

February 19
Ruth 1

Faith through Trials

Israel Tribe Allotments

Joshua 13:8 – 19:49

- City ○ City uncertain location
- ▲ Mountain peak



Ruth Declares Loyalty to Naomi, 1614, by Pieter Lastman (1583-1633)

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



Conquest and Challenges of Israel's Settlement

- | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Dec 4 | Commissioned | Joshua 1 | Lord Calls Joshua |
| 2. | Dec 11 | Conquest | Joshua 6 | Jericho Walls Down |
| 3. | Dec 18 | Savior Announced | Luke 1 | Angel Gabriel to Mary |
| 4. | Dec 25 | ... <i>Merry Christmas</i> ... | | |
| 5. | Jan 1 | Settled | Joshua 22 | Heart, Honor, Home |
| 6. | Jan 15 | Value All | Prov. 24 & Mark 10 | <i>Sanctity of Life Sunday</i> |
| 7. | Jan 22 | Rebellion's Cycle | Judges 2 | Return to God to Live |
| 8. | Jan 29 | Willing Servants | Judges 4 | Deborah Lifts Barak |
| 9. | Feb 5 | Timid Warrior | Judges 6 | Angel Charges Gideon |
| 10. | Feb 12 | Compromised Potential | Judges 16 | Samson & Delilah |
|  | Feb 19 | Faith Through Trials | Ruth 1 | Ruth Helps Naomi |
| 12. | Feb 26 | Redeemed & Secure | Ruth 3-4 | Noble Ruth Wins |



Lesson Author's Theme

God keeps both His promises and His warnings

Ruth

1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

1:6-10 A Desperate Reunion

1:11-14 A Bitter Plea

1:15-18 A Lifelong Promise

1:19-22 Naomi Renamed “Bitter”



Key Verse Ruth 1:16

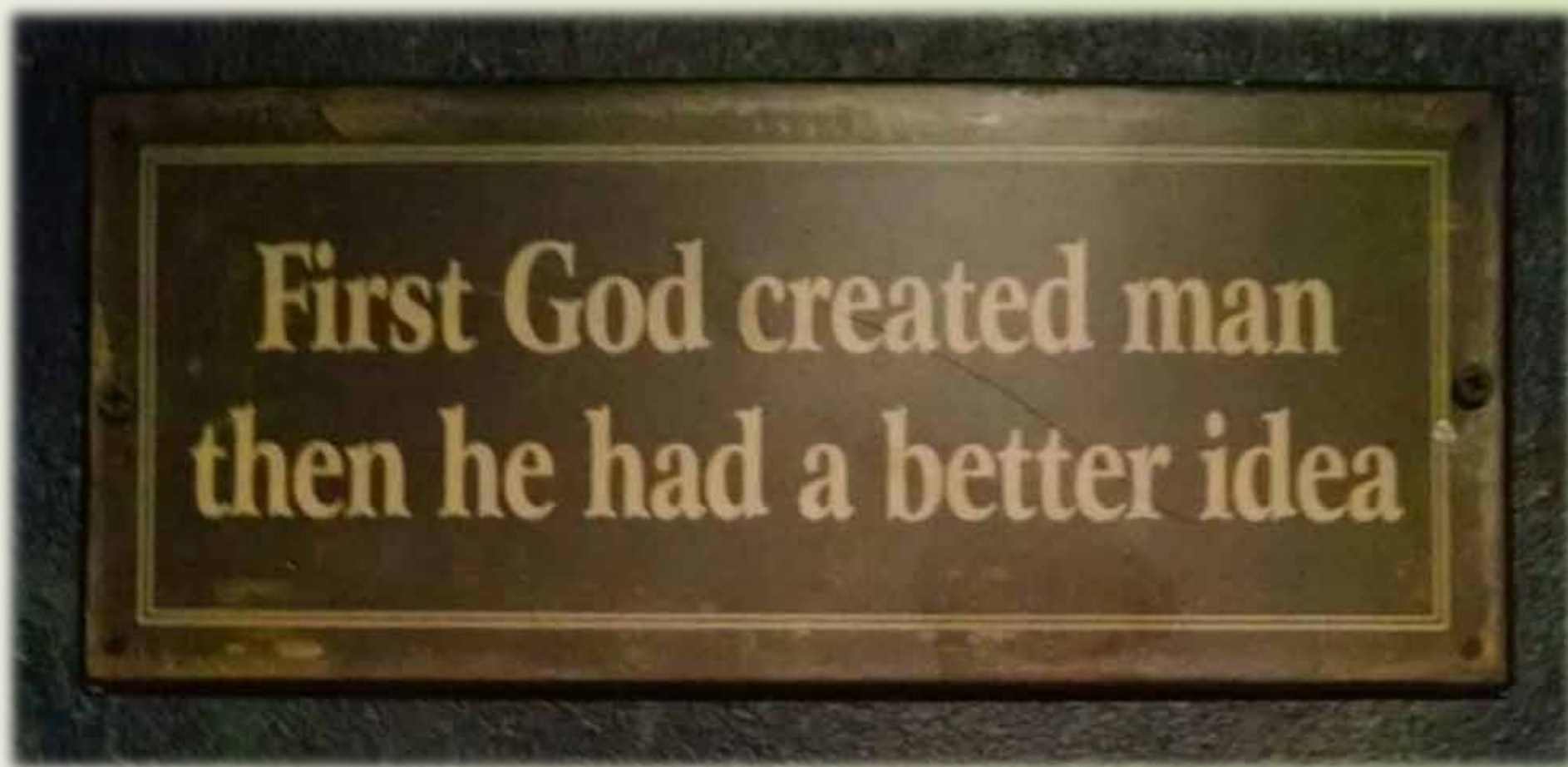
But Ruth replied: Do not persuade me to leave you or go back and not follow you.

**For wherever you go, I will go,
and wherever you live, I will live;
your people will be my people,
and your God will be my God.**

a sublime promise like no other



Say sign somewhere ... that I think everyone will agree with

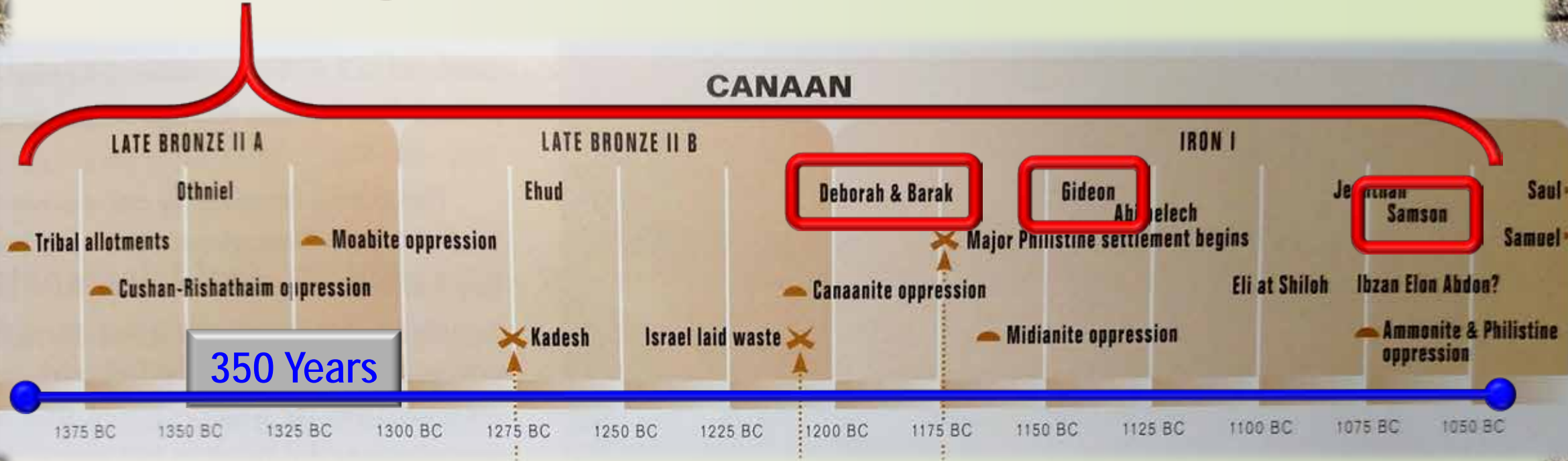


Alternate Title

Naomi

The Lovable

Book of Judges & Book of RUTH



- ✓ Ruth 1 says, “in the time of the Judges”
- ✓ Keil & Delitzsch ponder, guess it *could be* around Gideon
- ✓ Lineage of David in Ruth ... nice connection to 1 Samuel

SAMSON – the Loneliest Judge, so true
But SAMSON was the STRONGEST of ALL
Whatever of SAMSON's great loneliness
Whatever of SAMSON's great achievements
However little he may have been loved ...

Book of Ruth tells of a GRIEF ...

Book of Ruth tells of a Pain ...

That would've been hard even for Samson

Book of Ruth also tells of LOVE

Book of Ruth also tells of a SISTERHOOD ...

