

## **Minority Reports – Part 2** **Ruth the Moabite – Ruth 1:1-22**

### 0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Foreigners in one's community: nothing new
- 0.2 God's eye on the vulnerable (Ps.140:12; Matt.9:13)

### 1.0 Who Were the Moabites?

- 1.1 West-Semitic tribal group living in highlands east of Dead Sea (modern Jordan)
- 1.2 Like Ammonites, descended from Lot's incest with daughters (Gen.19:30-38)
- 1.3 Thus, distant ethnic cousins of Israelites, with record of conflict (Deut.23:3-4)

### 2.0 How Did Ruth Connect with Israel?

- 2.1 Era of judges (c.1300-1100 BC), famine sends Elimelech eastward
- 2.2 Semitic language tree: 'one knows enough of other's language to hate him'
- 2.3 Three family tragedies (1:4-5)
- 2.4 Orpah remains but Ruth joins Naomi (1:6-14)

### 3.0 What Did Ruth Risk This?

- 3.1 Love for bereft mother-in-law (1:15-16a)
- 3.2 Love for God of Naomi's people (1:16b-17)
- 3.3 Many decisions involve priorities: 'what do *you really* want?'

### 4.0 What Can Ruth Offer Us Today?

- 4.1 Moab (and Ammon) cursed not because of ethnicity but faithlessness
- 4.2 Evidence? Ruth an ancestor of Jesus via curious connection (Matt.1:5):  
marries Boaz son of Rahab, and they become great-grandparents of David
- 4.3 All fall short of God's glory (Rom.3:23); all get invited to dine with Jesus (Mt.9:10)
- 4.4 Faith confirmed & developed in our behavior & choices (Jas.2:22-26)
- 4.5 Your involvements reflect what you believe is most valuable
- 4.6 Thoughts on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11

*Next week (Sept.19) – Minority Reports – Part 3*  
*Hagar the Egyptian – Gen.16:1-16*