

TRAGEDY STRIKES IN A FOREIGN LAND!

(Ruth 1:1-5)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. DEATH IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY (1:1-22)

A. The Setting for the Crisis (1:1-2)

1. During the Period of the Judges, Baal worship was quite common, and there was the false belief that the Canaanite god was the _____ of the land, and _____ the fertility of the crops. (v. 1a)
2. This "*famine in the land*" very well could have been _____ for the widespread _____ and flagrant disobedience in Israel during the Period of the Judges. (v. 1b, cf. Lev. 26:18-20; Deut. 28:23-24; Isa. 3:1; Hag. 1:10-11)
3. When the author referred to "*the land*," for a Hebrew there is only one country that was "*the land*," that being the land of _____ that God had given to His people, and in which they were to _____. (v. 1c)
4. A Hebrew man from Bethlehem made a very _____ choice to take his family about 50 miles east to dwell (temporarily) in the _____ country of Moab. (v. 2)
5. When a trial comes our way, we have a choice to make, we can either grumble and _____ it, run and try to _____ it, or _____ head on in the strength of the Lord- and learn from it.

B. The Nature of the Crisis (1:3-5)

1. Because Elimelech had led his family _____ of the will of God, the family faced the _____ when he died. (v. 3)
 2. Like their father, both sons made really _____ to take Moabite, pagan wives by the name of Orpha and Ruth; and they still _____ to return to the land of Judah. (v. 4, cf. Amos 4:6)
 3. Carnality is often a “_____” of making one bad decision after another, which ultimately leads to _____ consequences.
- * After Elimelech and his family had fled Judah to escape death, didn't the three men of the family meet death just the same? (v. 5)
4. At the end of this _____ of _____, all that remained were three lonely widows and three Jewish graves in a heathen land.
 5. What we learn from this “*prodigal family*” is that it is always better to _____ the revealed _____ of God in the Holy Scriptures, then it is to take matters into _____ own hands.