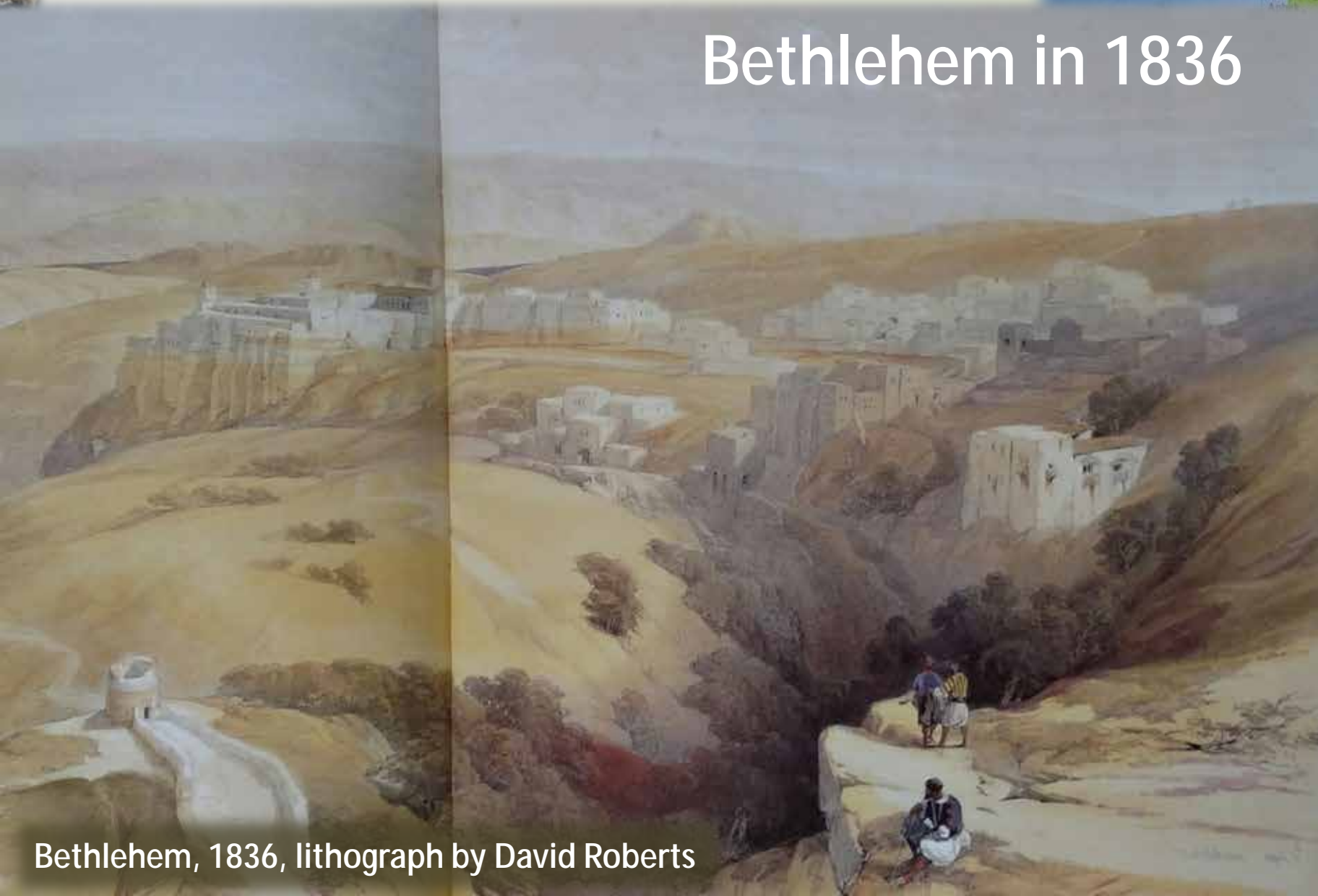
No MAN can truly fathom



Ruth & Naomi by Ary Scheffer (1795-1858)

1:1-5 Famine – even in Bethlehem

Bethlehem in 1836



Bethlehem, 1836, lithograph by David Roberts



1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

Famine in the land

Food ... hard to come by

Hunger ... a driving force ...

1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

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1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

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Food ... hard to come by

Hunger ... a driving force ...



1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

Famine in the land

Elimelech means “**God is King**”

Yet, Elimelech & Naomi are worried

Naomi means “**Lovable**”

also good, pleasant, lovely, winsome

Every reason to believe they
enjoyed a good marriage ...

Her latter pain and wisdom give
evidence of a DEEP love for Elimelech

Naomi's selfless nature to her two daughters ...

surely reflected **Naomi's LIFE of putting others FIRST**



A MAN'S GREATEST *treasure* IS HIS
WIFE—SHE IS A GIFT FROM THE LORD.

PROVERBS 18:22

All great men know this



1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

Elimelech & Naomi have two sons

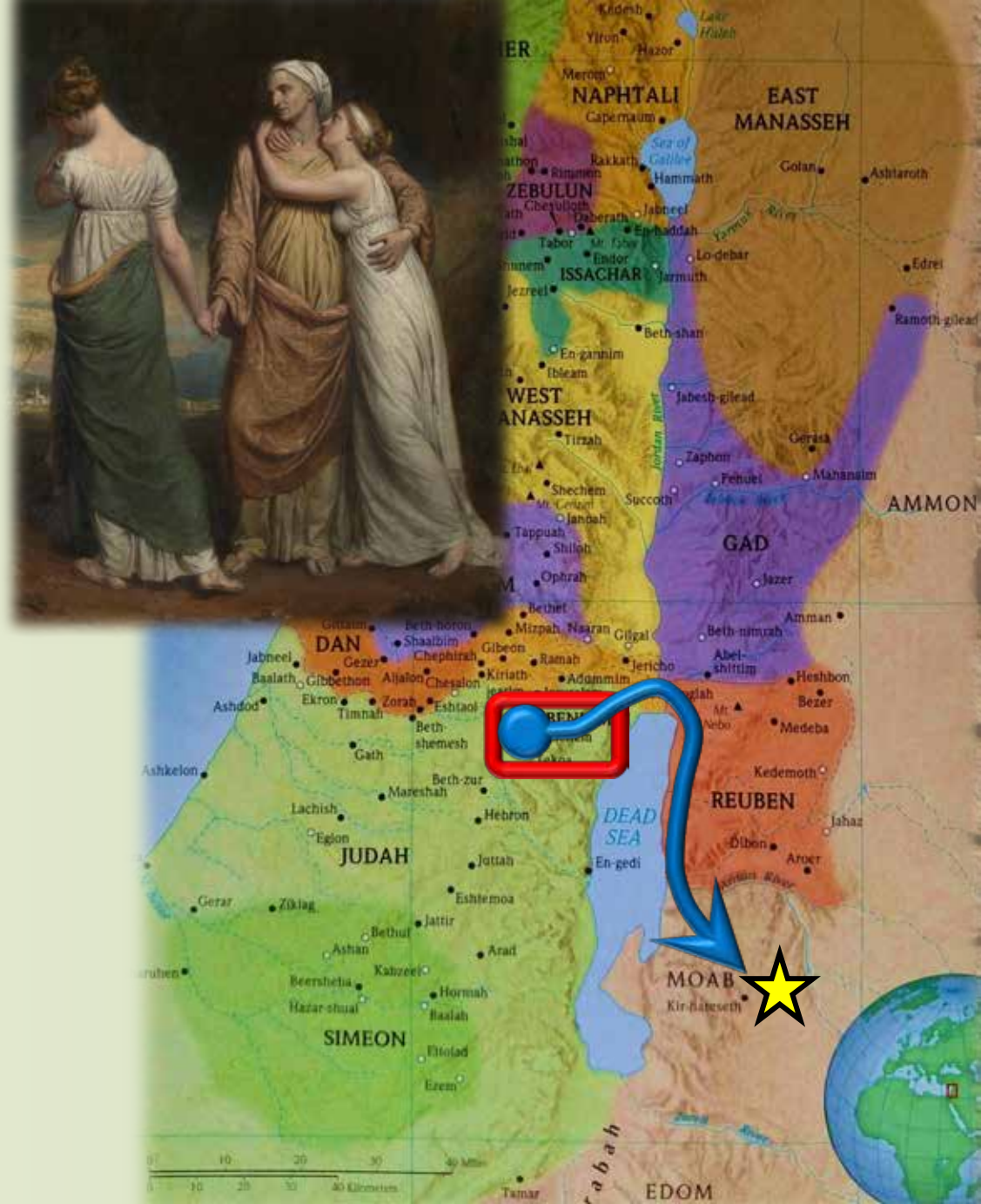
1. Son Mahlon = “**Sickly**”
2. Son Chilion = “**Pining One**”

We don't know how the sons die

Yet they did name their children
those depressing names ...

Names *might* reflect some ailments
they shared with their father

Anyway,
They pack up and head to Moab



1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

Moab ... often hostile to Israel

PERHAPS, because of Gideon ...
he led to the peaceful relations
between Bethlehem and Moab ...

