

The Book of
Ruth

¹ Now it was in the days of the judges judging, that there was a famine in the land. And a man from Beth-lehem of Judah went to sojourn in the fields of Moab, he, his wife, and his two sons. ² And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion – Ephrathites of Beth-lehem of Judah. And they went to the fields of Moab and were there. ³ And Elimelech, husband of Naomi, died; and she was left, she and her two sons. ⁴ And they took for themselves wives of Moabite women: the name of the one Orpah, and the name of the second Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. ⁵ And both Mahlon and Chilion also died; and the woman was left from her two children and her husband.

⁶ And she and her daughters-in-law rose and returned from the fields of Moab when she heard in the field of Moab that Yahweh had overseen His people to give bread to them. ⁷ So she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go. Return, a woman to the house of her mother. Yahweh be doing lovingkindness with you, just as you did with the dead and with me. ⁹ Yahweh be granting to you, and you be finding repose, a wife in the house of her husband.” And she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

¹⁰ And they said to her, “Surely we will return with you to your people.”

¹¹ But Naomi said, “Return, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Are there still sons to me in my inward parts, and they would be to you for husbands? ¹² Return, my daughters. Go, because I am too old to be to a husband. If I said there is expectation for me, if I was to a husband this night, and I also bore sons, ¹³ would you wait for them until they will be big? Would you shut yourselves up from marriage for them, so as not to be to a husband? No, my daughters, because it’s much more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of Yahweh went out against me.” ¹⁴ And they lifted up their voices and wept still; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth – she clung onto her.

¹⁵ And she said, “Behold: your sister-in-law returned to her people and to her gods; return behind your sister-in-law.”

¹⁶ But Ruth said, “You will not impinge on me to forsake you, to return from behind you; because I will go to where you will go; and I will lodge where you will lodge; your people, my people, and your God, my God. ¹⁷ I will die at where you will die, and there I will be buried. So Yahweh be doing to me and causing it to be added so, because the death is causing separation between you and I.”

¹⁸ And she saw that she was intensely strengthening herself to go with her, so she ceased to speak to her.

¹⁹ So the two of them went until they came to Beth-lehem. And it was that they went to Beth-lehem, and all the city was in an uproar over them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?”

²⁰ But she said to them, “Don’t be calling to me ‘Naomi.’ Call to me ‘Bitter,’ because He Who is Sufficiency made it very bitter for me. ²¹ I went full, but Yahweh

returned me empty. Why are you calling to me, 'Naomi'? And Yahweh humiliated me, and He Who is Sufficiency brought adversity to me.”

²² And Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the fields of Moab. And they came to Beth-lehem at the start of the harvest of barleys.

Ruth Chapter 2

¹ And to Naomi there was an acquaintance of her husband, a man mighty of ability, from the family of Elimelech, and his name Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Please let me be going to the field, and let me be gathering in the ears of grain behind whomever I will find favor in his eyes.”

And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” ³ And she went. And she went out and was gathering in the field behind those harvesting. And it happened, that she happened on the plot of the field which was to Boaz, who was from the family of Elimelech.

⁴ And behold: Boaz came from Beth-lehem and he said to those harvesting, “Yahweh is with you.”

And they said to him, “Yahweh be blessing you intensely.”

⁵ And Boaz said to his young man, the one being set as foreman over those harvesting, “To whom is this young woman?”

⁶ And the young man, the one being set as foreman over those harvesting, replied and said, “A young woman, a Moabitess, she having returned with Naomi from the field of Moab. ⁷ And she said, ‘Please let me be gathering, and I will cull among the sheaves behind those harvesting.’ So she came and stayed from then (the morning) and until now, except to rest a little in the house.”

⁸ And Boaz said to Ruth, “Haven’t you heard, my daughter? Don’t be going to gather in a field of another, and also don’t pass from here, and so be clinging with my young women, ⁹ your eyes on the field where they are harvesting, and you be going after them. Haven’t I commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the implements and drink from what the young men drew.”

¹⁰ And she fell on her face, and bowed low to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes to recognize me, and I am a stranger?”

¹¹ And Boaz replied and said to her, “It was reported – I emphasize ‘reported’ – to me of all that you did for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband, and you forsook your father and your mother and the land of your nativity and you came to a people whom you didn’t know since day before yesterday. ¹² Yahweh recompense your work, and your reward be full from Yahweh God of Israel, to Whom you came to take refuge under His wings.”

¹³ And she said, “I am finding favor in your eyes, my lord, because you intensely comforted me and because you spoke to the heart of your female slave, and I am not like one of your female slaves.”

¹⁴ And Boaz said to her at the time of the meal, “Come near here, and eat from the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.” And she sat at the side of those harvesting, and he passed roasted grain to her; and she ate and was satiated, and she reserved some. ¹⁵ And she arose to be gathering, and Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Even if she is gathering between the sheaves, don’t cause her to be embarrassed.

¹⁶ But also be dropping – I emphasize ‘dropping’ – for her from the grain bundles; and be leaving some behind, and she will gather; and don’t be rebuking her.”

¹⁷ And she gathered in the field until the evening, and beat out what she gathered, and it was about an ephah of barleys. ¹⁸ And she carried it and went to the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she gathered. For she brought out and gave to her what she reserved from her satiety.

¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you gather this day and where did you work? The one recognizing you is being blessed.”

So she reported to her mother-in-law who she worked with, and said, “The name of the man with whom I worked this day is Boaz.”

²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “He is being blessed by Yahweh, Who didn’t forsake His lovingkindness to the living and the dead!” And Naomi said to her, “The man is close to us. He is a redeemer of ours.”

