





In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and 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 man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. And they went to Moab and lived there. Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

Ruth 1:1-5

“In the days when the judges ruled”=times of great
threat and opportunity

“A famine and a move to Moab”=the threat was
severe and personal

“Death and marriage to Moabite women”=the threat is getting more severe.

“The Return home and a new name for Naomi”=The threat is mental, spiritual, relational.

“Ruth reveals her character and wisdom”=opportunity is starting to be revealed.

“Boaz and the larger purposes of God revealed”=opportunity is everywhere in the providence of God.

Some things to keep in mind about Ruth's choices:

“They were difficult, dangerous, and tedious and she was not given a guarantee of outcomes.”

OPERATIONAL WISDOM=for times of great threat
and opportunity

1. Focus on “right column” living

2. Don't “measure” too soon

3. Think more highly and more often of God than
self

