

## Ruth 1:1-5 Background

### “When the judges ruled...”

#### *When?*

**Judges 1:1** After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the Lord, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?” (ca. 1367BC – 1055BC<sup>1</sup>)

#### *Who?*

**Judges 2:16** Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

#### *Result?*

**Judges 2:17** Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, and they did not do so. <sup>18</sup> Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. <sup>19</sup> But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

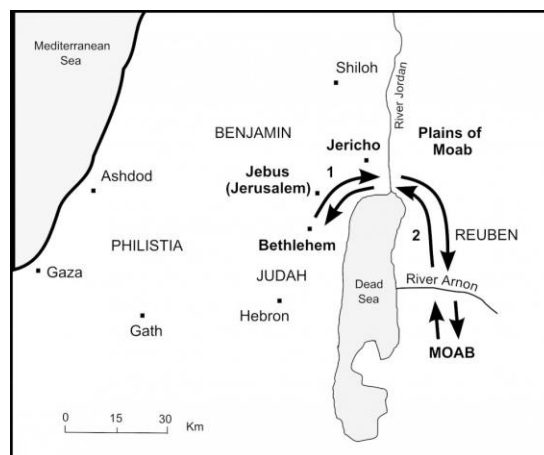
#### *Summary*

**Judges 21:25** In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

### “...went to sojourn in the country of Moab...”

#### *Origin*

**Genesis 19:36** Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. <sup>37</sup> The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day. <sup>38</sup> The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.



*Journey to Moab and Back*

#### *History*

**Judges 3:12** And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of

<sup>1</sup> Leon Wood, A Survey of Israel's History (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1970), 421-422.

the Lord. <sup>13</sup> He gathered to himself the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the city of palms. <sup>14</sup> And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. <sup>15</sup> Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, and the Lord raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. ... [*Ehud kills the Moabite king and leads Israel's army to victory*] ... <sup>30</sup> So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

## ***Religion***

**Judges 10:6** The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the Lord and did not serve him.

## **“They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah...”**

**Genesis 35:19** So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem),

**Micah 5:2** But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.