

IN A LAND WITHOUT KING

INTRODUCTION

“This morning a man entered in a school and...”

“An airplane that was flying to the Indonesia...”

“Next week, gas prices will...”

“Now it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah...”

The Trilogy of Bethlehem

Judges 17–18: religious degradation, spiritual apostasy

Judges 19–21: moral depravity

Ruth 1–4: redemption in/of Bethlehem

In **Ruth 1:1-5**, we will see 2 painful consequences that befell God’s people when they forgot Him.

1. Infidelity Resulted in Instability (1–2)
2. Indifference Resulted in Infertility (3–5)

1) INFIDELITY RESULTED IN INSTABILITY (1–2)

[VERSE 1a]

“in the days when the judges governed”: 1375–1075 BC

“there was a famine in the land”:

previous famines: Genesis 12:10; 26:1; 41:54

promises of famine: Leviticus 26:19–20; Deuteronomy 28:38–40

[VERSE 1b]

“And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn”:

“in the land of Moab”: Deuteronomy 28:64–65

[VERSE 2]

“Elimelech”: my God is king // “in those days there was no king in Israel”

2) INDIFFERENCE RESULTED IN INFERTILITY (3–5)

[VERSE 3]

“Naomi’s husband died”

[VERSE 4]

“They took for themselves Moabite women as wives”: Deut 7:3–4

Origin of the Moabites: Genesis 19:30–38

Idolatry of the Moabites: Numbers 21:29; 2 Kings 3:26–27; 23:10, 13

Moabites and Israelites: Numbers 25:1–3; Deuteronomy 23:3–6

“They took”:

Forced marriage (Judges 21:23)

Polygamous marriage (2 Chronicles 11:21)

Mixed marriage (Ezra 9:2)

[VERSE 5]

“the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband”: Deuteronomy 28:18

Hope of a remnant: “left” (v. 3) = “bereft/left without” (v. 5)

CONCLUSION

God’s grace is powerful to bring redemption and use anything, even our sins, tragedies, or bad choices, to produce the good He wants to produce in those who love him. This supreme good is to conform us to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 8:28–30)