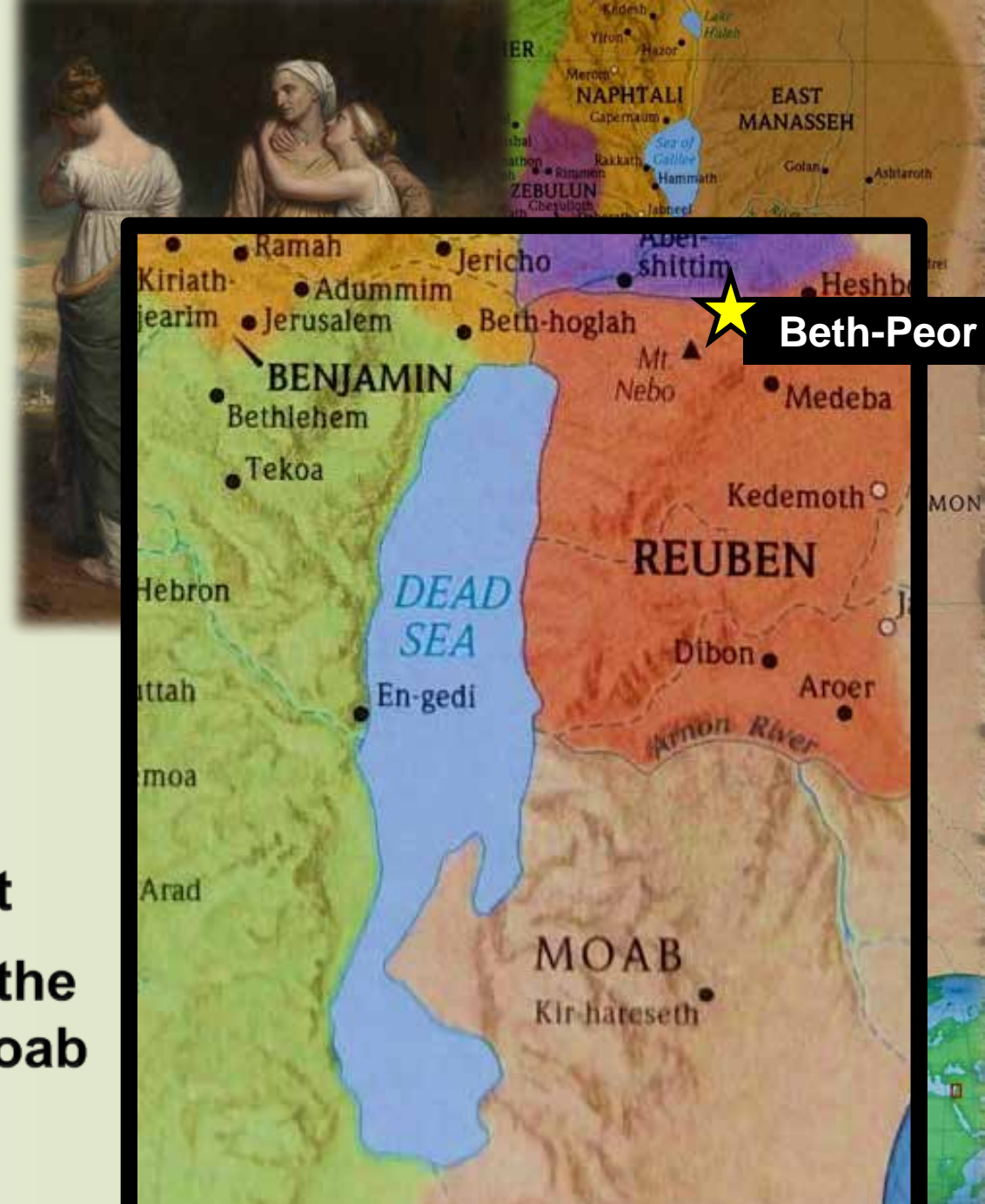
Elimelech would *not* go to ENEMIES

Much earlier, in Deut. 29-34 – Moses
speaks to Israel in the land of Moab

34:5, Moses died & was buried in the
Valley of Moab, opposite Beth-Peor

Moab extended north before conquest

Judges 4, we mentioned Judge Ehud the
Southpaw who killed King Eglon of Moab
stabbing and sinking sword into him



1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

Then tragedy happens

we know not what how or why ...

But Elimelech ***DIES***



Naomi is a widow in a strange land

Grief in divorce ... is bad

Grief in death ... is worse

Death of YOUR child worse

Death of a ***LIFE-long spouse*** ... ***worst of all***

I suppose few know the true ***HEARTACHE***
of being a widow ... or widower



1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

Wish we knew more of Naomi

Naomi's two sons marry

Mahlon the "Sickly"
marries Ruth, means "A Friend"

Chilion the "Pining One"
marries Orpah, means "Fawn"

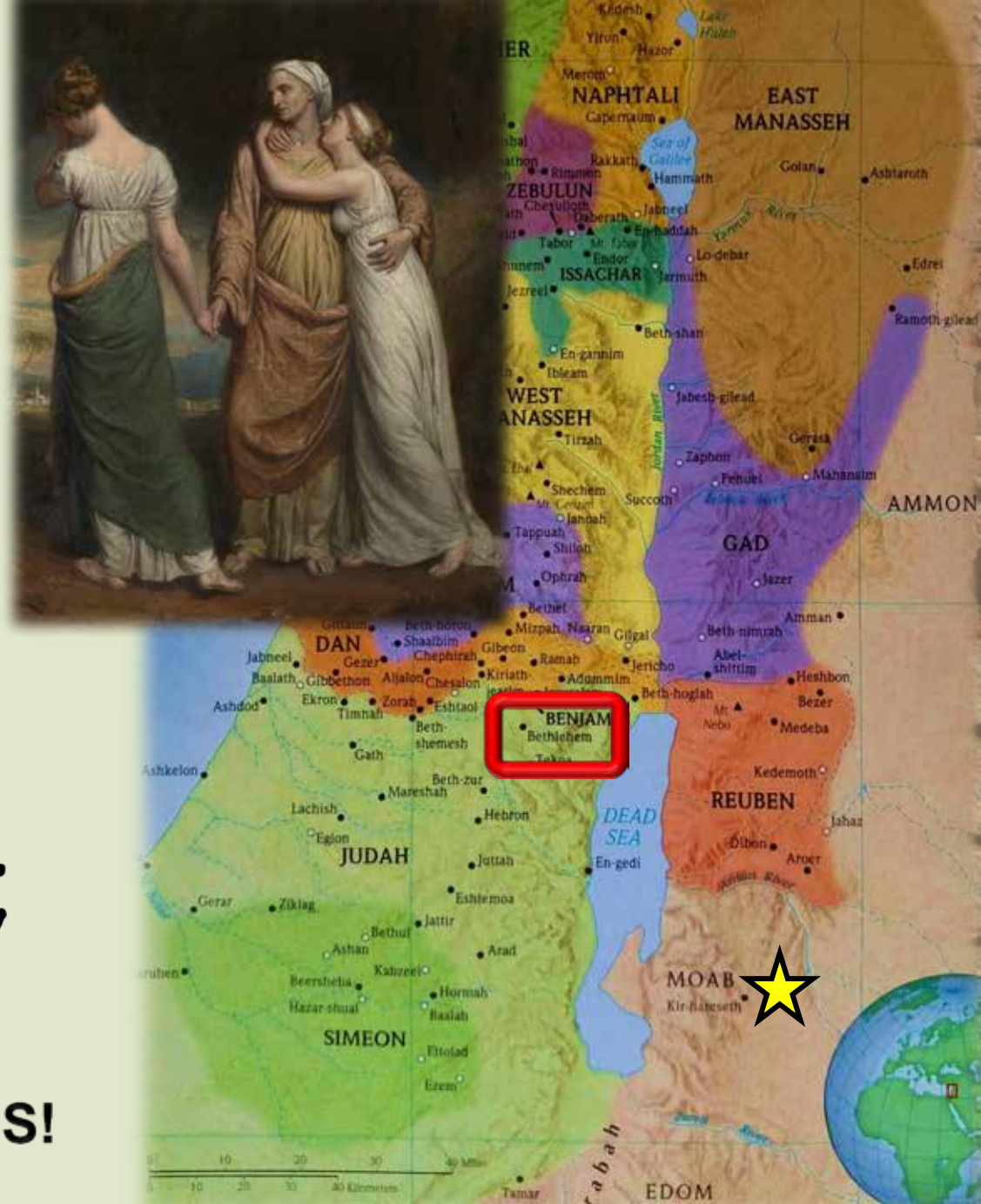
They're in the land 10 years

Then Naomi's two sons DIE

It is hard TODAY to be a

Widow

All the harder when you ... LOSE SONS!



1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

Bethlehem Family Tree

~~Elimelech~~ & Naomi

have sons

Ruth ❤️ ~~Mahlon~~ Orpah ❤️ ~~Chilion~~
Travel to Moab

Naomi & Ruth head to Bethlehem

Boaz ❤️ Ruth gleans fields

Obed
the father of
Jesse
the father of
David

PART of the reason for the
Book of Ruth
show the lineage of David



1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

Famine in the land

What would YOU do for your family?

Not much that one will **NOT** do

Go to a foreign country, often enemies

Refugees in Moab ...

What would YOU do if forced to move ...

- ✓ To say ... Somalia?
- ✓ To say ... Syria?
- ✓ We don't *want* to hear more!

Well ... I suppose you'd be HUMBLE

Even solicitous as poor one in Somalia



Starting OVER in ...

Strangerville ... strange land

If you are NOT wealthy,

Humbling ... Humiliating ...

1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

Naomi – if she had NOT come back
David would NOT have been born

We can speculate “what if’s” forever

Book of Ruth is **POWERFUL**:

- ✓ Book of Ruth connects **WOMEN**
- ✓ Book of Ruth shows **HEART**
- ✓ Book of Ruth shows **DETERMINATION**
- ✓ Book of Ruth shows **COMPASSION**
- ✓ Book of Ruth shows **DEDICATION**
- ✓ Book of Ruth shows **DESPARATION**
- ✓ ... oh ... so very much **HUMANITY**



Ruth and Naomi, c. 1636, Rembrandt

1:1-5 Famine Forces Move to Moab

Famines in the Land of the Old Testament

Gen. 12:10 Abraham to Egypt

Gen. 41:54-57 Joseph, 7 yrs,
only Egypt had bread

2 Sam. 21:1 David, 3 yrs, relieved by
appeasing Gibeonites

1 Kings 18:2 Elijah, severe in Samaria

2 Kings 4:38 Elisha, in Gilgal, feeds 100

Neh. 5:3 Nehemiah

Hag. 1:10-11 Haggai, for Temple neglect



Ruth and Naomi, c. 1636, Rembrandt

1:6-10 A Desperate Reunion – asdf

⁶ Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to leave the land of Moab,

because she had heard in Moab that the Lord had paid attention to His people's need by providing them food.

FOOOOD ...

HOME ...



Ruth and Naomi, 1653, by Jan Victors (1619-76)

One thing ALL women know ...

I am a bit scared to share ...

Call me Chicken Liver here ...

But this is **TRUE** as the **SUNRISE**

CERTAIN as mountains are **TALL**
and sure as the oceans are deep

Here it is ... I **TREMBLE** to share

A **TRUTH** many millennia old

That is ...

Men will ...

Sometimes let their women down!

That is just a sad fact ... and NOT on purpose



Ruth Declares Loyalty to Naomi, 1614
by Pieter Lastman (1583-1633)

Book of Ruth ...

A novella ... a story ... TRUE

Hearts of TWO Women

Elimelech ... he tried, REALLY tried

But he **DIED** ...

You might say, "Hey, Chicken Liver!"

