

## Chapter 1

*By occasion of famine Elimelech of Bethleem going with his wife Noemi, and two fonnnes, into the Land of Moab, there dieth. 4. His fonnnes marrie wiues of that countrie, and die without iffue. 6. Noemi returning homewardes hardly perfwadeth one of her daughters in law, to part from her. 15. The other, called Ruth, wil needes goe with her, profefsing the fame God and Religion. 19. So thefe two arriue in Bethleem.*

**I**n the dayes of one Iudge, when the Iudges ruled, there came a famine in the Land. And there went a man of Bethleem Iuda, to feiourne in the land of Moab with his wife, and two children. <sup>2</sup> Himfelf was called Elimelech, and his wife, Noemi: and his two fonnnes, the one Mahalon, and the other Chelion, Ephraites of Bethleem Iuda. And entring into the countrie of Moab, they abode there. <sup>3</sup> And Elimelech the hufband of Noemi died: and fhe remained with her fonnnes. <sup>4</sup> Who tooke wiues of the Moabites, of the which one was called Orpha, and the other Ruth. And they abode there ten yeares, <sup>5</sup> and both died, to witte, Mahalon and Chelion: and the woman remayned deftitute of her two children & her hufband. <sup>6</sup> And fhe arofe to goe into her countrie with both her daughters in law from the countrie of Moab: for fhe had heard that our Lord had refpected his people, & had geuen them victuals. <sup>7</sup> She therefore went forth from the place of her peregrination, with both her daughters in law: and being now fette in the way to returne into the Land of Iuda, <sup>8</sup> fhe faid to them: Goe into your mothers houfe, our Lord doe mercie with you, as you haue done with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup> Grant he vnto you to find reft in the houfes of your hufbandes, which you fhall take. And she kifft them. Who lifting vp their voice beganne to weepe, <sup>10</sup> & to fay: We wil goe on with thee to thy people. <sup>11</sup> To whom fhe answered: Returne my daughters, why come you with me? fhall I haue fonnnes any more in my wombe, that you may hope for hufbandes of me? <sup>12</sup> Returne my daughters, and goe

your wayes: for I am now spent with old age, and not fitte for wedlocke. Although I might conceiue this night, and beare children, <sup>13</sup> if you would expect til they grow, and be of mans age, you shal be old women before you marrie. Doe not fo my daughters, I besech you: for your distresse doth the more greue me, and the hand of our Lord is come forth against me. <sup>14</sup> Therefore lifting vp their voice, they beganne to weepe agayne, Orpha kiffed her mother in law, and returned: Ruth cleaued to her mother in law, <sup>15</sup> to whom Noemi said: Behold thy kinfewoman is returned to her people, and <sup>a</sup>)to her goddes, goe with her. <sup>16</sup> Who answered: Be not against me, to the end that I should leaue thee and depart: for whitherfoeuer thou shalt goe, I wil goe: and where thou shalt abide, I also wil abide. Thy people my people, and thy God my God. <sup>17</sup> The land that shal receiue thee dying, in the same wil I die: and there wil I take a place for my burial. These thinges doe God to me, & these thinges adde he, if death onlie shal not separate me and thee. <sup>18</sup> Noemi therefore feing, that Ruth with a ftid fast mind had determined to goe forward with her, would not be against it, nor perswade her any more to returne to her frendes: <sup>19</sup> and they went forth together, and came into Bethlehem. Who being entered into the citie, a brute was quickly spread among them: and the women said: This is that Noemi. <sup>20</sup> To whom she said: Cal me not Noemi (that is to say, beautiful) but cal me Mara (that is to say, bitter) because with bitterness hath the Almighty very much replenished me. <sup>21</sup> I went forth <sup>b</sup>)ful, and our Lord hath brought be backe emptie. Why therefore doe you cal me Noemi whom our Lord hath humbled, and the Almighty hath afflicted? <sup>22</sup> Noemi therefore came with Ruth the Moabite her daughter in

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<sup>a</sup> Noemi perswaded not to idolatrie, but insinuated that if Ruth would not returne to her countrie, she must also leaue the false goddes. And so she answered, that she would serue the same true God of Ifrael.

<sup>b</sup> She had a husband and two sonnes, and sufficient prouision, but now was bereued of them al.

law, from the Land of her peregrination: and returned into Bethlehem, when barley was first reaped.