

“Full Or Empty?”

Ruth 1:1-6

January 5, 2025

Introduction:

As you reflect on your own life, would you say that you are entering the new year feeling full, empty or somewhere in between?

Describe the emptiness that you are feeling?

The Introduction:

Ruth 1:1-6 *“In the days when the judges ruled, ^a there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ²The man’s name was Elimelek, his wife’s name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.*

³Now Elimelek, Naomi’s husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

Naomi leaves Bethlehem full but is tragically emptied!

”Ruth 1:1 *“In the days when the Judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab”.*

The book Ruth takes places during the time period when judges ruled, before Israel had a king.

Read Judges 21:25. The book of Ruth takes places during a very dark time in Israel’s history.

How does knowing the historical and cultural setting affect your view of Ruth and Naomi’s story?

Ruth 1:2 *“The man’s name was Elimelek, his wife’s name was Naomi and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah”.*

Why do you think the author repeats that they were from Bethlehem?

Ruth 1:3-4 *“Now Elimelek, Naomi’s husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth”.*

How do you think Naomi felt as a foreigner living in a strange land without a husband to care for her? What were some emotions she was likely experiencing?

Ruth 1:5 *“And They lived there about 10 years and both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband”.*

Tragedy strikes again. Are you, or have you been, in a season where it seems like it’s just one hardship or loss after another?

What might be the significance of her sons marrying Moabite women?

Ruth 1:6 *“When Naomi heard that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters in law prepared to return home from there”*

What is the meaning and significance of Naomi using the name LORD? What does it suggest about Naomi’s faith in the middle of her crisis?

IN THE MIDDLE of our MOST difficult times the Lord Almighty might just be laying the foundation for restoration and redemption!