



Ruth

Kinsman Redeemer

Call me Bitter!

Ruth 1



Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

“God cannot fill with peace what is lined with disappointments.”

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

1:6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the land of Moab, for she had heard in the land of Moab that the LORD had visited His people in giving them food.

Ruth - Kinsman Redeemer

7 So she departed from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.



Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

9 May the LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.



Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

10 And they said to her, “No, but we will surely return with you to your people.”



Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

11 But Naomi said, “Return, my daughters.
Why should you go with me? Have I yet sons
in my womb, that they may be your
husbands?”

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

12 Return, my daughters! Go, for I am too old to have a husband. If I said I have hope, if I should even have a husband tonight and also bear sons,



Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

13 would you therefore wait until they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters; for it is harder for me than for you, for the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me.”

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

*“Unable to forgive is actually
unwilling to forgive.”*

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

14 And they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer



15 Then she said, “Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”



Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

17 Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me.”



Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.



Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

Return of Naomi 6-18

- Naomi hears of God's caring in Moab
- God's work in us is God's witness to us!
- Wife returns a widow – a mother without sons!
- Step out of the boat – despite the water & storm
- Going back or staying put may be easy but....

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

Return of Naomi 6-18

- ‘hesed’ – LORD to you as you have to me
- Emotion is NOT commitment! 1:9
- I have lost – I cannot regain – ‘woe is me’ 11-13
- One goes – One stays – Life turn & returns on choices
- Ruth’s pledge of love and loyalty 15-17
- ‘determined’ – strength and firm

Ruth - Kinsman Redeemer

“...the world has no charms for me when I look up, but the trouble with God’s children is they do not look up enough.” D.L. Moody

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

19 So they both went until they came to Bethlehem. And when they had come to Bethlehem, all the city was stirred because of them, and the women said, “Is this Naomi?”

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

Reunion of Naomi 19

- Moab to Bethlehem – from lowest point
- Gone at least 11 years
- World notices
- Is this ‘Naomi’ – are we the same?
- Back to Bethel – Prodigal – God forgives!

Ruth - Kinsman Redeemer

- 1. In both stories there are three major players: a father and two sons**
- 2. The blessing/inheritance is a critical part of both stories.**
- 3. In both stories the younger son seeks advantages from the father using dishonorable methods and succeeds**
- 4. In both stories the younger son is estranged from both the father and the older brother.**
- 5. In both stories the younger son goes to a far country.**
- 6. The older son remains at home in both stories.**
- 7. The younger son becomes a herder in the far country in both stories.**
- 8. In both stories the younger son decides to return home but is afraid of how he will be received.**
- 9. Both younger sons show remorse – repentance?**
- 10. In both stories there is a divine visitation – the man who wrestles with Jacob and the father who symbolizes God.**
- 11. In both stories the younger son receives the three-fold welcome of running, falling on the neck and kissing (In all of scripture this trilogy only appears in Gen 33:4 and Luke 15:20!)**
- 12. In both stories the older brother is angry about the return of the younger.**
- 13. In both stories the younger son is reconciled to the family.**
- 14. In both stories there is a concern that the younger son return in peace (Gen 28:21; Lk 15:27)**

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

“Forgiveness breaks the bitter chains of pride, self-pity and vengeance that lead to despair, alienation, broken relationships and loss of joy.”

