



Walking with God:

*A Study on the Book of
Ruth*

Day One

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Following God:

A Study on Ruth

The mission of this Bible study is to let the Word of God freely speak to your heart. I pray for you to follow God as He draws you closer to Him. During this study, we will use Internet tools to enhance and unlock the meaning of the original language. In order to let the Scriptures sink deep into our hearts we will also engage in repeated readings over our text of the day. For this study you will need Internet access, a journal, a couple different versions of the Bible, highlighters and a pen (will not use the internet today).

Please take a moment to pray and ask God to reveal His truth to you through His Word.

In order to understand the culture and the times in which the events of the Book of Ruth took place we must do a little background research.

1. Please read Genesis 12:1-7.
 - a. What did God promise Abram?

God made a covenant with Abram to give him the land of Canaan so he could dwell in peace with the God. Because the land is governed by a covenant between Yahweh and His people, the land is nontransferable. To walk away from the Land of Promise is to walk away from God.

Elimelech and his family are descendants of Abraham (Abram); they too are God's covenant people. Despite the famine in the land of Bethlehem, it is my opinion that Elimelech should not have left Bethlehem. God promises those who trust in Him will be satisfied even in the days of famine (Psalm 37: 18-19).

Now let us research why there was a famine in the land.

2. Please read Deuteronomy 8:6-10.
 - a. What was the Promised Land like?
 - b. In order for the descendants of Abraham to receive these many blessings, what were they required to do (verse 6)?
3. Now please read Deuteronomy 11:13-17.
 - a. What would happen if the people turned away from God?

Crucial to laying our foundation for the study of Ruth we must study a certain phrase.

Ruth 1:1 opens with, "Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled..."
What were the "days when the judges ruled"?

4. Please read Judges 17:6 and Judges 21:25.

- a. What was it like in Israel when *the judges ruled*?
- b. From everything we just learned about God's covenant, promises, and provision for His people, why was there a famine in the land of Israel?
- c. Does the phrase *everyone did what was right in his own eyes* mean?
- d. How does the phrase *everyone did what was right in his own eyes* apply to our culture today?
- e. Does this phrase apply to your life? Is there any area of life that you are missing the blessing of God because you are doing what *is right in your **own** eyes* and not God's eyes?

Finally, we must research the country of Moab and its connection to the nation of Israel.

5. Please read Genesis 19:24-38.

6. Now please read Deuteronomy 23:3-4

7. Next please read Numbers 25:1-3

- a. In your journal please describe Israel's relationship with Moab. Please cite reasons as to why these two nations are enemies.

8. In closing, please look back over what we studied today and write a summary paragraph regarding what you learned about what was happening in Israel during the "time of the judges."

Tomorrow we will begin with chapter 1 of the Book of Ruth.