

THE STORY OF RUTH

(What's a nice Moabite girl like you doing in Bethlehem?)

Ruth 1.1-22

Introduction: In our study of the book of Ruth look for ...

Lessons to live by ...

I. *There was a famine in the land ... (1-5)*

II. *But Ruth clung to her ... (6-18)*

Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

1. Summarize all that Naomi lost and the hurt she had experienced. What is the hardest time you have gone through in life? What made it particularly difficult? Was it challenging to trust the Lord during that time?
2. Ruth 1 is filled with contrasts. List as many as you can find. What do you think the author of Ruth wants us to understand from these contrasts?
3. Loyal, faithful, covenant-keeping love (the Heb. word *hesed*) is a key theme in the book of Ruth (1.8, 2.20, 3.10). How has God shown *hesed* to you?
4. Naomi thought God had caused her suffering. Is there a difference between God *causing* affliction and God *allowing* affliction?
5. How would you understand God and your circumstances if you experienced the same thing Naomi did? What do we learn about God from Ruth 1 that can help us in times of affliction?

Community Bible Church
Rev. Charles Tschetter, Lead Pastor

This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying today's message. *The Story of Ruth* is the first message in a series on the OT book of Esther. This message can be listened to or downloaded at cbcomaha.org. You may also stream and download CBC podcasts from itunes or google play.



Ruth

The Unexpected Kindness of God

OT BOOKS FOCUSED ON WOMEN

ESTHER

Jewess marries Gentile ...
saves her people

Begins with feast ... ends with
death of over 75,000

God isn't mentioned

RUTH

Gentile marries Jew ...
included in line of Messiah

Begins with famine ... ends
with born of baby

God mentioned 25x

Will of God and His providential care on display

In the book of Ruth

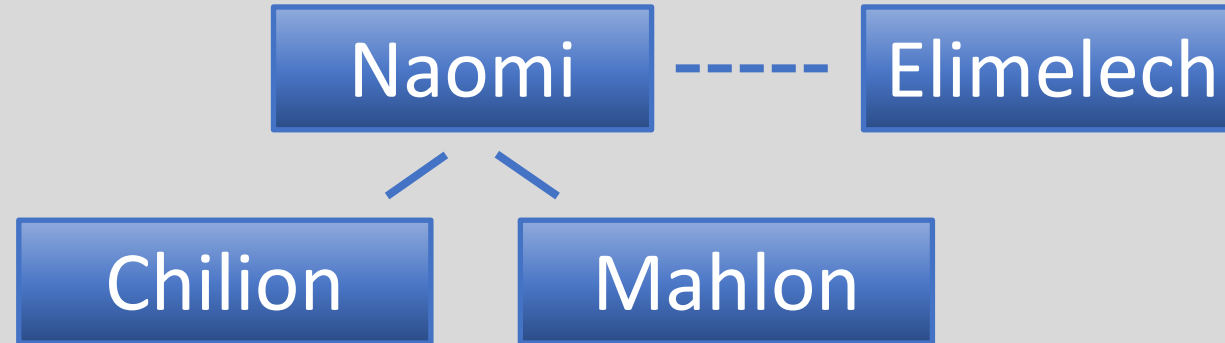
look for ...

1. Contrasts
2. Illustrations of the biblical doctrine of salvation
3. Signs of God's providence and care –
Heb. word, *hesed*

For the Lord is good; His ***lovingkindness*** is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations. Ps 100.5

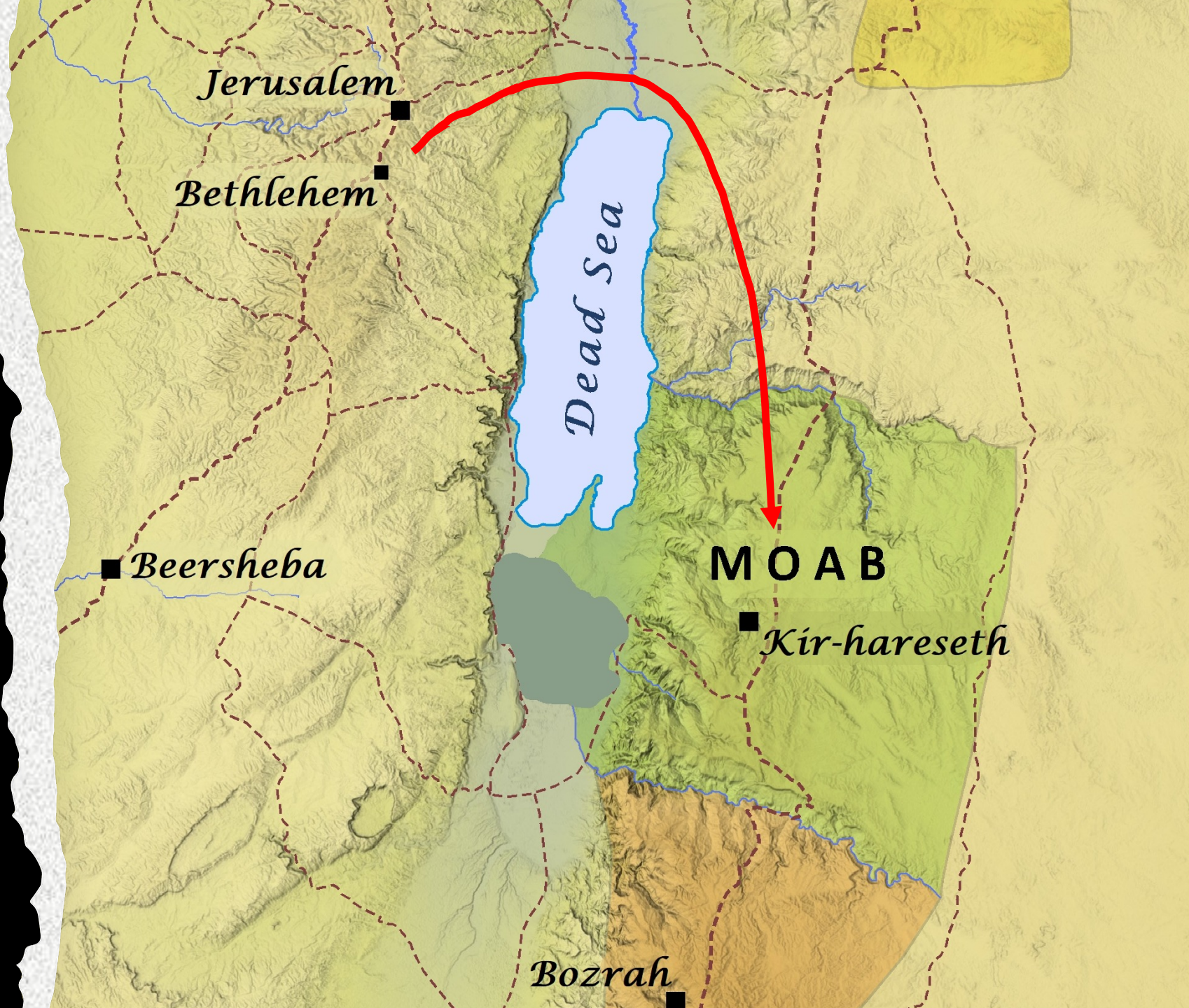
I. There was a famine in the land ... (1-5)