"Elimelech did not PLAN to die!"

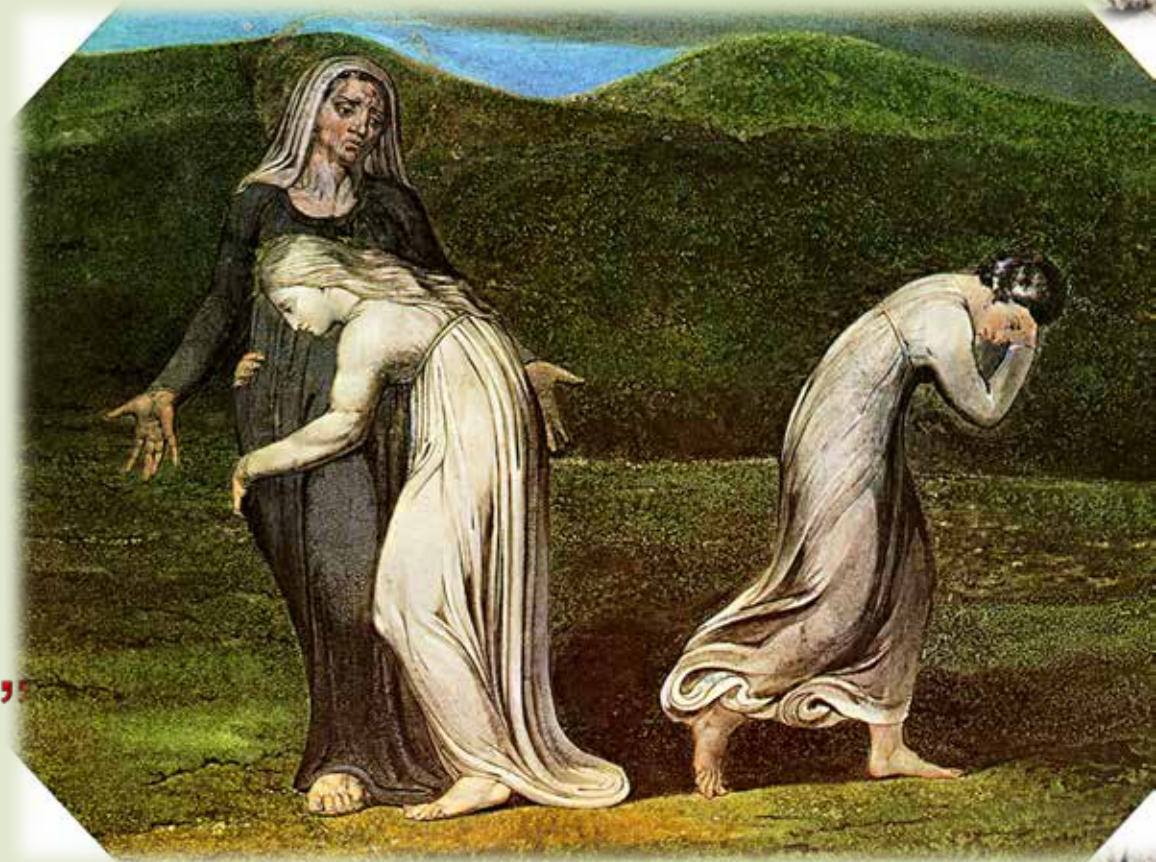
See, that is point ONE ...

Thank GOD for men who do PLAN ...

No, no, no ... Naomi does NOT blame Elimelech

But her plight is STILL to a degree HIS FAULT

Elimelech died in Moab ... **and Naomi GRIEVED**



Naomi Entreating Ruth & Orpah, 1795,
William-Blake (1757-1827)

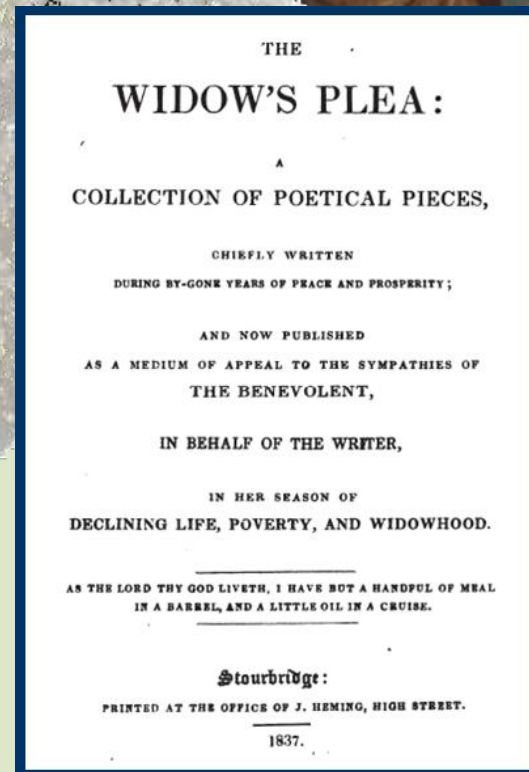
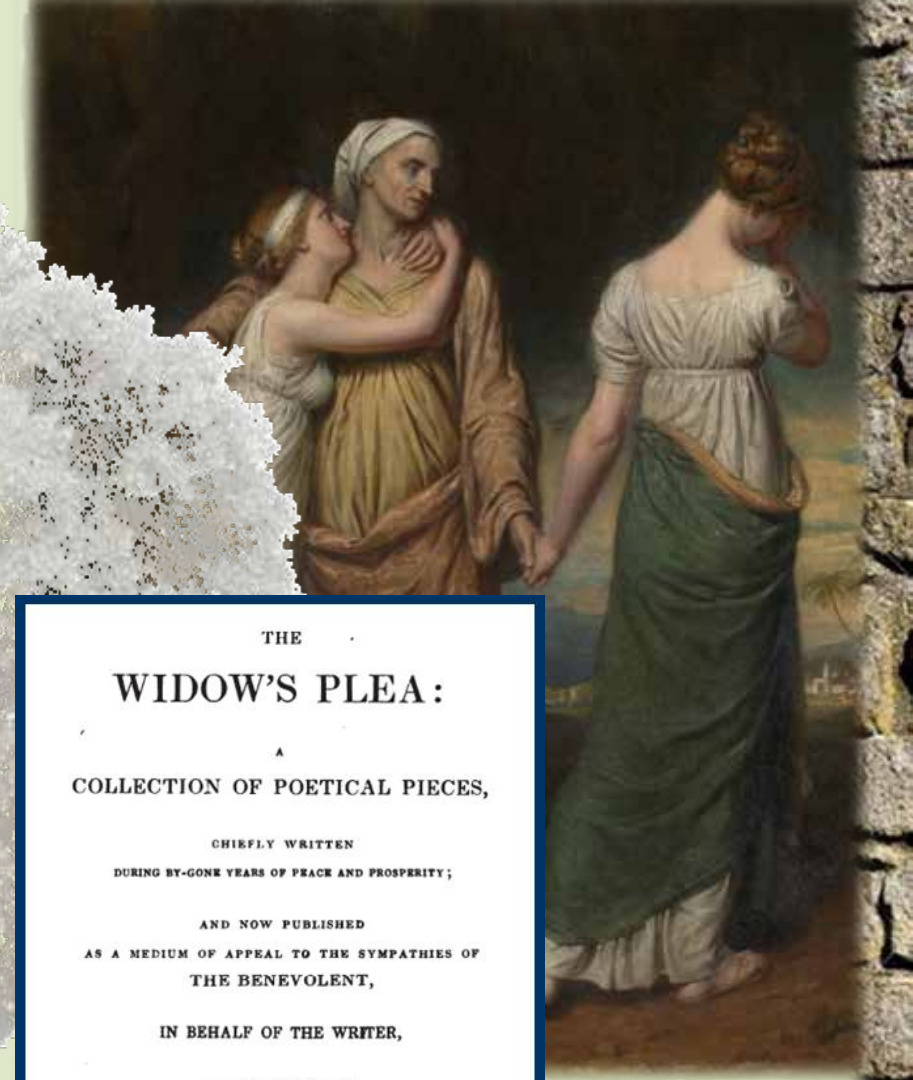
Widow's Plea, 1837, by Mrs. Hammond

*A few verses from Mrs. Hammond, as she said,
on a restless night ...*

I awoke, and my curtain withdrew,
In a conflict of sorrows and fears:
Near my window a sycamore grew,
And its branches were laden with tears:

For the storm in the night had been rude,
And Autumn had mellow'd its leaves;
The red pavement with numbers was strew'd—
For its foliage my sycamore grieves.

A birch standing by, droop'd its head,
In low moaning it seem'd to complain;
For its beauty had faded and fled,
Torn away by the wind and the rain.