John MacArthur

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

20 She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.



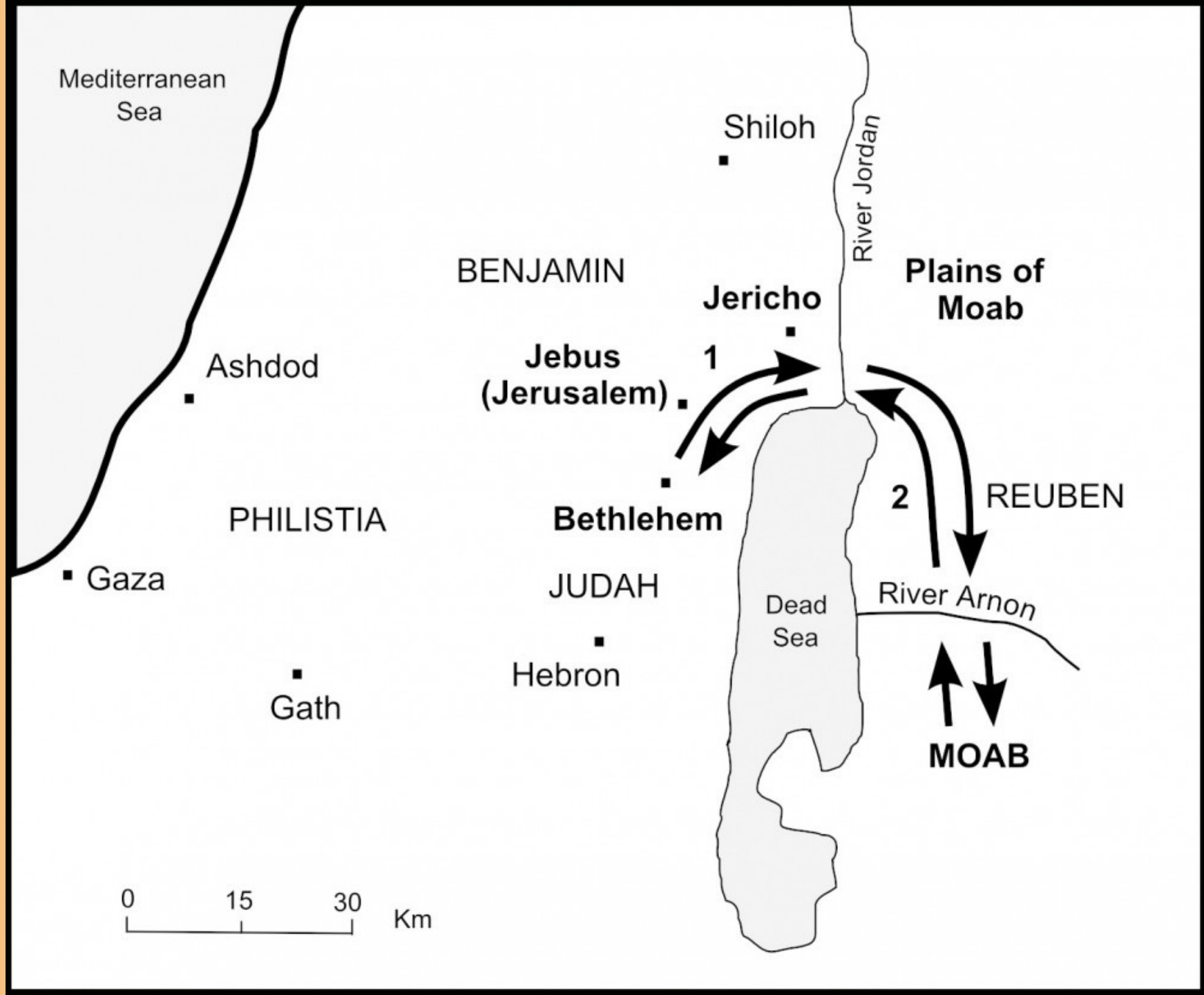
Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

21 I went out full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?”

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

22 So Naomi returned, and with her Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who returned from the land of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Ruth - Kinsman Redeemer





Fields of Boaz – East valley
South valley



Reaction of Naomi 20-22

- Moab to Bethlehem – from lowest point
- Gone at least 11 years
- Naomi – ‘pleasant’ Mara – ‘bitter’
- Almighty / LORD – provider / promises

Ruth - Kinsman Redeemer

Reaction of Naomi 20-22

- What brings people back?
- God allows discomfort for uncomfortable!
- ‘empty’ – 1:21 and 3:17 ‘not empty handed’
- ‘witnessed’ – God’s answer to our answers

Ruth - Kinsman Redeemer

“Bitterness arises in our hearts when we do not trust in the sovereign rule of God in our lives.”

Jerry Bridges

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

Right place – Right heart!

- Naomi returns – altitude & attitude
- Place is right – is the prayer right?
- *“All bitterness began as disappointment from selfish expectations.”*

Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer

*“When the root is bitterness,
imagine what the fruit might be.”*

Woodrow Kroll



Ruth-Kinsman Redeemer



Ruth

Kinsman Redeemer