruth expressed her commitment.



Call Me MARA
Ruth 1:18-22

18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

19 Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, “/s this Naomi?”

20 But she said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?”

22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Call Me MARA

- The LORD dealt bitterly with me.
- Naomi (“pleasant”) asked to be called *Mara* (“bitter”).
- Excitement came in Bethlehem
- Naomi’s understanding of God’s dealings:
 - ✓ She went out full, returned empty.
 - ✓ God testified against her.
 - ✓ Almighty afflicted her.
- The women arrived in Bethlehem at beginning of barley harvest, which would be April—May according to Gezer Calendar (R. A. McAlister, 1902-1907)

*Gezer
Tablet*