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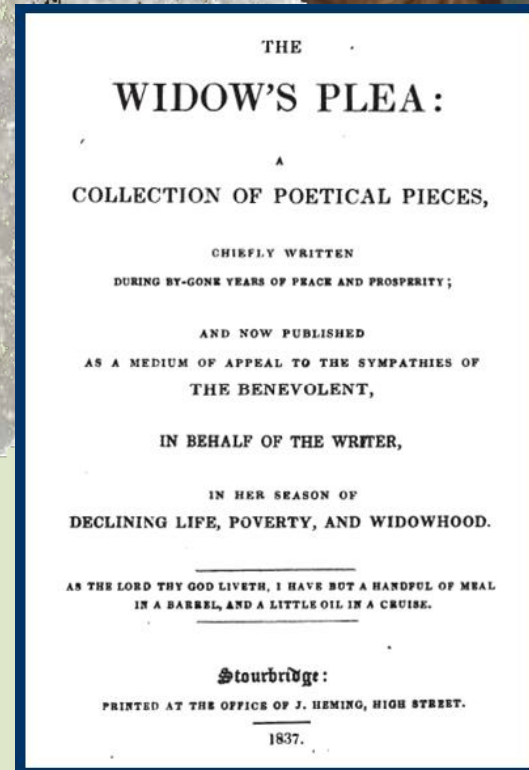
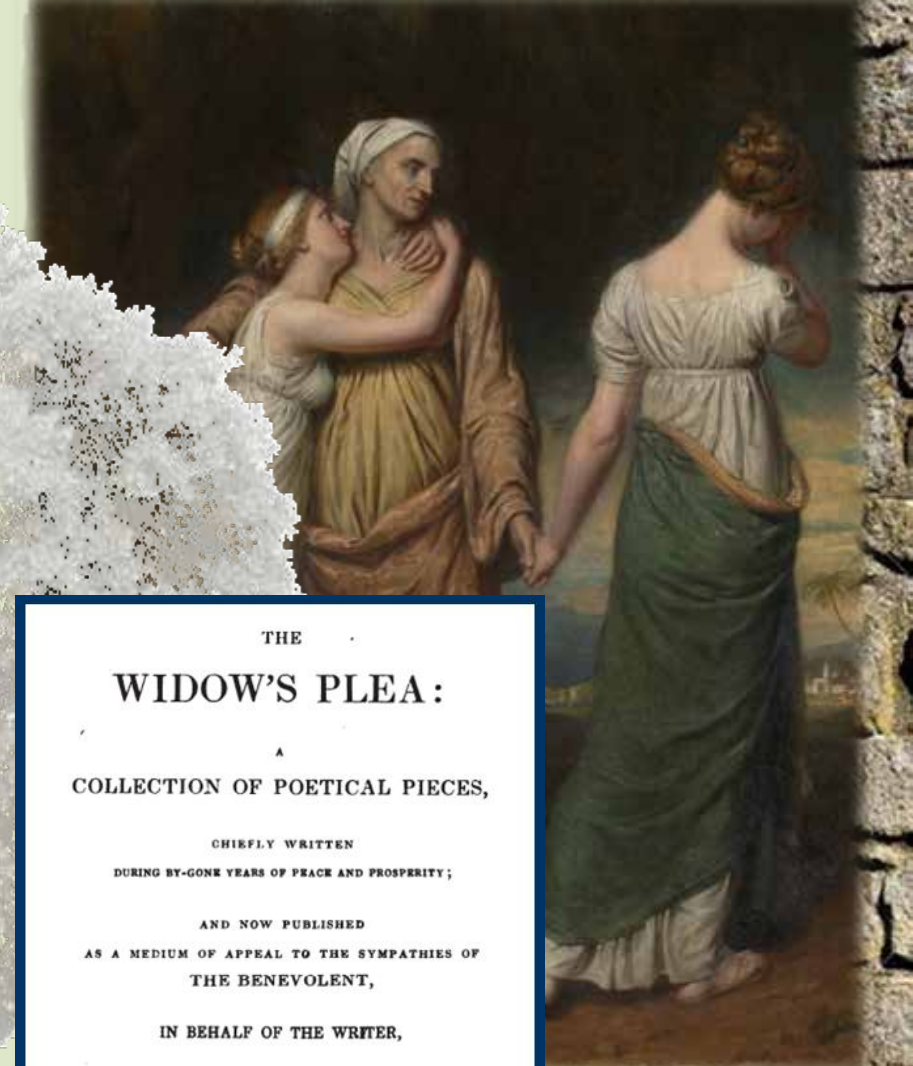
Widow's Plea, 1837, by Mrs. Hammond

Mrs. Hammond, as she said, on a restless night

But the tints of the morning were gay,
and illumin'd a neighbouring spire;
So brilliant it glow'd, as I lay,
For an instant I thought it on fire.

Little rest I enjoy'd in the night,
For a fever had throbb'd in my veins;
But I hail'd the new day with delight,
As a friend that would soften my pains.

Then let be from murmurs refrain:
When my God thinks it fit to chastise,
I will fear to offend him again,
And in thankful humility rise.



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Widow's Plea, 1837, by Mrs. Hammond

Do we not ALL OF US KNOW ...

The brutal pounding ...

That deep grief inflicts?

**Just one verse from "Funeral Blues"
by W.H. Auden (1907-1973)**

**The stars are not wanted now; put out every one;
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the woods:
For nothing now can ever come to any good.**

How TRUE ... so very true ...

We grieve ... seems NATURE itself conspires against our soul

Trees and moon and stars ... CRY WITH US



Grief ... most of all

Deepest of all ...

None can compare to the loss of a

LIFELONG LOVE of a husband or wife

No grief is more profound than that of a

Widow or Widower



Elimelech did LEAVE Naomi in Moab

Simple reading of the short, short,
Book of Ruth, a mere 4 chapters

Reveals Naomi to be WISE ...

Naomi in her own eyes ... “Bitter”

Yet ... LOOK, LOOK SEE ...

Naomi’s name did mean “Lovable”

Even though heartbroken ...

Book of Ruth is CRYSTAL CLEAR

Naomi, “bitter,” yet **STAYED LOVABLE** ...

So **LOVABLE** that RUTH gave up her LIFE to
follow Naomi and to care for *lovable* Naomi

Look at these two Women



Ruth Declares Loyalty to Naomi, 1614
by Pieter Lastman (1583-1633)

Grief ... bereavement ... DEATH
Some of the GREATEST pains ...
GREATEST hurt known to humans ...
17-yr-old girl in Colmesneil just died
in Colorado ... the parents ... oohhhhhhhh
A LIFE-LONG spouse ... dies ...
***O h h a h h h h h h* ... words cannot**
Words fail us ... we beg for mercy
Naomi ... lost her husband & sons
We CANNOT imagine all her pain ...
Much, much less capture it in 30 mins



Ruth Declares Loyalty to Naomi, 1614
by Pieter Lastman (1583-1633)

MUST SEE and grapple with
Is that when Elimelech died ...

as tragic as that is

at least two sons remained

But when the two sons died

ALL CHANGES IN MOAB

Naomi sees clearly ...

Naomi sees clear as CRYSTAL ...

There is NO ONE TO HELP HER

Orpah and Ruth WILL be married

and Naomi herself an become an outcast

Naomi *MUST* return to Bethlehem!



Ruth Declares Loyalty to Naomi, 1614
by Pieter Lastman (1583-1633)

Widow's Plea

Because of the poverty in Bethlehem
We are ALSO given the impression ...
That the journey was ...

JUST THE TWO OF THEM

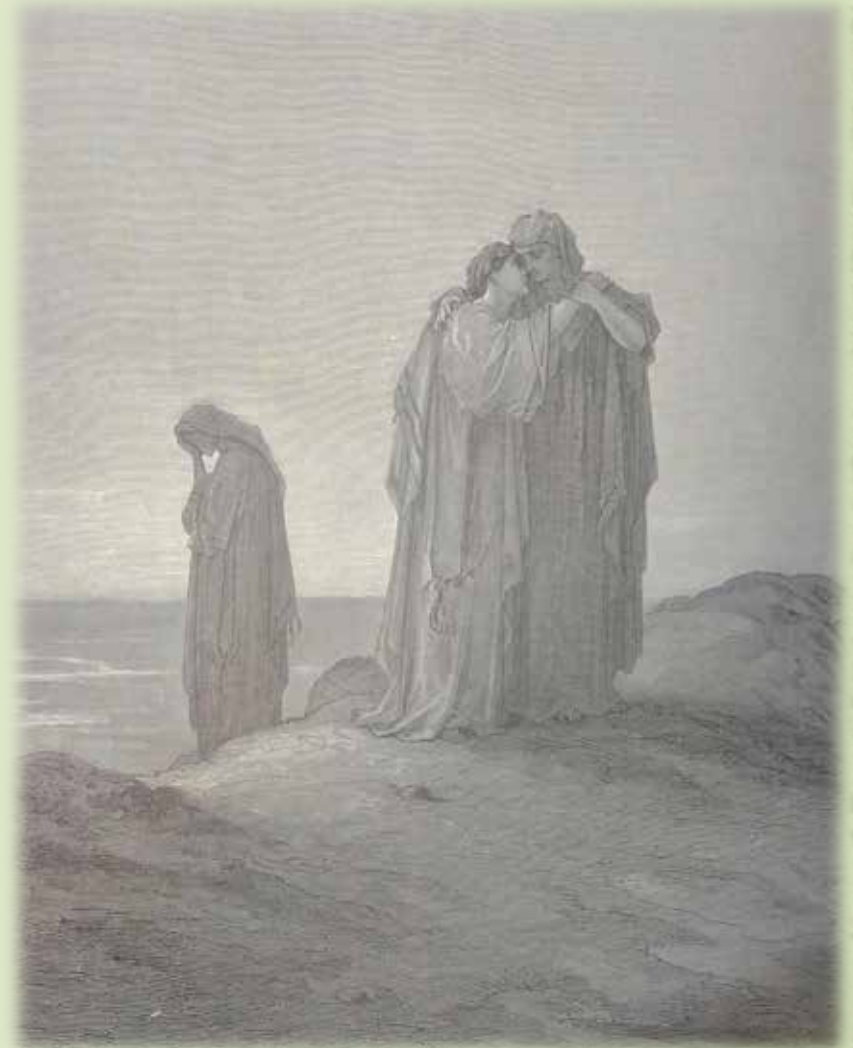
Just Naomi and Ruth ... travel rough roads
50-80 miles from Moab to Bethlehem ...

That is a dangerous journey for a MAN

Even dangerous for THREE MEN ...
if it was just my two sons and me!?!?

But VERY dangerous for women.

Very, very dangerous ...



Ruth Embracing Naomi, 1866
by Gustave Doré (1832 – 1883)

1:6-10 A Desperate Reunion

⁷ She left the place where she had been living, accompanied by her two daughters-in-law, and traveled along the road leading back to the land of Judah.



Ruth Declares Loyalty to Naomi, 1614
by Pieter Lastman (1583-1633)



1:6-10 A Desperate Reunion

⁸ She said to them, "Each of you **GO BACK** to your mother's home. May the Lord show faithful love to you as you have shown to the dead and to me.

