

# Ruth 1

JPS [Online]

## Naomi Becomes a Widow

(1 Timothy 5:3–16)

**1**AND IT came to pass in the days when the judges judged, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem in Judah went to sojourn in the field 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 in Judah. And they came into the field 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 dwelt there about ten years. **5**And Mahlon and Chilion died both of them; and the woman was left of her two children and of her husband.

## Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

**6**Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from the field of Moab; for she had heard in the field of Moab how that the LORD had remembered His people in giving them bread. **7**And 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 of you 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: 'Nay, but we will return with thee unto thy people.' **11**And Naomi said: 'Turn back, my daughters; why will ye go with me? have I yet sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? **12**Turn back, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say: I have hope, should I

even have an husband to-night, and also bear sons; <sup>13</sup>would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye shut yourselves off for them and have no husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes, for the hand of the LORD is gone forth against me.'

<sup>14</sup>And they lifted up their voice, and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law; but Ruth cleaved unto her.

<sup>15</sup>And she said: 'Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her god; return thou after thy sister-in-law.' <sup>16</sup>And Ruth said: 'Entreat me not to leave thee, and 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; <sup>17</sup>where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried; the LORD do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.' <sup>18</sup>And when she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, she left off speaking unto her.

### **The Return to Bethlehem**

<sup>19</sup>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 astir concerning them, and the women said: 'Is this Naomi?' <sup>20</sup>And she said unto them: 'Call me not Naomi, call me Marah; for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. <sup>21</sup>I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me back home empty; why call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?'

<sup>22</sup>So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, who returned out of the field of Moab—and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest.