

## Moabites, Perezites and King David

Thus both **the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. The firstborn bore a son and named him Moab; he is the ancestor of the Moabites to this day.** (Genesis 19.36-37)

**When the time to give birth came, behold twins in her womb.** While she was in labor, one put out a hand; and **the midwife**<sup>1</sup> took and bound on his hand a **crimson thread**, saying, "This one came out first." But just then he drew back his hand, and out came his brother; and she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore **he was named Perez.** (Genesis 38.27-30)

**When [Rebekah's] time to give birth was at hand, behold twins in her womb.\* The first came out red**, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. (Genesis 25.24-26)

When she was in her hard labor, **the midwife** said to her, "Do not be afraid; for now you will have another son."...So **Rachel** died, and she was **buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)** (Genesis 35.17, 19)

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and **a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah** went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were **Ephrathites<sup>#</sup> from Bethlehem in Judah.** They went into the country of Moab and remained there. (Ruth 1.1-2) Then Boaz said, "The day you acquire the field from the hand of Naomi, you are also acquiring **Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead man, to maintain the dead man's name on his inheritance.**" (Ruth 4.5)

Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, "We are witnesses. **May YHWH make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem;** and, through the children that YHWH will give you by this young woman, **may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar<sup>^</sup> bore to Judah.**" (Ruth 4.11-12)

The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." **They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.** (Ruth 4.17)

**"Ruth the Moabite" five times in the book**

YHWH said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; **I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite**, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." (1 Samuel 16.1)

Now **David was the son of an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse**, who had eight sons. (1 Samuel 17.12)

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<sup>1</sup> only references to "midwife" except Exodus 1.15-21

\*only references to "twins" in the Bible except Song 4.5

<sup>#</sup> only references to "Ephrathites from Bethlehem"

<sup>^</sup> only reference to Tamar of Judah outside Genesis 38 in Hebrew Bible.