What **SWEET ... LOVABLE** words

⁹ May the Lord enable each of you to find security in the house of your new husband."

She kissed them, and they wept loudly.

LOOK ... see **HOW LOVABLE** Naomi was
She was utterly selfless ... caring for them

¹⁰ "No," they said to her.

"We will go with you to **YOUR** people."



1:6-10 A Desperate Reunion

ME ... *talking about ME*

If I lost all in Moab and was
heading back home to Bethlehem

And my two SONS-in-law wanted to go

I KNOW what I would say:

PACK UP boys ... GLAADDD to have yah!

There are plenty of wives in Bethlehem

You'll be okay ... **GLAADD to have yah!**

NOT so Naomi ... LOOK SEE

Daughters-in-law would MORE likely find men
much kinder to them in Moab, their OWN home



1:11-14 A Bitter Plea

¹¹ But Naomi replied, "Return home, my **DAUGHTERS**. Why do you want to go with me? Am I able to have any more sons who could become your husbands?

Well now ... how **LOVABLE** is Naomi?

¹² Return home, my **DAUGHTERS**.

Go on, for I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me to have a husband tonight and to bear sons ...

Naomi ... the **LOVABLE REALIST** ...

Orpah & Ruth struggle



1:11-14 A Bitter Plea

¹³ would you be willing to wait for them to grow up? Would you restrain yourselves from remarrying?

Naomi ... **LOVABLY** selfless ...

Naomi ... **LOVABLY** wise ...

No, my daughters, my life is much too bitter for you to share, because the Lord's hand has turned against me."

¹⁴ **AGAIN** they wept **LOUDLY**, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth **CLUNG** to Naomi.

Oh, the grief of Naomi ... hurt in heart and soul in the depth of her being.



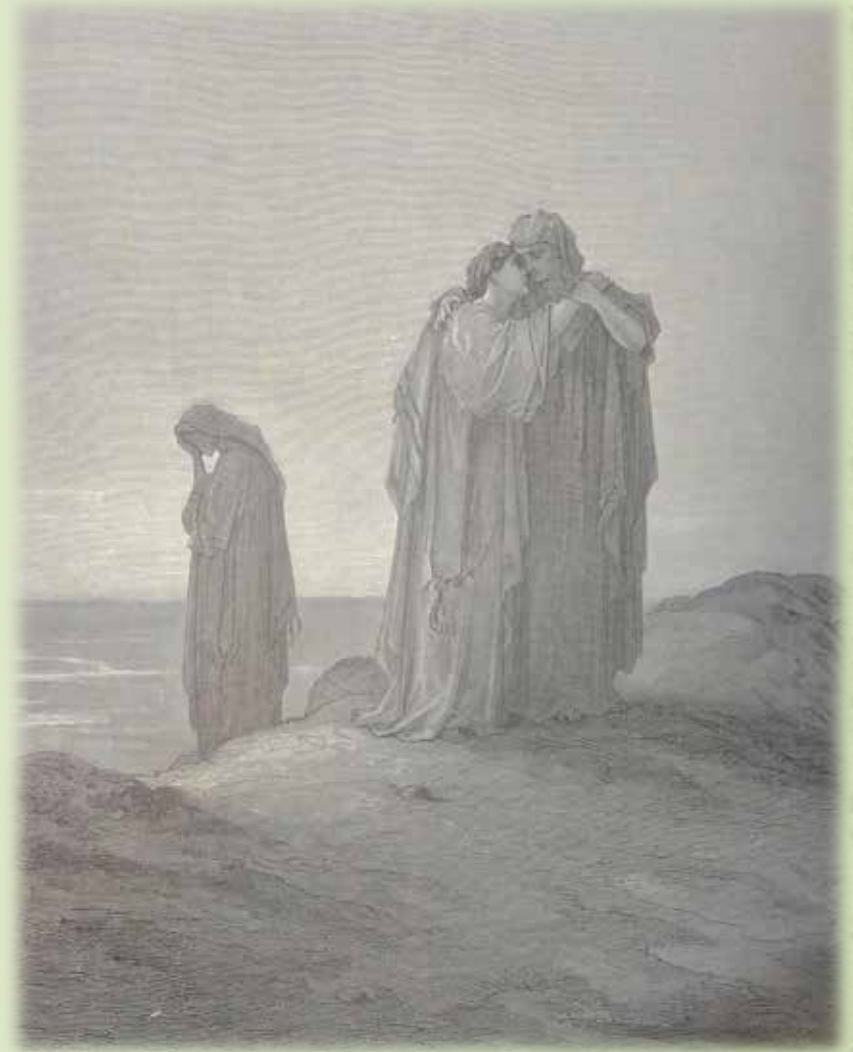
Widow's Plea

Mark 12:33 & Luke 21:3, Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others."

1 Tim. 5:9, A widow who is put on the list for support must be a woman who is at least sixty years old and was faithful to her husband.

Vrindavan, India, is known as the "city of widows" ... also in India widows wear a white wrap and crop their hair ...

Deut. 26:12-13, make special provision for the orphans and widows ...



Ruth Embracing Naomi, 1866
by Gustave Doré (1832 – 1883)

Widow's Plea

Widows have a special place in the heart

Japan put up a special war memorial for widows who had to raise children alone ...

Isaiah 1:17, “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”

Jeremiah 7:5-6 warns to not oppress the orphan and widow

Job laments in 29:11-13, “Whoever heard me spoke well of me ... because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist them. The one who was dying blessed me; I made the widow's heart sing.”



Statue of a mother at Yasukuni Shrine, dedicated to war widows who raised their children alone, Japan

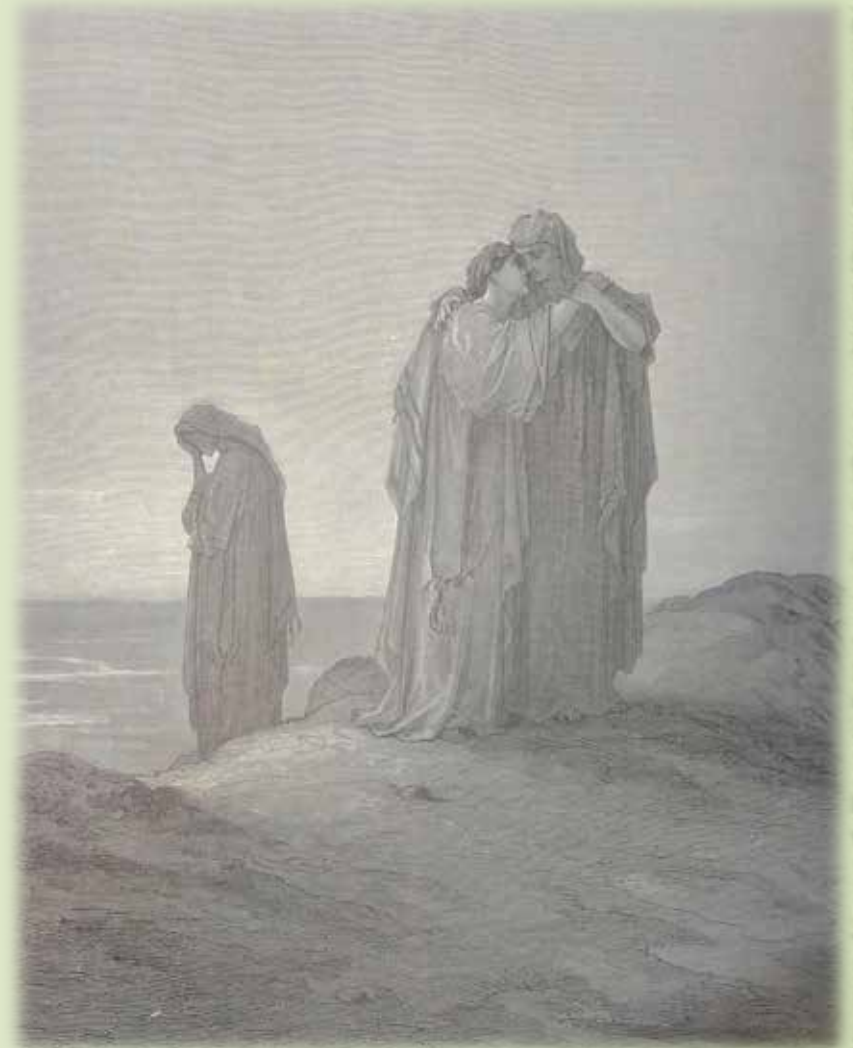
Widow's Plea

Widows have a special place in the heart

In Jewish tradition, the *ketubah* is the wedding contract or prenuptial agreement, that, among other things,

stipulates a special place on the estate for the widow until she remarried.

In China, because the old are the closest living contacts with ancestors, they are given esteem from the younger, including widows.