²¹ And Ruth the Moabitess said, “Also, indeed, he said to me, ‘Be sticking with my young men until when they finish all the harvest that is mine.’ ”

²² And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It’s good, my daughter, that you are going out with his young women, and men will not impinge on you in another field.”

²³ So she clung to the young women of Boaz, to be gathering until the harvest of the barleys and the harvest of the wheat to be finished. And she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

Ruth Chapter 3

¹ And Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shouldn’t I be seeking a place of rest for you, where it will be well for you? ² And now, isn’t Boaz, of whose young women you are with, an acquaintance of ours? Behold: he is winnowing the threshing-floor of the barleys this night. ³ So wash and oil yourself, and put your robe on you, and go down to the threshing-floor. Don’t make yourself known to the man until he fully finishes eating and drinking. ⁴ And it will be, at his lying down, you will have known the place where he will lie down; and you go there and totally uncover what is at his feet, and you lie down, and he will report to you what you should do.

⁵ And she answered to her, “All that you are saying I will do.” ⁶ And she went down to the threshing-floor and she did according to all that her mother-in-law commanded.

⁷ And Boaz ate and drank, and his heart was good. And he went to lie down at the edge of the heap. And she went in secret, and totally uncovered what was at his feet, and lay down. ⁸ And it was, in the middle of the night the man trembled, and turned himself; and behold: a woman lying at his feet.

⁹ And he said, “Who are you?”

And she said, “I am Ruth, your maidservant. And spread your wing over your maidservant, for you are a redeemer.”

¹⁰ And he said, “Blessed are you by Yahweh, my daughter. You have caused good. Your latter lovingkindness is more than the former, in that you didn’t go after the choice young men, whether destitute or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, don’t be trembling. All that you are saying, I will do for you, because all the gate of my people is knowing that you are a woman of ability. ¹² And now, truly I am a redeemer, but

nevertheless there is also a redeemer closer than I. ¹³ Lodge the night, and it will be, in the morning, if he will redeem you – good; he will redeem. And if he isn't pleased to redeem you then I, I will redeem you. Yahweh is alive! Lie down until the morning.”

¹⁴ And she lay down at his feet until the morning, and she arose before a man would recognize his friend. And he said, “It mustn't be known that the woman came to the threshing-floor.”

¹⁵ And he said, “Bear here the shawl that is on you and hold it.” And she held onto it, and he measured six measures of barley and placed it on her. And he went to the city.

¹⁶ And she went to her mother-in-law. And she said, “Who are you, my daughter?” And she reported to her all that the man did for her.

¹⁷ And she said, “These six measures of barley he gave to me; because he said, ‘You shouldn't go empty to your mother-in-law.’ ”

¹⁸ And she said, “Sit, my daughter, until when you will know how the matter will fall; because the man won't relax until he will fully finish the matter this day.”

Ruth Chapter 4

¹ And Boaz went up to the gate and sat there, and behold: the redeemer passing by of whom he spoke. And Boaz said, “Turn aside. Sit down here ‘certain someone.’ ” And he turned aside and sat down.

² And he took ten men from the elders of the city and said, “Sit here.” And they sat. ³ And he said to the redeemer, “The plot of the field which was to our brother – to Elimelech – Naomi, she returning from the field of Moab, is selling. ⁴ And I said, ‘I will uncover your ear to say, “Acquire it before those sitting and before elders of my people. If you will redeem, redeem; but if you won't redeem, report it to me, and I will know; because there is no one except you to redeem, and I after you.” ’ ”

And he said, “I will redeem.”

⁵ And Boaz said, “On the day you acquire the field from the hand of Naomi and from Ruth the Moabite, the wife of the dead, you will have acquired it to cause the name of the dead to rise upon his inheritance.”

⁶ And the redeemer said, “I'm not being made able to redeem for myself because I would cause my inheritance to be corrupted. You redeem for yourself my redemption, because I'm not being made able to redeem.”

⁷ And this was so in the presence of Israel upon the redemption and upon the exchange, to confirm all of a matter: a man took off his sandal and gave it to his friend, and this was the attestation in Israel.

⁸ And the redeemer said to Boaz, “Acquire for yourself.” And he took off his sandal.

⁹ And Boaz said to the elders and all of the people, “You are witnesses this day that I acquired all that was to Elimelech and all that was to Chilion and Mahlon from the hand of Naomi. ¹⁰ And also Ruth the Moabite, wife of Mahlon, I acquired for myself for a wife, to cause the name of the dead to rise upon his inheritance, and the name of the dead won't be cut off from his brothers and from the gate of his place. You are witnesses this day.”

¹¹ And all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, “Witnesses! May Yahweh give the woman coming to your house to be like Rachel and like Leah who built – two of them – the house of Israel; and do ably in Ephratha and call name in Bethlehem. ¹² May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, from the seed which Yahweh will give to you from this young woman.”

¹³ And Boaz took Ruth and she was a wife for him; and he went into her, and Yahweh gave conception to her, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ And the women said to Naomi, “Yahweh is being blessed, Who didn’t allow a redeemer for you to cease this day; and may *his name be called in Israel. ¹⁵ And he will be for you one causing your soul to return, and constantly sustaining your gray head; because your daughter-in-law, who loved you, bore him, she who is better to you than seven sons.”

¹⁶ And Naomi took the child and placed him in her bosom, and she was to him for a supporter. ¹⁷ And the women neighbors called him a name to say that a son was really born to Naomi. And they called his name Obed. He is father of Jesse, father of David.

¹⁸ And these are the descendants of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; ¹⁹ and Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab, ²⁰ and Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon, ²¹ and Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed, ²² and Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

*or “His”