

When God's
Goodness
Doesn't Feel
Good

Tara Liddle



Scripture

Ruth 1:1-7



Ruth 1:16-22

Ruth 2:19, 20


Ruth 4:13

Psalm 23: 6





Surely
goodness and
mercy shall
follow me....

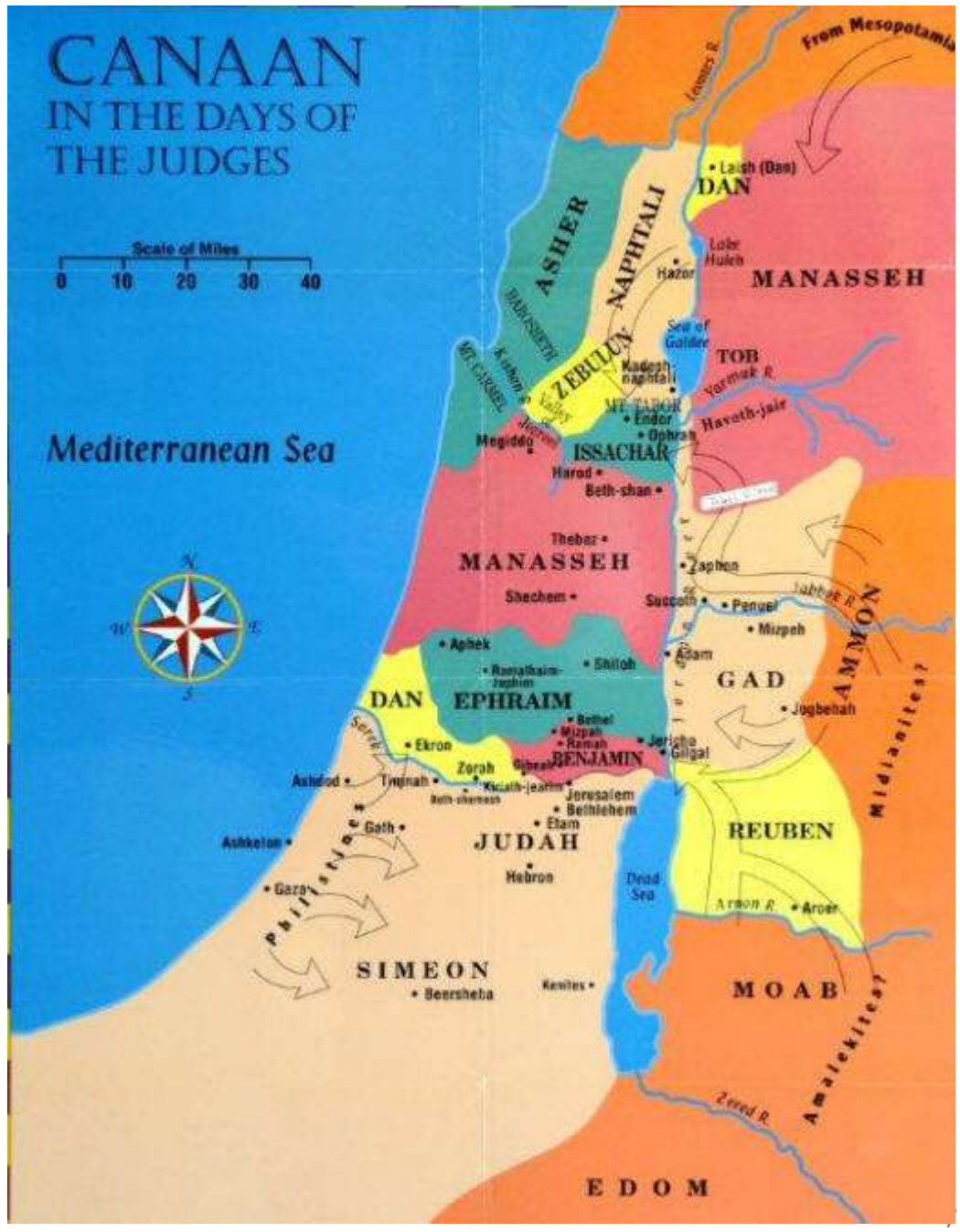


Ruth and Naomi Leaving Moab. Ruth book. Old Testament, Old 19th century engraved illustration from History of the Bible 1883.

