

Atonement Lutheran Sunday Bible Study  
May 3, 2020  
Introduction to The Book of Ruth

Read Ruth 1:1 & 2

<sup>1</sup> In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup> The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. (NIV 84)

1. Within what timeframe could these events in Ruth have taken place or been written?  
Review and discuss the information on “**approximate timeframe**” sheet.

2. What is in a name?

Judah	יְהוּדָה	Genesis 29:35, (see Tribes of Israel Map)
Bethlehem	בֵּית לֶחֶם	
Ephrathites		Micah 5:2 and 1 Samuel 17:12
Moab		Genesis 19:36-38
Elimelech	אֵלִימֶלֶךְ	
Naomi	נְעֻמִי	
Mahlon	מַחֲלֹן	
Kilion	כִּלְיוֹן	

3. What was the reason Elimelech traveled to Moab? (Route Map of their coming and going)

4. Generally speaking, an Israelite would not just leave his inheritance, the land.  
What could Elimelech have done with his home and land before traveling to Moab?

5. In what did he place his trust when the time would come to return? Leviticus 25:23-24  
What was Elimelech's understanding of Leviticus 25:23-24?

Read Ruth 1:3 & 4,

<sup>3</sup> Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup> both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. (NIV 84)

6. List a few life-changing events that had taken place while they were in Moab:

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— — —

7. Read Deuteronomy 7:1-4 and Judges 10:6-7, did the sons violate the Word of the Lord when they married Moabite women?

8. What problem existed for Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah now that their husband's were dead?

9. Why would a loving God bring this trouble upon these women? Jeremiah 29:11

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**Question 2**

Genesis 29:35, Leah conceived a fourth time, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the LORD." So she named him Judah.

Micah 5:2, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

1 Samuel 17:12, David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah.

Genesis 19:36-38, Both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father. <sup>37</sup> The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today. <sup>38</sup> The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.

**Question 5**

Leviticus 25:23-24, "The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine, *declares the Lord*, and you are but aliens and my tenants. <sup>24</sup> Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.

**Question 7**

Deuteronomy 7:1-4, When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—<sup>2</sup>and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. <sup>3</sup> Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, <sup>4</sup> for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.

Judges 10:6-7 *Under Jephthah (1100BC)*

<sup>6</sup> Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD. They served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites and the gods of the Philistines. And because the Israelites forsook the LORD and no longer served him, <sup>7</sup> he became angry with them.

**Question 9**

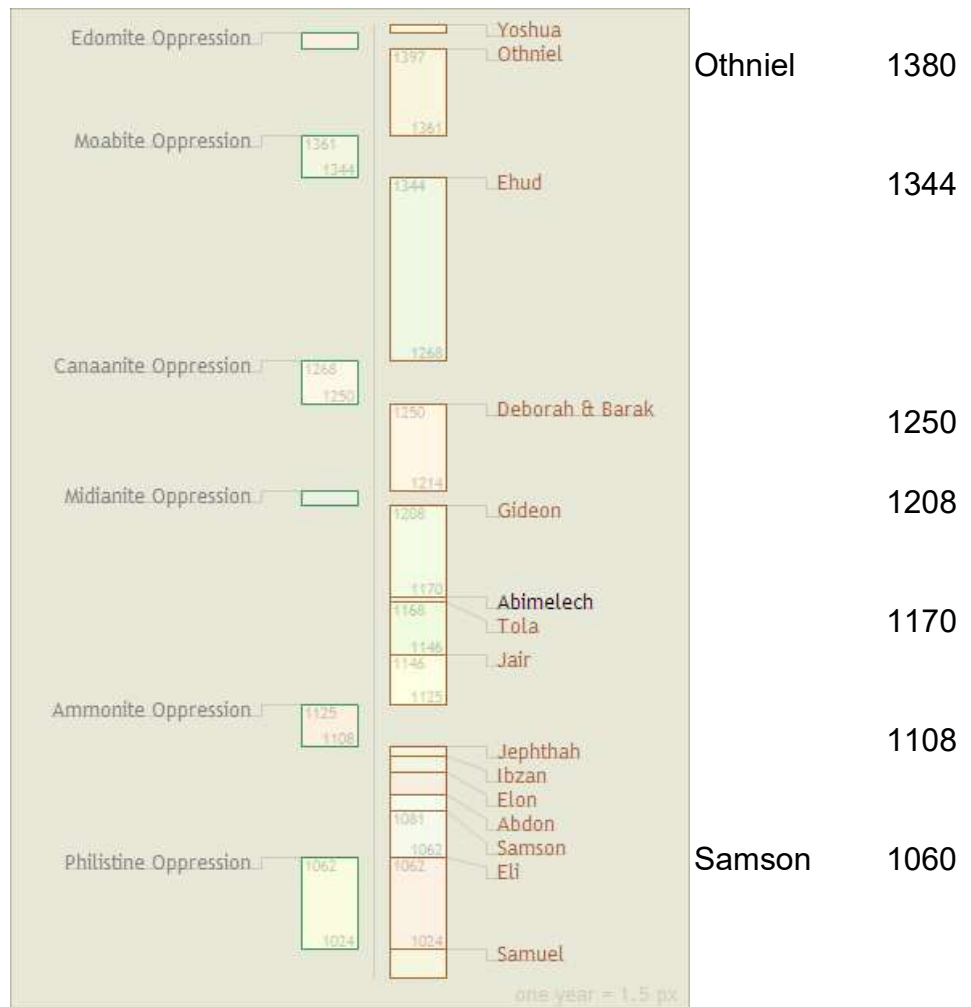
Jeremiah 29:11

<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

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**Approximate Timeframes**

Abraham	2160 – 2000 BC
10 Tribes	1900 BC – (722 BC N & 586 BC J)
Moses	1520 – 1400 BC
Judges	1380BC–1060BC



