

## Chapter 21

Now the children of Israel had also sworn in Maspha, saying: None of us shall give of his daughters to the children of Benjamin to wife.

**2** And they all came to the house of God in Silo, and sitting before him till the evening, lifted up their voices, and began to lament and weep, saying:

**3** O Lord God of Israel, why is so great an evil come to pass in thy people, that this day one tribe should be taken away from among us?

**4** And rising early the next day, they built an altar: and offered there holocausts, and victims of peace, and they said:

**5** Who is there among all the tribes of Israel that came not up with the army of the Lord? for they had bound themselves with a great oath, when they were in Maspha, that whosoever were wanting should be slain.

**6** And the children of Israel being moved with repentance for their brother Benjamin, began to say: One tribe is taken away from Israel.

**7** Whence shall they take wives? For we have all in general sworn, not to give our daughters to them.

**8** Therefore they said: Who is there of all the tribes of Israel, that came not up to the Lord to Maspha? And, behold, the inhabitants of Jabes Galaad were found not to have been in that army.

**9** (At that time also when they were in Silo, no one of them was found there,)

**10** So they sent ten thousand of the most valiant men, and commanded them, saying: Go and put the inhabitants of Jabes Galaad to the sword, with their wives and their children.

**11** And this is what you shall observe: Every male, and all women that have known men, you shall kill, but the virgins you shall save.

**12** And there were found of Jabes Galaad four hundred virgins, that had not known the bed of a man, and they brought them to the camp in Silo, into the land of Chanaan.

**13** And they sent messengers to the children of Benjamin, that were in the rock Remmon, and commanded them to receive them in peace.

**14** And the children of Benjamin came at that time, and wives were given them of Jabes Galaad: but they found no others, whom they might give in like manner.

**15** And all Israel was very sorry, and repented for the destroying of one tribe out of Israel.

**16** And the ancients said: What shall we do with the rest, that have not received wives? for all the women in Benjamin are dead.

**17** And we must use all care, and provide with great diligence, that one tribe be not destroyed out of Israel.

**18** For as to our own daughters we cannot give them, being bound with an oath and a curse, whereby we said: Cursed be he that shall give Benjamin any of his daughters to wife.

**19** So they took counsel, and said: Behold, there is a yearly solemnity of the Lord in Silo, which is situate on the north of the city of Bethel, and on the east side of the way, that goeth from Bethel to Sichem, and on the south of the town of Lebona.

**20** And they commanded the children of Benjamin and said: Go, and lie hid in the vineyards,

**21** And when you shall see the daughters of Silo come out, as the custom is, to dance, come ye on a sudden out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife among them, and go into the land of Benjamin.

**22** And when their fathers and their brethren shall come, and shall begin to complain against you, and to chide, we will say to them: Have pity on them: for they took them not away as by the

right of war or conquest, but when they asked to have them, you gave them not, and the fault was committed on your part.

**23** And the children of Benjamin did as they had been commanded: and, according to their number, they carried off for themselves every man his wife of them that were dancing: and they went into their possession, and built up their cities, and dwelt in them.

**24** The children of Israel also returned by their tribes, and families, to their dwellings. In those days there was no king in Israel: but every one did that which seemed right to himself.

# Book of Ruth

## Chapter 1

In the days of the judges, when the judges ruled, there came a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem Juda, went to sojourn in the land of Moab with his wife and his two sons.

**2** He was named Elimelech, and his wife Noemi: and his two sons, the one Mahalon, and the other Chelion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem Juda. And entering into the country of Moab, they abode there.

**3** And Elimelech the husband of Noemi died: and she remained with her sons.

**4** And they took wives of the women of Moab, of which one was called Orpha, and the other Ruth. And they dwelt their ten years,

**5** And they both died, to wit, Mahalon and Chelion: and the woman was left alone, having lost both her sons and her husband.

**6** And she arose to go from the land of Moab to her own country, with both her daughters in law: for she had heard that the Lord had looked upon his people, and had given them food.

**7** Wherefore she went forth out of the place of her sojournment, with both her daughters in law: and being now in the way to return into the land of Juda,

**8** She said to them: Go ye home to your mothers, the Lord deal mercifully with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

**9** May he grant you to find rest in the houses of the husbands whom you shall take. And she

kissed them. And they lifted up their voice, and began to weep,

**10** And to say: We will go on with thee to thy people.

**11** But she answered them: Return, my daughters: why come ye with me? have I any more sons in my womb, that you may hope for husbands of me?

**12** Return again, my daughters, and go your ways: for I am now spent with age, and not fit for wedlock. Although I might conceive this night, and bear children,

**13** If you would wait till they were grown up, and come to man's estate, you would be old women before you marry. Do not so, my daughters, I beseech you: for I am grieved the more for your distress, and the hand of the Lord is gone out against me.

**14** And they lifted up their voice, and began to weep again: Orpha kissed her mother in law, and returned: Ruth stuck close to her mother in law.

**15** And Noemi said to her: Behold thy kinswoman is returned to her people, and to her gods, go thou with her.

**16** She answered: Be not against me, to desire that I should leave thee and depart: for whithersoever thou shalt go, I will go: and where thou shalt dwell, I also will dwell. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.

**17** The land that shall receive thee dying, in the same will I die: and there will I be buried.