Short timeline of Israel's history

The Judges of Israel

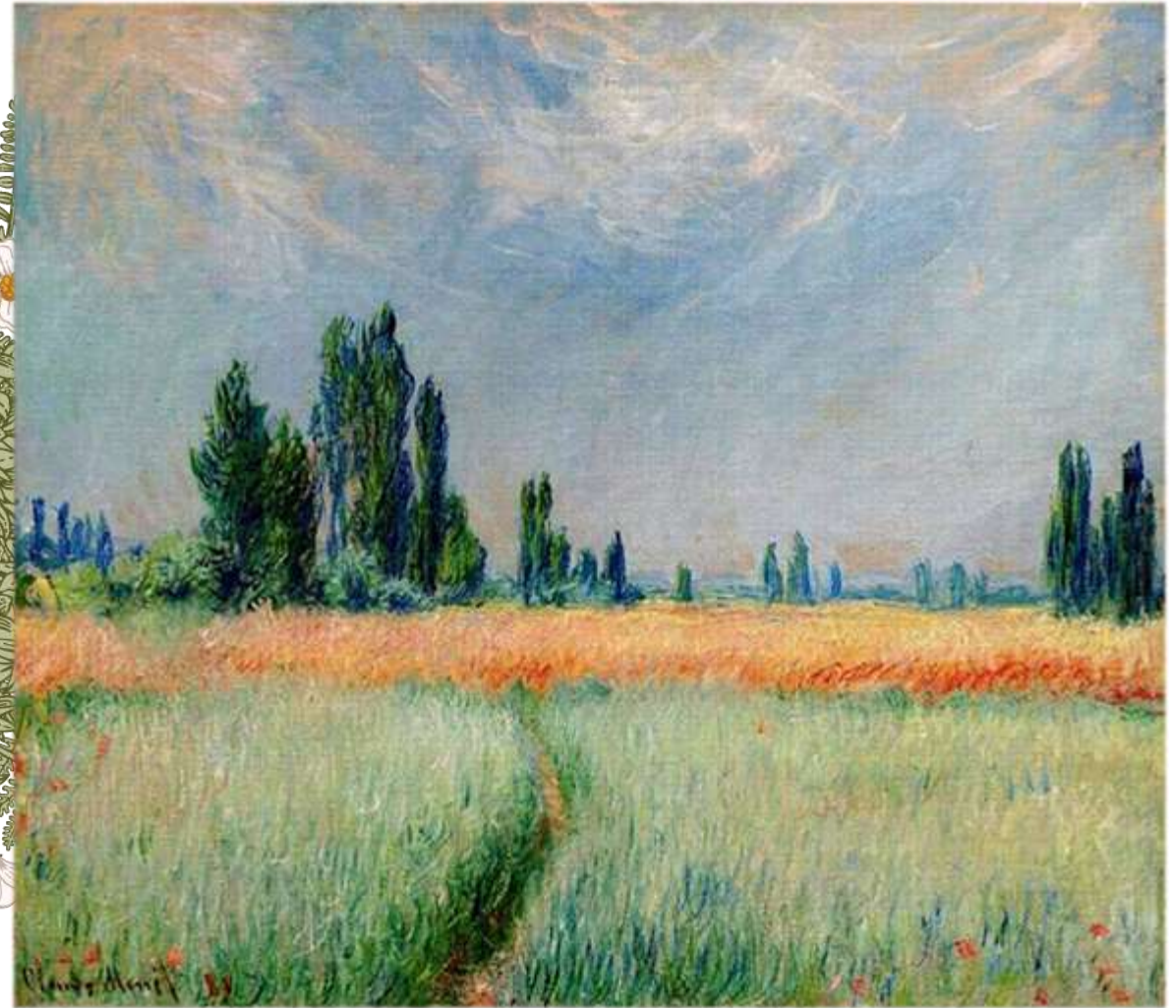








The Wheat
Field
Claude Monet



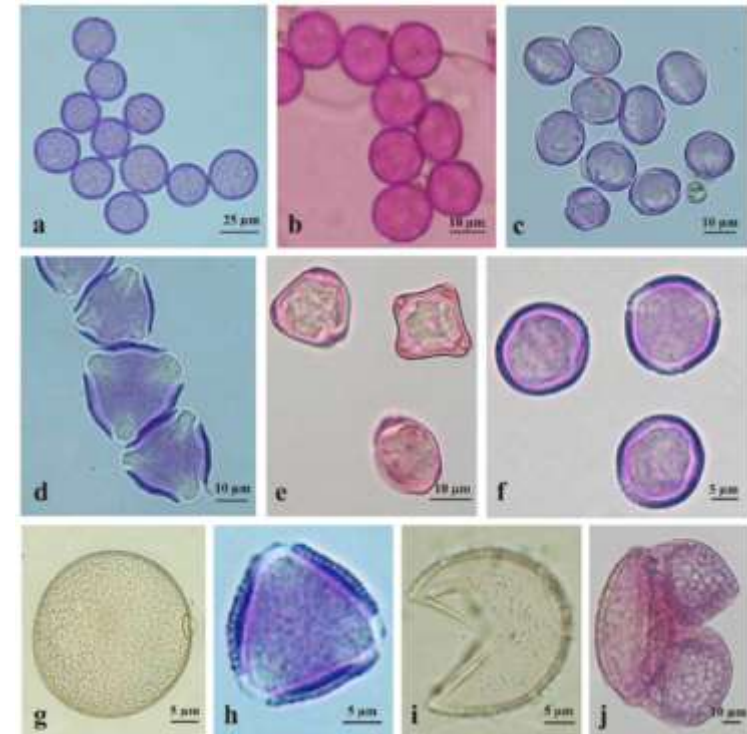
A Calvary Battle Salvator Rosa



Judges versus Ruth



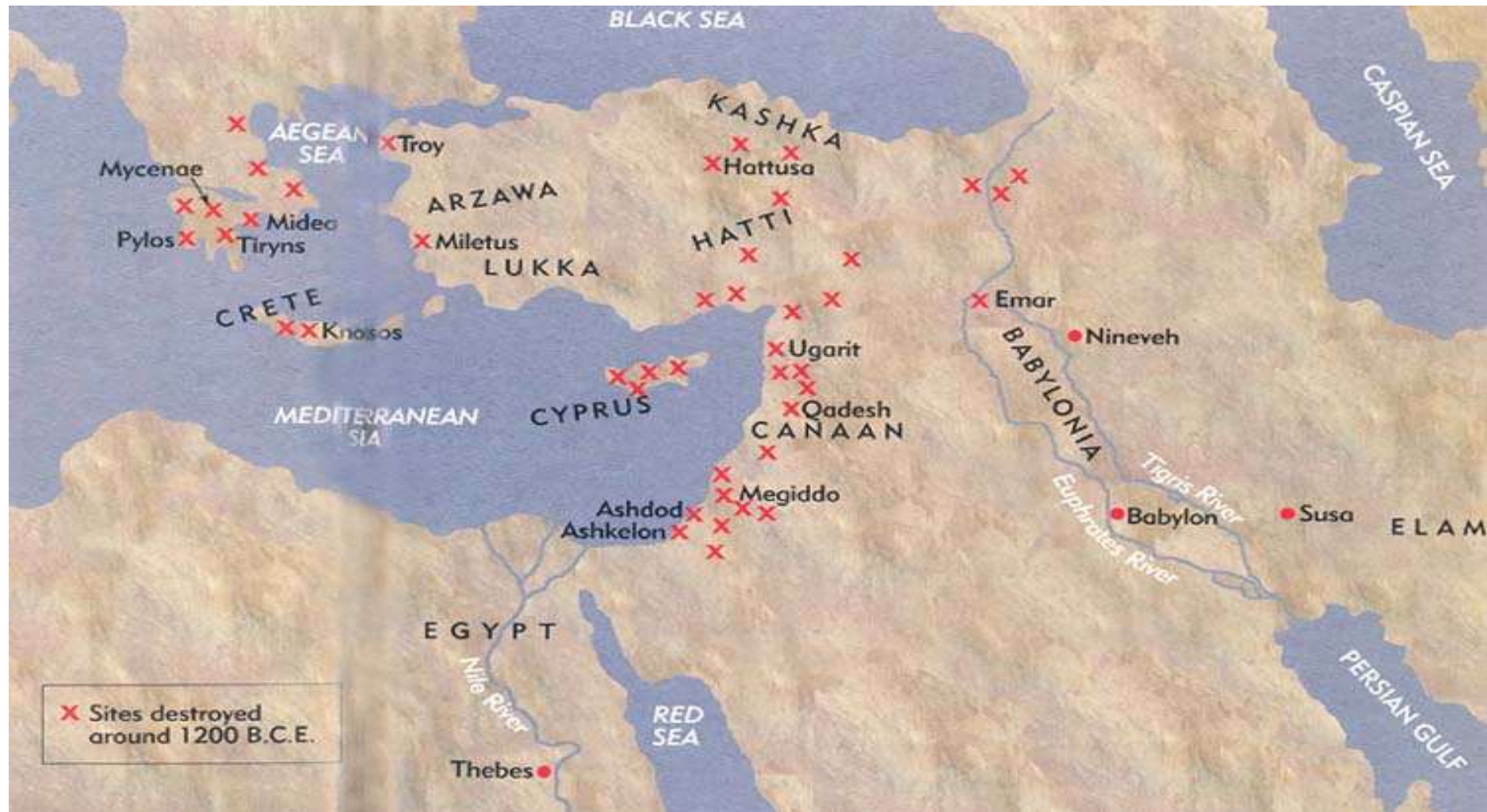
Pollen Grains



Height of Bronze Age 14th Century BCE



Collapse of the Bronze Age





Names

Elimelech – My God is
King

Naomi – Delight,
pleasant, gracious

Mahlon – Sickly

Chilion -- Pining





Naomi with her
Daughters-in-Law

Henry Nelson O'Neil



Ruth Gleaning

James Jacques Joseph Tissot





Naomi Returns to
Bethlehem

The Bible in Picture
and Story



Use of “Sad-day” (Shaddai)

- **Job 23: 16** -- "For God has made my heart weak, and the Almighty terrifies me."
- **Job 27:2** – “As God liveth, Who hath taken away my judgement, and the Almighty, who has made bitter my soul.
- **Job 34:10** – “...far be it from God that He should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that He should commit iniquity.”
- **Job 34:12** – “surely God never will do wickedly neither will the Almighty pervert justice.”
- **Job 35:13** – “Surely God will not listen to the empty talk and the Almighty will not regard it.”

Naomi's Perspective



Lessons about God's Pursuing Goodness

- We are to ever acknowledge the hand of God in all aspects and events of our lives.
- We are to justify the workings of God in our lives as a reflection of His character and nature – Good and Righteous
- When the goodness of the Lord pursues us in heavy ways, we are never to impugn God's character and nature by failing to remember all He has revealed about Himself.
- Our grief in dark providences must never prevent us from seeing the light of hope and gifts of innumerable graces.
- It is more often the goodnesses that we do not recognize as such that bring the most lasting consequences.



Naomi, Obed and
Ruth

Emile Levy, 1859





How unfit are we to judge of
an unfinished providence; and
how necessary it is if we
would understand aright the
reasons of God's ways that
we should wait and see the
web with its many colors
woven out.

A. Thomson