

“Unlike Elimelech: Avoid Having a Spiritual Wreck!”

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♥ “Backsliding” means you have **drifted away** from the Lord.

📖 *Ruth 1:1-7 (pages 187-188 in the pew Bible)*

① It’s Easy to Turn From God During a Time of **General Wickedness**

“...in the days when the judges ruled” Ruth 1:1

“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Judges 21:25

② You Start Turning From God When You **Stop Trusting God**

“...There was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live in the country of Moab.” Ruth 1:1

“Judah is my scepter. Moab is my wash-pot.” Psalm 108:8-9

③ Turning From God Results in **Heartache and Bitterness**

“Now Elimelech, Naomi’s husband died... after they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.” Ruth 1:3, 5

“Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara because the Lord has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty.” Ruth 1:20

④ No Matter How Far You **Roam**, God Invites You to **Come Home!**

“When she heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of His people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there.” Ruth 1:6

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.” Joel 2:12-13

“Remember from where you have fallen, and REPENT, and do the deeds you did at first.” Revelation 2:5