

# Ruth Part 1: The Dark Shadows of Providence - Ruth 1:1-22

## Main Point

God in **His divine providence** brings about the **tragedies**, and the **sorrows**, and the **pain** in our lives **to set the stage** for the **triumph** of **His glory** and our **ultimate good**. I want you to know that you can have **faith** in this God - that you can have **trust** in this God - **even when** He feels far from you.

Scene 1: The Retreat from Bethlehem - 1:1-6

Scene 2: The Return to Bethlehem- 1:7-19a

Scene 3: The Reappearance at Bethlehem - 1:19b-22

## God Moves in a Mysterious Way - William Cowper (1773)

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform.  
He plants His footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill,  
He treasures up His bright designs and works His Sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take, the clouds ye so much dread  
are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His Grace,  
**behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face."**

His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour;  
The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err And scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.