

Theme: Our choices often lead us away from the promises and blessings of God and into judgment. But God preserves His remnant – all who repent and turn again to Him. God uses the paths we choose (and those of His choosing) to accomplish His will and purpose.

Book Introduction:

- Captivating story about very ordinary people.
- A story that points us to the hope/promise of redemption and of the redeemer!
- Who wrote it? And when? The debate continues to this day.

Introduction: “No Outlet” = Only one way out - the way you came in.

Background: Ruth 1:1 “ In the days when the Judges ruled...”

- Tells us *when* the story took, and *what* the world was like.
- The downward spiral of Judges - The Pattern, Progression and Product

I. The Road to Moab - Elimelech’s Choice

- A. Free to choose?
 - Elimelech - “My God is King”
 - Famine or Food
- B. To Moab???
- C. “Right in his own eyes”

II. A Dead End – Choices Have Consequences

- A. The judgment of God?
 - Elimelech’s short stay
- B. Naomi’s turn to choose
 - She stays
 - Her sons take Moabite wives
- C. Judgment again? More emptiness in this “land of plenty”
- D. A Sovereign Hand at Work?
 1. Is God’s plan taking shape?
 2. Naomi among the “barren women
 3. The way back or a dead end?

III. The Way Home

- A. God's blessing in Israel
- B. Time to return
 - 1. The Spirit of God moves in her heart.
 - 2. Hope is found in Israel!

IV. Finding The Right Path

- A. How often do we wander (sojourn) in "greener pastures" only to find that it leads to a spiritual famine?
 - How much time are you spending in Moab?
- B. How do we choose a path to take?
 - 1. Do you declare "God is my King and Lord"?
 - 2. What governs our decisions?
- C. Trying to see ahead.