Ruth Embracing Naomi, 1866
by Gustave Doré (1832 – 1883)

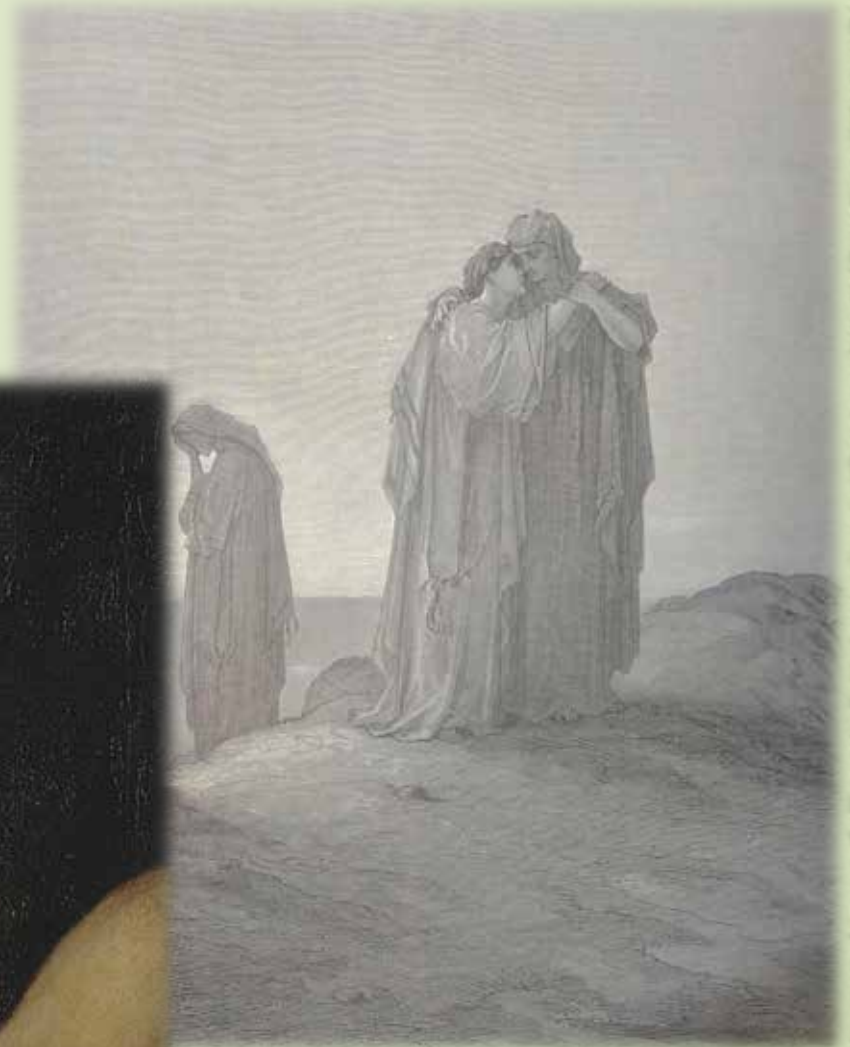
Widow's Plea

James 1:27, Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this,

To visit the fatherless and **WIDOWS** in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Widows have a special place in God's heart

St. James the Great, c. 1616
by Jose de Ribera



Ruth Embracing Naomi, 1866
by Gustave Doré (1832 – 1883)

Widow's Plea



Ruth Embracing Naomi, 1866
by Gustave Doré (1832 – 1883)

Widow's Plea, 1837, by Mrs. Hammond

A couple more verses from Mrs. Hammon:

An Aspiration! hear my humble pray'r,
And condescend to dry a widow's tear!

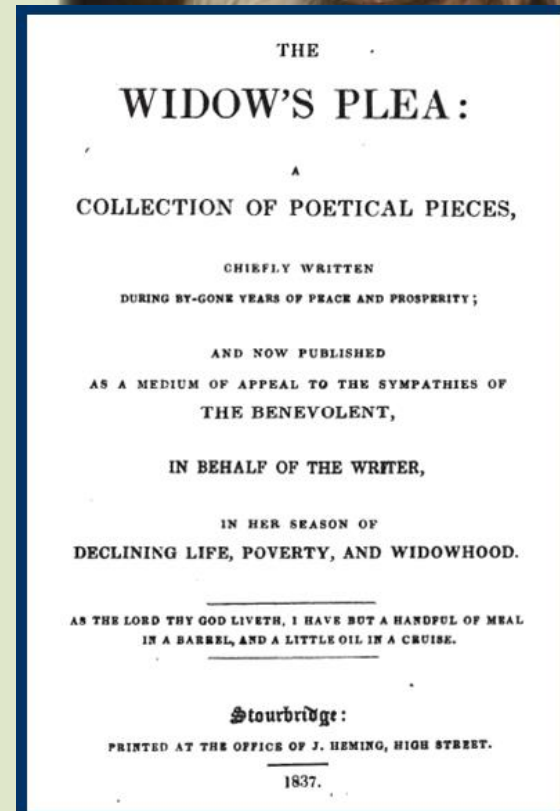
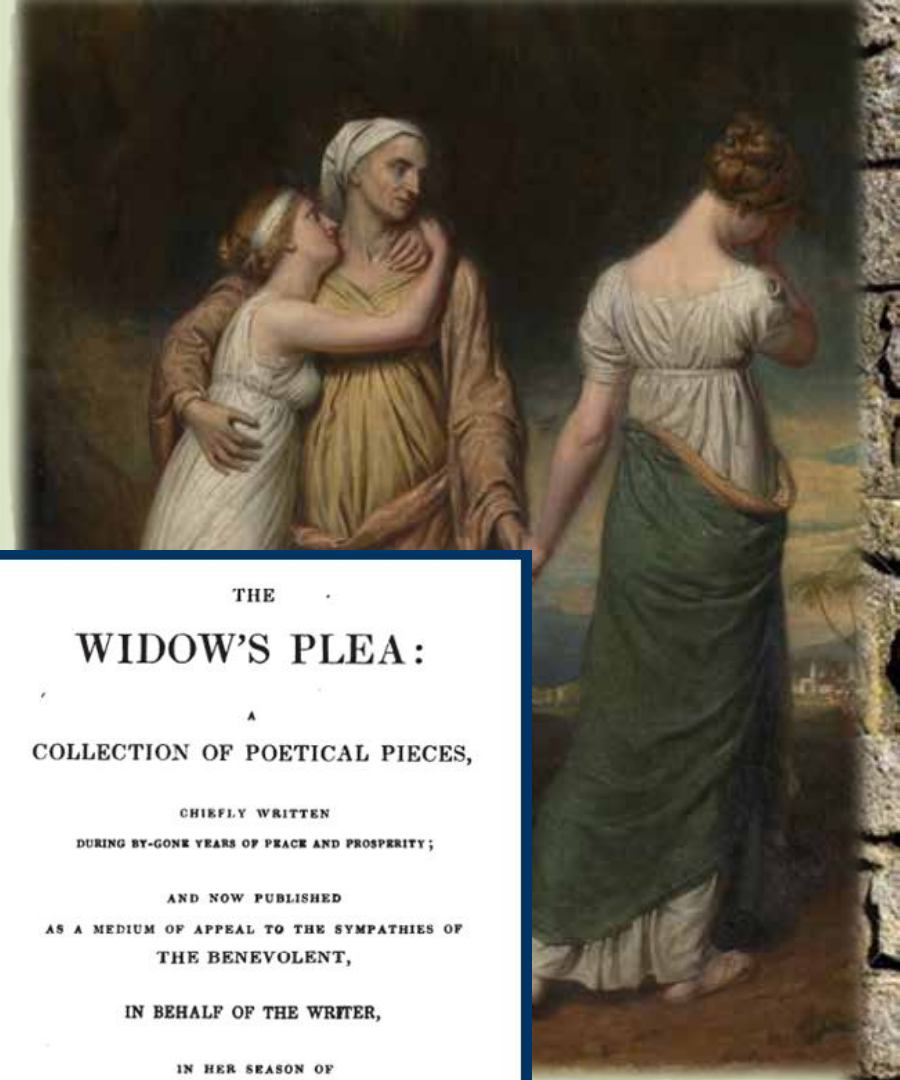
In thee I trust—blest with thy mighty aid,
No dark despair my bosom shall invade.

O give me grace to know and do thy will—
A mother's duties teach me to fulfil:

Let my example to my children prove
How much I feel for them, how much I love.

Permit the fatherless *thy* love to share—
Shield them from Vice and Folly's
baneful snare;

Inspire their minds with hope of future bliss,
And faith, to seek a better world than this.



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Widow's Plea, 1837

Through deep adversity my portion be,
And sad reverse—I bow to thy decree.

Thou canst sustain me in each trying hour,
And still I live by thine All-gracious pow'r.

