

## RUTH'S WISE CHOICE

Ruth, chapter 1

One time when there was a famine in the land of Judea where the Israelites lived, a man named Elimelech and his wife Naomi, with their two sons, went across the river to the country of Moab where there was plenty of food. By and



by the father died. The sons grew up and married young women of Moab. Then the two sons died, and the mother Naomi, and the two young wives, Ruth and Orpah, were left alone.

Naomi longed for her old home and decided to go back to it. Sadly Ruth and Orpah helped her to get ready. It would be a long, lonely, and dangerous journey for the gentle Naomi, and Orpah and Ruth went with her—perhaps to the border of their own country. They loved her very dearly, and when it came time to say good-by they both wept bitterly and said that they would not leave her.

But when Naomi talked to them, and they thought of the long, hard journey, the strange, new land, and the dear friends in Moab, Orpah turned back, but Ruth would not. She would go where Naomi went, she said. She would live where Naomi lived; she would take Naomi's people for her people; and