

Naomi and Ruth

Ruth 1

by Don Falkos

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There was a famine in Israel. A man moved his family from the town of Bethlehem in Judah to the country of Moab. Then the man died. His two sons married Moabite women. But about ten years later, the two sons also died. The man's widow, Naomi, was left alone with her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth.

The famine had ended, so Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem. She said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your parents. And may the Lord bless each of you with a new home and a new husband. I'm too old to marry again. And even if I did have sons, would you wait for them to grow up so that you could marry them? No. Go home."

Orpah kissed Naomi good-bye and walked away. But Ruth clung to Naomi and said, "Don't force me to leave you. Don't make me go home. Where you go, I will go. Where you live, I will live. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die and be buried. Not even death will separate us."

Naomi and Ruth went to Bethlehem. The whole town was excited to see them. The women asked, "Naomi, is it really you?"

But she said, "That name, Naomi, means 'pleasant', yet my life has become bitter. When I left Bethlehem I was full, but the Lord has brought me back empty."