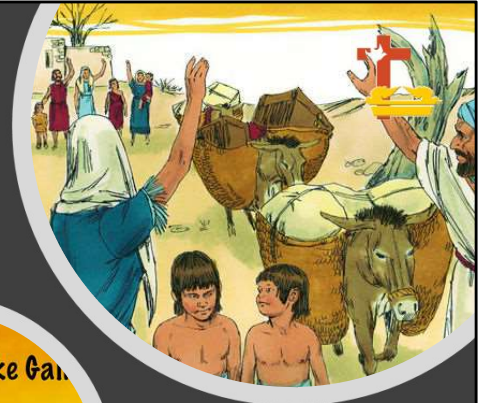




People may have wrong beginning, but rest assured when we let God to be the true God, we will have a beautiful ending because God is Almighty to restore our life! As we continue our Bible Study in the book of Ruth, we will learn how to let God be God who **mighty to restore**. The restoration plan must belong to God and not ours! Otherwise, people will just create a new problem (again). Letting God to be God who will restore our life means that we must develop a right attitude to let all His divine plans work within us.

Elimelech's Wrong Decision

RUTH 1 ¹ Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of **Bethlehem**, Judah, went to dwell in the country of **Moab**, he and his wife and his two sons.



Book of Ruth is not only about the love story. Instead, it is the story of **repentance**, the story of **redemption**, the story or **restoration**!

Book of Ruth began with **the wrong decision** of Elimelech. How many times we also make mistakes by taking a wrong decision. Elimelech left Bethlehem and indeed it was a big wrong for his family. The name Bethlehem means “house of bread”, but there was a famine and he decided to leave Bethlehem.

Moab means “of his father” and the history of Moab was a great sin that had happened between Lot and his daughter *Gen.19:36-38*. Even then God said: “An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the Lord forever, because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you *Deut.23:3-4*.”

Time of difficulties may come into our life, but **we must not leave Bethlehem!**

Heb.10:35-36 *Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*

Ibr.10:35-36 *Sebab itu janganlah kamu melepaskan kepercayaanmu, karena besar upah yang menantinya. Sebab kamu memerlukan ketekunan, supaya sesudah kamu*

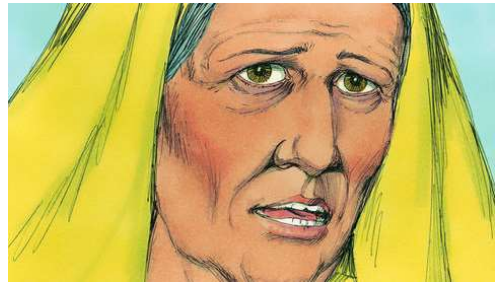
melakukan kehendak Allah, kamu memperoleh apa yang dijanjikan itu.

The Calamities Developed

RUTH 1 ³ Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.

⁵ Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

²⁰⁻²¹ "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty."



Apart from God, all problems arose and there was **NO PEACE**. Walking with God doesn't mean that we will have no problem, instead, we will have **the peace of God** that surpasses all understanding, and it will guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus *Phil.4:7*.

The future that Elimelech and Naomi already tried to build for the last 10 years then ruined so badly – **NO FUTURE** anymore for Naomi. And Naomi could not see any hope for her – **NO HOPE**.

Just like what we had learned last week that there will be peace, future, and hope when we let God to be God in our life. Instead, when someone push God so that He no longer sit on His throne so there will no peace, no future, and no hope

Jer.29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

And because all of that calamities, Naomi dramatically changed her name to **MARA** (means: bitterness).

The Upcoming Bitterness

Third Trumpet:

REVELATION 8 ¹⁰ Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star is **Wormwood**. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.



At the end times, bitterness will become a big attack for believers!

Bitterness is not only just a feeling nor an emotion. Bitterness is something that GROW! And it happens because someone forsake the grace of God! Bitterness will affect **everything**, causing trouble, and it will defile believers!

Heb.12:15 *looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;*

Ibr.12:15 *Jagalah supaya jangan ada seorangpun menjauhkan diri dari kasih karunia Allah, agar jangan tumbuh akar yang pahit yang*

The First Big Step of Restoration

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might **return** from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread.

WHAT HAD YOU LEFT SO FAR?

REVELATION 2 ⁵ **Remember** therefore from where you have fallen; **repent** and **do** the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.



Whatever we had left, we must return again to that point!

WHAT HAD YOU LEFT SO FAR?

1. Rev.2:4 you have left your **first love**
2. Heb.10:25 do not forsake **the assembling** of ourselves together
3. 2Tim.4:10 Demas has forsaken Paul (**journey of ministry**), having loved this present world

The first step of restoration is **the biggest step** indeed! **Repent** is not only a good word, but it must be an **action** to do! The true repentance will bring to a complete restoration!

Take that 1st BIG step *whatever* it will take!

PAIN: tears, feelings, emotions

RUTH 1 ¹⁴ Then they **lifted up their voices** and **wept** again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

RESPONSES: gossips, presumptions, rejections, misunderstanding

RUTH 1 ¹⁹ And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them (discomfited), and they said, Is this Naomi?