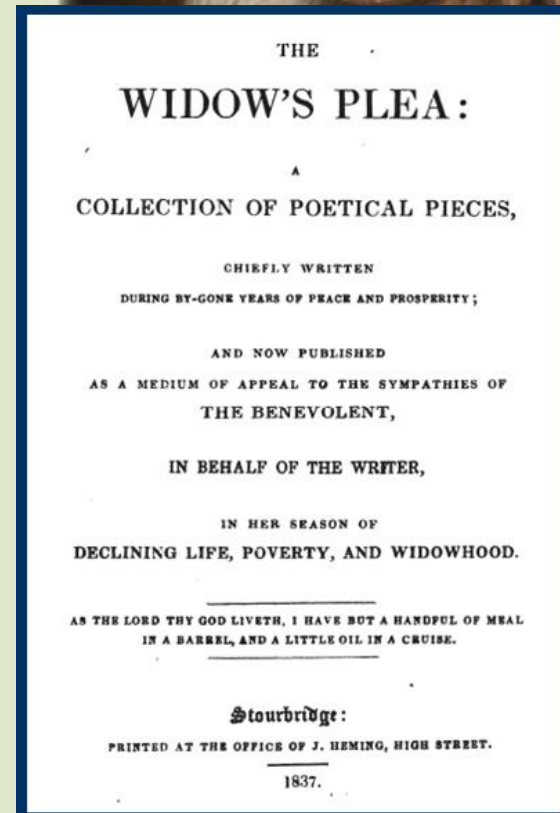
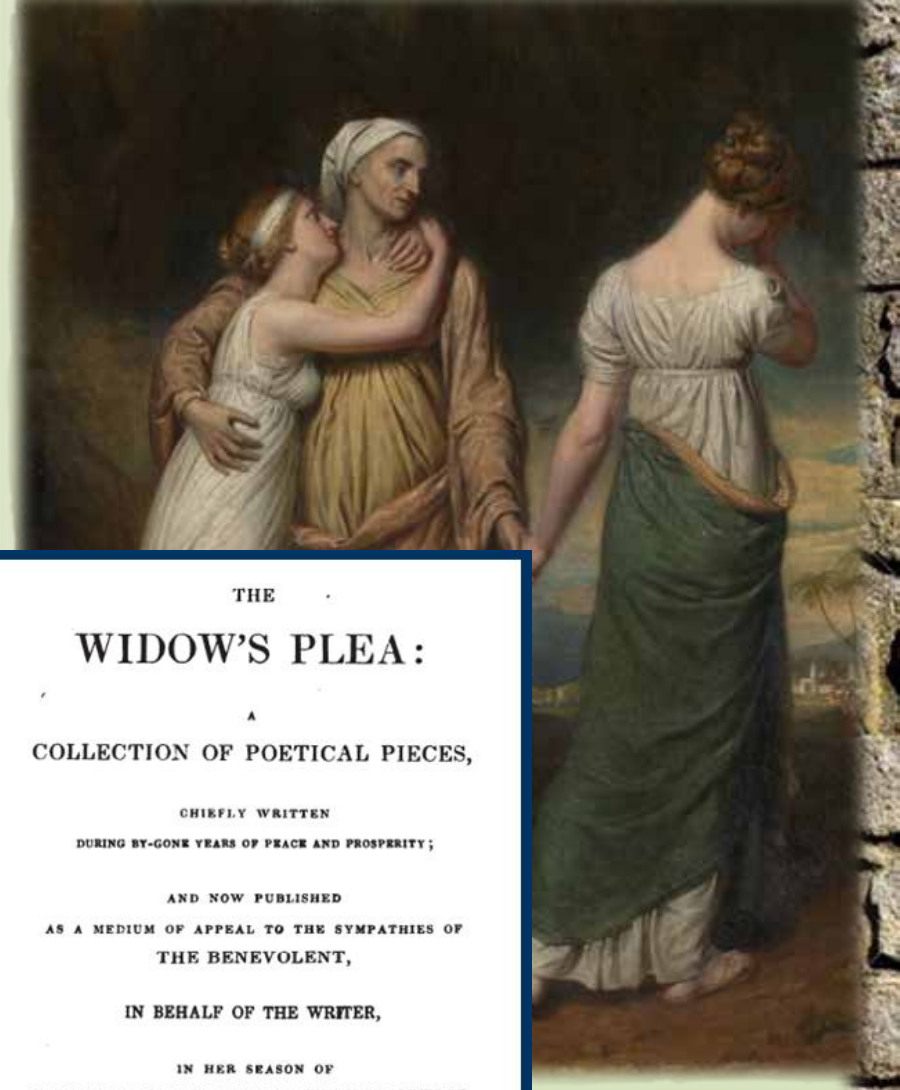
Sorrows which seem almost too great to bear,
Have long oppress'd, and may await me here;

But Faith and holy Hope, till life is gone
Will bid me say—Great God! Thy will be done!

Thy will be done . . .

How is that going for you, Naomi?

Tough . . . it is very tough . . .



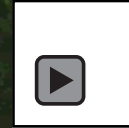
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¹⁴ AGAIN they wept LOUDLY, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth CLUNG to Naomi.

Oh, see Orpah walk a away ...
Chicken Liver is shaking here

Chicken Liver is afraid to comment
No matter WHAT Chicken Liver says
No MATTER what I say here ... I fall short
EVERY woman here and in the WORLD
EVERY woman in the WORLD knows
NO MAN ALIVE that can fathom the ...



**Torrent of feeling flooding
these women's hearts**

1:11-14 A Bitter Plea

No MAN ALIVE can truly apprehend

NO MAN can truly grapple what
these three women are sharing ...

HERE is pure, unvarnished SISTERHOOD

ONLY ... SOLELY can women understand
the depth of love a mother shares **WITH**
her daughter ... or **WITH** her daughter-in-law

Or any ... **WITH** her daughter-like figure

¹⁴ **AGAIN** they wept **LOUDLY**, and Orpah
kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth **CLUNG**
to Naomi.

Oh, see Orpah = “Fawn” is in tears ... as she walks away



1:11-14 A Bitter Plea

Men ... I KNOW this is hard to see

But the women ... they KNOW ...

Naomi, the truly LOVABLE, truly, truly ...

Naomi TRULY wished Ruth & Orpah would
go back to their home ...

Because Naomi truly, truly LOVED them!

As Orpah leaves ... there is NO SHAME ...

Orpah is NOT thought bad ... *please go* ...

Orpah was LOVED by the Lovable Naomi

Moab was, in fact, Orpah's home ... **it WAS best for Orpah**

So, Orpah, the “Fawn” ... headed home ... never to see Naomi again



1:15-18 A Lifelong Promise

¹⁴ AGAIN they wept LOUDLY, and
Orpah kissed her mother-in-law,

but Ruth CLUNG to Naomi.

¹⁵ Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her god.

Follow your sister-in-law."

Naomi ... THE Lovable

To herself, "bitter" and "hurting"

To Ruth ... LOVABLE ...

You understand that word, YES?

Ruth & Naomi by Nicolaas Verkolje (1673-1746)



LOVABLE

Not all wish or have *capacity* to help

**‘Tis VERY biblical to bear
one another’s griefs & sorrows**

Yet ... we ALL know ...

**SOME men & women’s burdens
are heavier to HELP**

SOME are SO WEIGHED DOWN

HELPING to carry is a feat

That is ... LOOK at Naomi ...

NAOMI ... carries her burden so lovingly ...

RUTH is drawn to NAOMI ...

NAOMI carried HER cross very much like Christ ...

loving all the way



Christ & Simon the Cyrenian, 1505
by Titian (or Tiziano Vecelli, 1488-1576)

1:15-18 A Lifelong Promise

One of the most remarkable,
endearing ... even *enchanting*

Yes, Naomi's **ENCHANTING** feature
Is the *manner* in which Naomi bears
her “bitterness” and “grief”

Ahh, much **GREATER** than SAMSON
NAOMI was doing what **SAMSON**
the mightiest **MAN** could NOT

Naomi bore her grief in such way
Naomi **CARRIED** her grief with such
nobility and strength of heart

Naomi's manner made her much more

Ruth & Naomi by Nicolaas Verkolje (1673-1746)



LOVABLE

1:19-22 Naomi Renamed Mara = Bitter

Before we end with the **Promise of Ruth**
Please ... **SEE** how Naomi is received
Naomi comes HOME after 10 years ...

¹⁹ The two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem. When they entered Bethlehem, the whole town was excited about their arrival and the local women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"

Oh, the **WOMEN** of Bethlehem were
glad to see Naomi ... **GLAD** to see her
Naomi ... the LOVABLE ...

True to her sweet nature ... hear Naomi



1:19-22 Naomi Renamed Mara = Bitter

Naomi pleads with them ...

²⁰ "Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara," she answered, "for the Almighty has made me very bitter."

Naomi "Lovable" to "Bitter"

²¹ I left full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has pronounced judgment on me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

²² So Naomi came back from the land of Moab with her daughter-in-law Ruth the Moabitess. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.



1:15-18 A Lifelong Promise

Now ... let's look at the

DEAREST promise in the Bible

DEAREST promise OTHER than of
Christ to us on his Second Coming

DEAREST promise of one person to
another in ALL the Bible

And, you guessed it, from a

Woman to a Woman

in ALL the Bible ... but, alas,

NOT in all of history, for there are many
more women who have done similar

Mother Teresa for one



Painting Ruth & Orpah, 1795,
William-Blake (1757-1827)

1:15-18 A Lifelong Promise

¹⁵ Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her god. Follow your sister-in-law."

Naomi ... THE "Lovable" ... talking to Ruth ... means "A Friend"

Now the most famously DEAR words

As sublime and personal a promise

A lifelong commitment of to Naomi

We MUST ... we absolutely MUST ...

See where these words of Ruth originate ...

If we can ... HOW did Ruth come to them?



Naomi Entreating Ruth & Orpah, 1795,
William-Blake (1757-1827)

1:15-18 A Lifelong Promise

Just knowing the times ... plus

Knowing the **END** of the Book of Ruth

Since Boaz *does keep* the men from harassing Ruth in the fields

Since Ruth *does captivate* Boaz ...

There is NO DOUBT that Naomi is RIGHT

Ruth **COULD** & **WOULD** have found a
2nd husband in her home of Moab

Ruth ... clings to her mother-in-law ...

Naomi calls Ruth her “daughter”

After ten years in Moab ... Naomi, the Lovable



1:15-18 A Lifelong Promise

There is NO question to Naomi's spirit

No question to Naomi's devotion

No question to Naomi's sincerity

Ruth had SEEN Naomi's NOBLE Spirit

We know little of Moab, but we CAN see

In Moab ... among Ruth's kin ...

There was NONE like Naomi ...

None as **FAITHFUL** as Naomi ...

None as **SPIRITUAL** as Naomi ...

None as **STRONG** as Naomi ...

FACT: Women look for mentors & role models (*as do men*)



1:15-18 A Lifelong Promise

FACT: Ruth saw in Naomi a hero

Ruth KNEW in Naomi's heart was **TRUE**

Ruth KNEW in Naomi's faith a true **FAITH**

Ruth KNEW in Naomi's homeward **LOOK**
there were **MORE** like Naomi

In Moab ... there was **no one BETTER**

In Moab ... there was **no one NOBLER**

In Moab ... there was no one ...

No ONE more LOVABLE ...

Certainly, for **TEN YEARS**, Naomi had proven herself **TRUE** many times

Ruth cast her life and future with Naomi



1:15-18 A Lifelong Promise

After Naomi pleads to Ruth ...
Ruth ... “A Friend” ... replied

16 But Ruth replied: Do not persuade me to leave you or go back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

That would have been enough ... poetic ... sublime in itself
Some of the most **inspiringly tender** and devote words **EVER** spoken



1:15-18 A Lifelong Promise

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.

May the Lord do this to me, and even more, if anything but death separates you and me.

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped trying to persuade her.

Ruth—*cared* for Naomi, the Lovable

Ruth—*followed* Naomi, the Lovable

very, very much like we are to follow Christ



**Helping to Carry
Another's Burden
is the Great Honor of the
LOVABLE**

View from Mt. Nebo



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS

