

**~ORPAH (121)**  
**(Or'pah)**

- The Moabite wife of Chilion, and like Ruth, a daughter-in-law of Naomi.
- In time Elimelech the husband of Naomi died, so that she remained with her two sons. (**Ruth 1:3**)
- Later the men took wives for themselves, Moabite women. The name of the one was **Orpah**, and the name of the other Ruth. And they went on dwelling there for about ten years. (**Ruth 1:4**)
- In time the two of them, Mahlon and Chilion, also died, so that the woman remained without her two children and her husband. (**Ruth 1:5**)
- And also Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I do buy for myself as a wife to cause the name of the dead man to rise upon his inheritance and that the name of the dead man may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses today. (**Ruth 4:10**)
- After the husbands of all three died, the childless widows, Naomi, **Orpah**, and Ruth, began the journey from Moab to Bethlehem. At a certain point Naomi urged her two daughters-in-law to go back to their mothers homes and marry in Moab, but they both kept saying to Naomi; No, but with you we shall return to your people. **Orpah** had dealt kindly with her mother-in-law, for whom she evidently felt considerable affection.
- Finally Naomi said to both of her daughters-in-Law; Go, return, each one to the house of her mother. May Yehowah exercise loving-kindness toward you, just as you have exercised it toward the men now dead and toward me. (**Ruth 1:8**)
- May Yehowah make a gift to you, and do you find a resting-place each one in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them, and they began to raise their voices and weep. (**Ruth 1:9**)
- And they kept saying to her; No, but with you we shall return to your people. (**Ruth 1:10**)

- Her inclination to continue on with Naomi may have been in part the result of having enjoyed life in an Israelite family. But Naomi now stressed the strong probability that for these two Moabite widows to continue with her might mean a life of widowhood in Judah, inasmuch as Naomi had little hope of remarrying so as to bring forth sons, and even should this happen, she was sure that **Orpah** and Ruth would not want to wait until such sons matured so that they might perform levirate marriage toward these Moabite widows.

- **Orpah's** affection and appreciation were not enough to keep her going along in the face of such a possible future, and after much weeping, she bade farewell to Naomi and Ruth and returned to her people and her gods.

- In time Elimelech the husband of Naomi died, so that she remained with her two sons. (**Ruth 1:3**)

- Later the men took wives for themselves, Moabite women. The name of the one was **Orpah**, and the name of the other Ruth. And they went on dwelling there for about ten years. (**Ruth 1:4**)

- In time the two of them, Mahlon and Chilion, also died, so that the woman remained without her two children and her husband. (**Ruth 1:5**)

- And she proceeded to get up with her daughters-in-law and to return from the fields of Moab, for she had heard in the field of Moab that Yehowah had turned his attention to his people by giving them bread. (**Ruth 1:6**)

- And she went her way out from the place where she had continued, and both of her daughters-in-law were with her, and they kept walking on the road to return to the land of Judah. (**Ruth 1:7**)

- Finally Naomi said to both of her daughters-in-Law; Go, return, each one to the house of her mother. May Yehowah exercise loving-kindness toward you, just as you have exercised it toward the men now dead and toward me. (**Ruth 1:8**)

- May Yehowah make a gift to you, and do you find a resting-place each one in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them, and they began to raise their voices and weep. (**Ruth 1:9**)

- **And they kept saying to her; No, but with you we shall return to your people. (Ruth 1:10)**
- **But Naomi said; Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Do I still have sons in my inward parts, and will they have to become your husband's? (Ruth 1:11)**
- **Return, my daughters, go, for I have grown too old to get to belong to a husband. If I had said I had hope also that I should certainly become a husband's tonight and also should certainly bear sons. (Ruth 1:12)**
- **Would you keep waiting for them until they could grow up? Would you keep yourselves secluded for them so as not to become a husbands? No, my daughters, for it is very bitter to me because of you, that the hand of Yehowah has gone out against me. (Ruth 1:13)**
- **At that they raised their voices and wept some more, after which Orpah kissed her mother-in-law. As for Ruth, she stuck with her. (Ruth 1:14)**
- **So she said; Look! Your widowed sister-in-law has returned to her people and her gods. Return with your widowed sister-in-law. (Ruth 1:15)**