

~**MARA (41)**  
(Ma'ra) [**Bitter**]

- The name **Mara** was suggested by Elimelech's widow for herself to express the bitterness she experienced because of being bereaved of her husband and her sons Mahlon and Chilion. Naomi had left Bethlehem with a husband and two sons
- Now it came about in the days when the judges administered justice that a famine arose in the land, and a man proceeded to go from Bethlehem in Judah to reside as an alien in the fields of Moab, he with his wife and his two sons. (**Ruth 1:1**)
- And the man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. Eventually they came to the fields of Moab and continued there. (**Ruth 1:2**)
- But returned from Moab as a saddened, childless widow. At that time her old friends, the women of Bethlehem, asked; Is this Naomi? Still grief stricken, she replied; Do not call me Naomi, meaning, **My Pleasantness**. Call me **Mara**, meaning, **Bitter**, for the Almighty has made it very bitter for me. I was full when I went, and it is empty-handed that Yehowah has made me return.
- And they both continued on their way until they came to Bethlehem. And it came about that as soon as they came to Bethlehem, all the city became stirred up over them, and the women kept saying; Is this Naomi? (**Ruth 1:19**)
- And she would say to the women; Do not call me Naomi. Call me **Mara**, for the Almighty has made it very bitter for me. (**Ruth 1:20**)
- I was full when I went, and it is empty-handed that Yehowah has made me return. Why should you call me Naomi, when it is Yehowah that has humiliated me and the Almighty that has caused me calamity? (**Ruth 1:21**)