



Date: September 22, 2019

Scripture: Ruth 1:6-18

Reasons for Suffering

1. God's Discipline for our Sin (Hebrews 12:6)
2. A Result Someone else's sin (Crucifixion)
3. A Result of living in a Fallen World (Romans 5)
4. A Sanctifying Trial (James)
5. A Mystery Known but to God (Job)

When Tragedy Strikes....

1. Lament –
2. Repent –
3. Rest –

Lament (Psalm 38,124)

- 1.) Introductory Cry to God
- 2.) The Specific Complaint or Concern
- 3.) A Confession of trust
- 4.) Petition
- 5.) Vow of Praise

(Logos software)



Repent

Biblical authors use repetition and proportion to make their point. Thus the more they mention a thing, the more it increases in importance.

Please count how many times the idea of returning, going back, or turning around, occur in this passage.

1. How many did you find? ⁱ
2. What is Naomi's doing?¹
3. What things do you need to turn from?

Recall the story of the Prodigal Son – leaving and *returning* (Luke 15:11-32)?

Because of God's (*Hesed*) loyal, steadfast, faithful, ever-enduring covenant love, whenever you turn from your sin and run to your Father, he always welcomes you back.

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:7 (ESV)

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

¹ שׁוּבוּ - Return/Repent The verb שׁוּבוּ, "to turn, return," which elsewhere denotes "repent," functions as a key word in chap. 1, occurring eight times (vv. 6, 7, 8, 10, 15a, 15b, 16, 22). NAC

Here is an apt illustration of repentance. Naomi reversed the direction she and her husband had taken. She turned away from Moab and the errors of the past.



Rest

What is Naomi's wish for her daughters-in-law in verse 9?

Do you think God will grant Ruth Rest? How?

What about the widowed Naomi?

How does God provide rest for us?



Love

An extremely important term occurs in Ruth 1:8 (translated “*kindly*”). That Hebrew word is *Hesed*— It represents a key character trait of God – His unfailing covenant love and faithfulness.. Translators translate *Hesed* a number of ways because it encompasses “All the positive attributes of God—love, mercy, grace, kindness, goodness, benevolence, loyalty, covenant faithfulness”²

Hesed is God’s essence and goodness communicated to us.

Discuss:

1. What single greatest act communicates the goodness of God - His loyal and steadfast love - more than any other?
2. How does this event play into our suffering?
3. In what ways does it tangibly help?
4. Even though that event has not yet occurred at the time of Ruth, the book of Ruth is leading up to it. Moreover, we see God demonstrating his love towards His people in other steadfast ways. Who in this section represents the unfailing, self-sacrificing eternal love of God?
5. She is hint of God’s coming *Hesed*.

² New American Commentary



ⁱ <Root = lbs/he/שׁוּב> **ESV**

[Ru 1:6](#)

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to [return](#) from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food.

[Ru 1:7](#)

So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to [return](#) to the land of Judah.

[Ru 1:8](#)

But 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.

[Ru 1:10](#)

And they said to her, “No, we will [return](#) with you to your people.”

[Ru 1:11](#)

But Naomi said, “[Turn](#) back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?”

[Ru 1:12](#)

[Turn](#) back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons,

[Ru 1:15](#)

And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has [gone](#) back to her people and to her gods; [return](#) after your sister-in-law.”

[Ru 1:16](#)

But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to [return](#) 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.

[Ru 1:21](#)

I went away full, and the Lord [has](#) brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

[Ru 1:22](#)

So Naomi [returned](#), and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who [returned](#) from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

[Ru 2:6](#)

And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, “She is the young Moabite woman, who [came](#) back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

[Ru 4:3](#)

Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has [come](#) back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech.

[Ru 4:15](#)

He shall be to you a [restorer](#) of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”