

Book of Ruth

Morrison Heights Baptist Church

Old Testament Workshop

October 20, 2019



Overview

Authorship

officially anonymous
Samuel, according to the *Talmud*

Setting

Period of the Judges
"Now it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land."
(1:1)

Canon

Writings
(3rd Division)



Just the Facts



Elimelech = Naomi

ISRAEL

Ruth 1:1-2

Mahlon

Chilion

FAMINE

Elimelech = Naomi

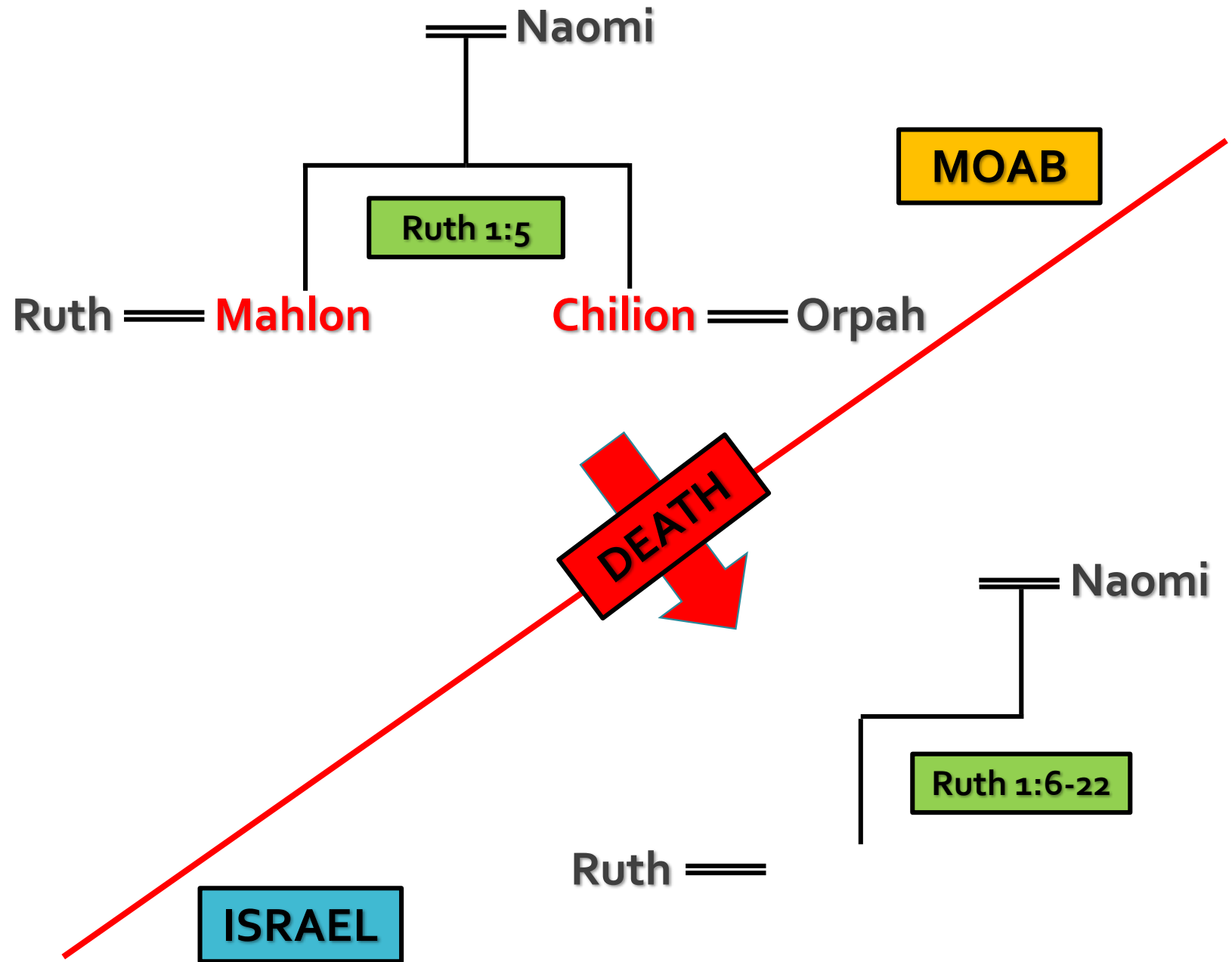
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Ruth 1:3-4

Ruth = Mahlon

Chilion = Orpah

Just the Facts



Cultural Significance

① LEVIRATE MARRIAGE

If an Israelite man died without a son (heir), a next-of-kin (e.g., brother) would marry his widow to produce a son who would be the dead man's heir.

SEE Genesis 38; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Matthew 22:23-33.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE IN RUTH

1. Boaz was not the "closest" next-of-kin (**Ruth 3:12-4:12**).
2. Boaz married Ruth, not Naomi.

② KINSMAN-REDEEMER

In Israel, family was priority. Kinfolk, therefore, met one another's needs, whether for financial assistance (**Ruth 4:1-12**) or for justice (**Num. 35:6-28; Dt. 19:1-13; Jos. 20:1-6**).

Political Significance

Ruth 4:13-22; Matthew 1:5

Boaz = Ruth

Obed

Jesse

David

JESUS

MESSIAH



Spiritual Significance



How do God's people interact, if at all, with Gentiles?

UNIVERSALISTS

connect with them, gain their trust, minister to them, represent God to them

Genesis 12:1-3; Jonah

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RUTH

PARTICULARISTS

avoid them or they WILL corrupt you

Deuteronomy 23:3-6; Ezra 9-10; Nehemiah 13; Esther