

Ruth

Lesson Two

A Rejection of the King/A Decision to Follow

Excuses?

- I. Ruth lived in the time when the Judges ruled.

Characteristics of that time: a cycle of sin; oppression; “repentance” and deliverance. There was no king in Israel. The people of Israel had rejected God as their King.

First Excuse: The people of God in general are not following God.

- II. There was a famine in the land of Israel.

Ruth 1:1

Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlemane-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

Sojourn in the Hebrew means to turn aside from the road for a lodging, to sojourn as a guest.

Genesis 26:3

Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and will bless you; for unto you and unto your seed, I will give all these countries and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham, thy father.

Bethlehem (“Beth-lechem”) means House of Bread.

Genesis 12: 1-3, 7

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house unto a land that I will show thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and you shall be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed....And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said Unto thy

seed will I give this land: and there built he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared to him.

Deuteronomy 11:8-21

Hebrews 11:8-9

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.

Genesis 12:10

And there was famine in the land.

Genesis 12:11-20

Progression of Steps downward:

Forgot the promises of God.

Came up with his own solution to the crisis.

Began to worry and fret about possible issues.

Began to act in a selfish and unloving way.

Primary motive: protect himself.

Hurt others and put them in compromised positions.

Rebuked by the unsaved world.

Second Excuse: The ones I personally know that are believers are not following God.

III. There was a Sojourn in Moab

The Moabites and Ammonites were descendants of the incestuous relationship of Lot's daughters with Lot.

Genesis 19:30-37

Numbers 22:1-8

Deuteronomy 23:3-6

The Moabites were known as people of the god, Chemosh. They were sold out in worship to this false god.

Third excuse: My people and culture are not following Jehovah.

IV. Personal Trial's in Ruth's Life.

Mahlon = "sickly"

Chilion = "wasting"

Ruth was left a widow, after the death of her husband.

Fourth Excuse: What has God done for me?

In spite all the potential excuses that could be raised, Ruth became a dedicated follower of the true God as her King.

For Further Thought:

How do people generally deal with crisis in their lives?

Review the steps downward in Abraham's decision to leave the land, in response to the famine/crisis that he faces. Consider what should be done at each point in the downward steps to get back on track with following God's plan and purposes in his life.

What excuses are raised for not following God and living for Him?