CONDITIONS: start again, new normal, from zero

RUTH 1 ²² and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.



To repent will definitely mean ‘good bye’ to the old life, and separation is always not easy. Even though there was no true peace for Naomi in Moab, but she still could stay together with Orpah. Say bye to something may be difficult, but we must be brave to do that!

To return will trigger different kind of responses from people around us. The city of Bethlehem was moved about. The original words (Heb. hûm) means to distract, ring again, make a (great) noise, murmur, roar, discomfit (make (someone) feel uneasy or embarrassed), be moved, to murmur, to show disquietude (a state of uneasiness or anxiety).

Even Naomi must back to zero again! When all people in the city began to rejoice for the harvest, Naomi got nothing to reap, nothing to celebrate, nothing to be thankful.

But, whatever it takes, that first big step must be done **without regretting**.

Let God be God: Your God my God

RUTH 1 ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and **your God, my God**. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."

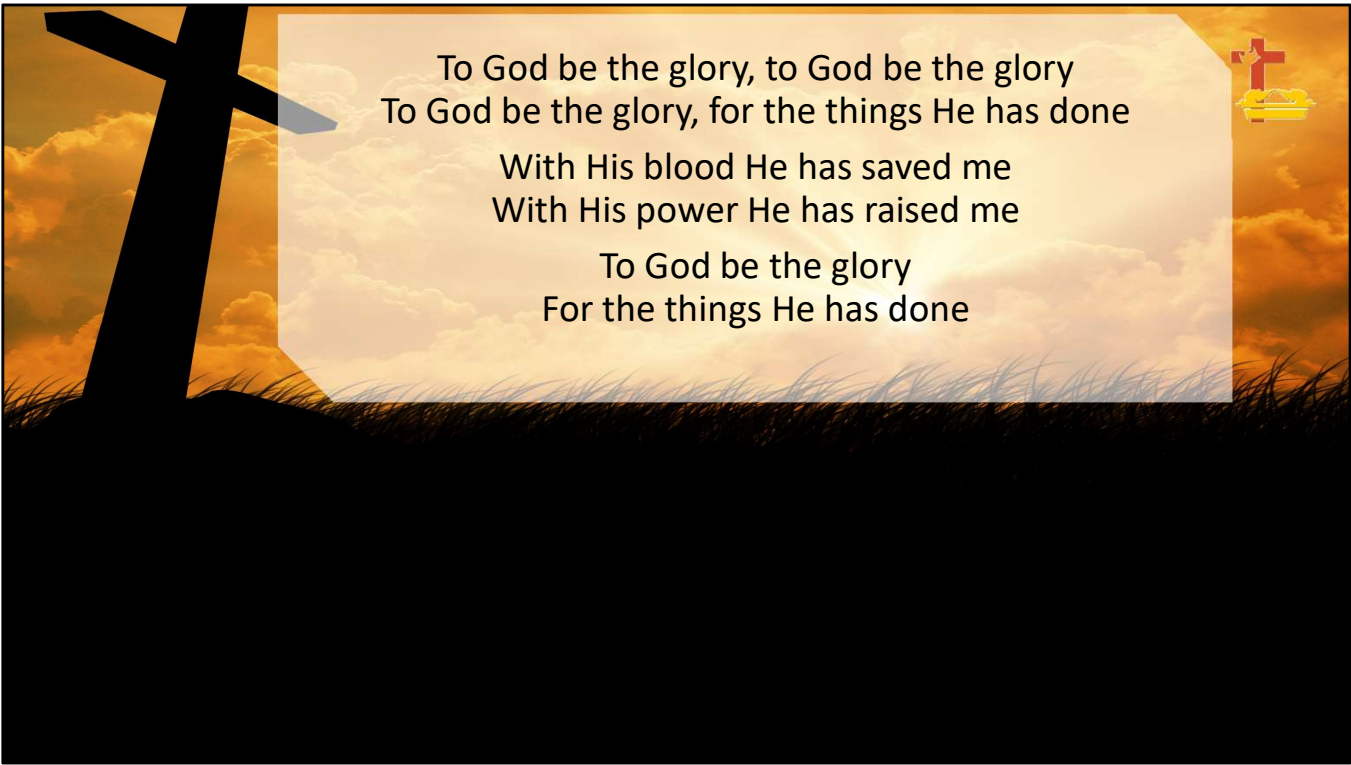
UNITY IN FAMILY



When Naomi return, somehow Ruth also repent and decide to follow the true and living God of Israel. A pure repentance will attract other people to come with repentance as well.

When parents repent, the kids (and all the family) will see the fruits of repentance *Mat.3:8* and it will change everyone in the house!

Repentance is private and personal. But when we want to see the restoration of the whole family, the **unity** must be build. The unity between family members is a must thing to do when we want to see God in action to restore everything in the family! The unity of a family is really an important thing to have to go through the process of restoration.



To God be the glory, to God be the glory
To God be the glory, for the things He has done
With His blood He has saved me
With His power He has raised me
To God be the glory
For the things He has done