

I. Introduction

A. Context

1. The title is based upon the main character of this book, a woman from the country of Moab named _____.
2. The human author of the Book of Ruth is not given, though some scholars claim it is _____.
3. The Book of Ruth was most likely written during the time of _____.
4. The main idea of the book of Ruth is God's _____ for faithfulness even amid national apostasy.

II. Decisions, Decisions, Decisions Ruth 1

A. The Choice to Leave Israel (Ruth 1:1-5)

1. The events of this book take place sometime during the time of the _____. (Ruth 1:1)
 - a. The period of the Judges extended from approximately _____ BC to _____ BC.
 - b. There was no king in Israel at that time and everyone did what was right in their _____ eyes. (Judges 17:6, 21:25)
2. There was a “_____ in the land” most likely due to Israel’s disobedience to God. (Ruth 1:1; Deu. 28:18)
3. Due to a lack of food, Elimelech chose to _____ his family out of Israel and _____ in a foreign land called Moab. (Ruth 1:1-2)
4. The consequences of his decision to stay was that he would _____ see “the land” again for he “died” in Moab. (Ruth 1:3)
5. His life away from God _____ to his children for they chose to remain in Moab and take pagan wives. (Ruth 1:4)
6. The fate of the father also met the sons as they _____ to God and died in a foreign land leaving the widows childless and without income.

B. The choice to return to Israel (Ruth 1:6-15)

1. Having no men to provide for them and no hope for prosperity in a foreign land, Naomi chose to _____ home for she heard that the Lord had provided food His people. (Ruth 1:6-7)
2. Her _____ from God spiritually is shown in her insistence for her daughters-in-law return to their mother’s house and their gods while at the same time hoping that the only true God would grant that they would find physical blessing there. (Ruth 1:8-15)

3. This is like the carnal Christian who will focus on the _____ and _____ things of the world as opposed to the spiritual and they will become _____-focused rather than the needs of others or the will of God.
4. _____ gave in and returned to her family and her gods never to be heard from again, however, _____ wouldn't be denied the opportunity to return to the true God! (Ruth 1:14-15)

C. The choice to follow God (Ruth 1:16-25)

1. After being implored by now faithless Naomi to return to her family and her false gods, Ruth the Moabites showed exemplary _____ in stating that she wanted to follow Naomi back to only true God and become one of her people. (Ruth 1:16-17)
2. Then, seeing that Ruth had _____ her mind, she stopped trying to convince her to return to her family. (Ruth 1:18)
3. When Naomi returned to Bethlehem, the people were excited to see her but she announced a _____ testimony, "for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me." (Ruth 1:20-21)

a. Why do we have trials in our life?

- 1) Trials are because of _____ sin and it's _____ on the human race. (Gen. 2-4)
- 2) Trials are sometimes due to one's _____ sin. (Gal. 6:6-8)
- 3) Trials are due to God's _____ plan. (Gen. 50:20; Jam. 2:1-2)

b. How are we to view our trials?

- 1) Trials are designed to _____ our faith.
- 2) Trials are designed to _____ our heart.
- 3) Trials are designed to _____ us.
4. We see a glimpse at God's work on behalf of Ruth's faithfulness with the _____ of their return. (Ruth 1:22)

- What does this mean to you?