King Saul	1050 – 1010 BC
King David	1010 – 970 BC
King Solomon	970 – 930 BC

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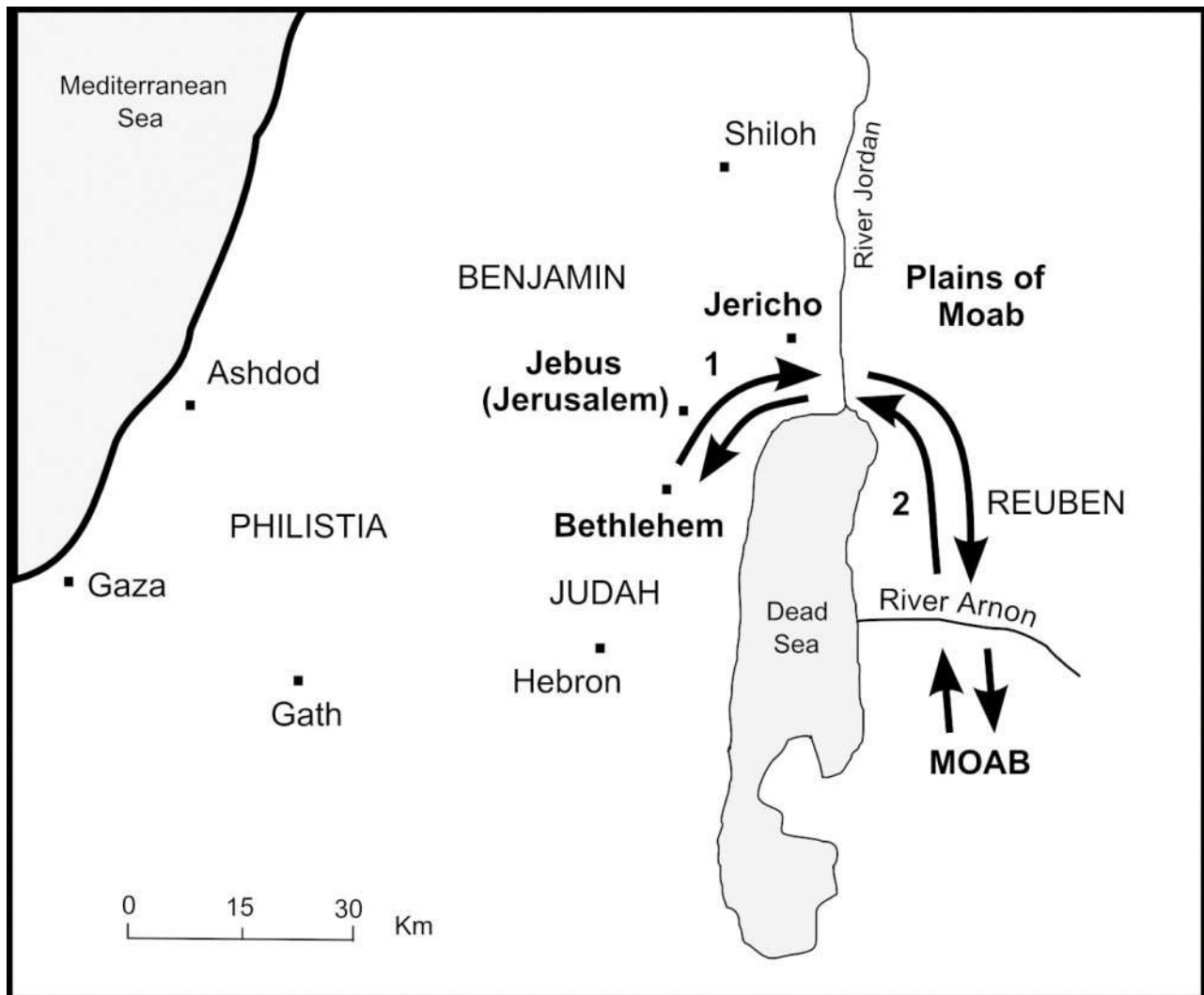
Maps of the 12 tribes of Israel



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Travel Map from Bethlehem to Moab

Two Israelites, Elimelech and his wife Naomi, travel east from Bethlehem in Judah, cross the River Jordan and settle in the land of Moab (see map below). Sometime later, Elimelech dies, and their two sons marry Moabite women. About ten years later, both the sons also die.



<https://www.thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney2/29-the-journeys-of-ruth-and-samuel/ruths-journey-to-bethlehem/>