

RUTH'S CHOICE

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we will continue the first chapter of Ruth. Last week we looked at Naomi's decision to leave Moab and return to Israel. She had heard that the LORD had visited Israel by giving them bread.

Before getting into our passage this morning I want to mention that it was very amazing that Elimelech chose to take his family to Moab because of how the Israelites felt about that nation and their people. Moabites were despised and hated by the Israelites and understandably so. This hatred of Moab by Israel seems to have come about because of five factors in Moab's history. (1) The Moabites contemptible origins due to the incestuous relationship between Lot and his daughter. (2) The Moabites resistance and refusal to allow Israel to pass through their territory into Canaan when they came up out of Egypt. (3) The Moabite women's seduction of the Israelites and Israel's punishment when Balaam could not curse them for Balak, king of Moab. (4) This brought about in Israel a constitutional exclusion of Moab from the assembly of the LORD. (Deuteronomy 23:3-6) (5) The recent oppression of Israel by Eglon the king of Moab. These factors may explain why we see only one family leaving Bethlehem to seek refuge from the famine in Moab. This also gives some background to the stigma that will surround Ruth as she returns with Naomi. Even more remarkable is the acceptance of Ruth by Naomi, Boaz, and the people of Bethlehem.

I. RUTH'S ABANDONMENT (Ruth 1:14-18)

- a. Last Sunday we left off where Naomi was _____ her daughters-in-law to return to their families' homes and to remarry in the land of Moab.
- b. The simplicity and complete abandonment of these words must be _____.
- c. It is the LORD Who works in those whom He has _____, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. (Ephesians 2:12; Romans 3:29; Romans 9:23-24)

II. RUTH'S RESOLVE (Ruth 1:17-18)

- a. Ruth's reply to Naomi's urgings is amazing also for the completeness with which she _____ herself to the step she was about to take.
- b. When we examine her reply a little more closely, we find in it _____ promises, which taken together, go as far as Ruth's outlook into the future could reach.
- c. Ruth first said, "...for where you _____, I will go." (Ruth 1:16b, NASB95)
- d. Second, Ruth said, "...and where you _____, I will lodge." (Ruth 1:16c, NASB95) (John 14:1-3, 23)
- e. Third, Ruth states, "*Your _____ shall be my people...*" (Ruth 1:16d, NASB95) (Genesis 12:1; Ruth 2:11)
- f. We are not told what kind of _____ Elimelech or Naomi or their two sons had in Moab. (1 Peter 2:9-10)
- g. Fourth, Ruth declared, "...and your _____, my God." (Ruth 1:16e, NASB95) (1 Peter 1:3-9)
- h. Fifth, Ruth stated, "*Where you _____, I will die...*" (Ruth 1:17a, NASB95) (Luke 9:62; Philippians 3:13-14)
- i. These words of Ruth, "where you die, I will die," contain another _____ for us. (Galatians 6:14; Romans 6:10-11)
- j. Sixth, Ruth declared not only that she would die where Naomi died, but also declared, "...and there I will be _____." (Ruth 1:17b, NASB95) (Romans 6:4a)
- k. Ruth's sixfold commitment which extended as far as her thought could reach, to this commitment we who are in Christ can add a seventh, "made _____ together with Christ." (Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10)

CONCLUSION:

All of this is anticipated in the call of the Gospel; and it is good to go over point by point, the six statements of Ruth's commitment, making each of them our own, glorified, however, by the glorious One on Whom we commit ourselves and then adding the seventh statement which pictures the Lord Jesus Christ as our satisfying and eternal portion. For He is mine, and I am His, forever and forever.