I. There was a famine in the land ... (1-5)



Bethlehem
to Moab ...

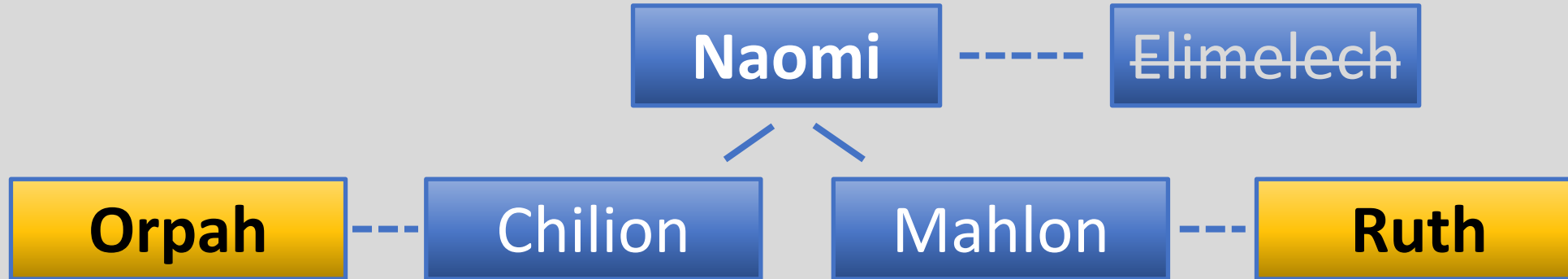
a journey of
about 50
miles



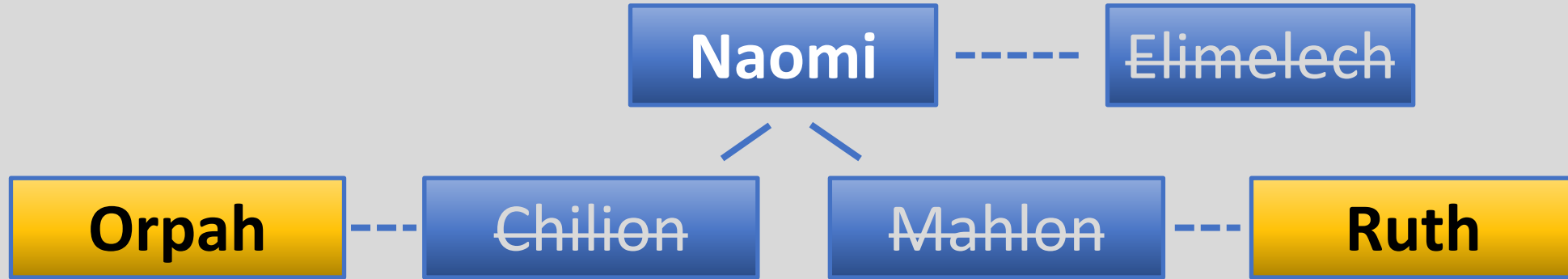
Arnon ... valley between Israelite tribes to the north
and Moab to the south



Ruth's Family



Ruth's Family



I. There was a famine in the land ... (1-5)

II. But Ruth clung to her ... (6-18)

- I. *There was a famine in the land ... (1-5)*
- II. *But Ruth clung to her ... (6-18)*
- III. *When they had come to Bethlehem (19-22)*

Lessons to Live by ...

- The troubles of life do not always come upon us because of sin.
- While we can't control the circumstances of our lives, we can control how we respond to them.