

## Ruth

### 1:1 Elimelech and his Family sojourn in Moab. 1:15 Naomi and Ruth return to Judah.

**1** And it came to pass in *the* days when the judges judged, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in *the* <sup>1</sup>country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. **2** And *the* name of the man was Elimelech, and *the* name of his wife <sup>2</sup>Naomi, and *the* name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Beth-lehem-judah. And <sup>3</sup>they came into *the* country of Moab, and continued there. **3** And Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. **4** And they took them wives of *the* women of Moab; *the* name of the one was Orpah, and *the* name of the other <sup>4</sup>Ruth; and they dwelt there about ten years. **5** And Mahlon and Chilion died both of them; and the woman was left of her two children and of her husband.

**6** Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from *the* country of Moab: for she had heard in *the* country of Moab how that Jehovah had visited his people in giving them bread. **7** And she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return unto *the* land of Judah. **8** And Naomi said unto her two daughters-in-law, Go, return each of you to her mother's house: Jehovah deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. **9** Jehovah grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in *the* house of her husband. Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voice, and wept. **10** And they said unto her, No, but we will return with thee unto thy people. **11** And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? *have* I yet sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? **12** Turn again, my daughters, go *your way*; for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say, I have hope, *if* I should even have a husband tonight, and should also bear sons; **13** would ye therefore tarry till they were grown? would ye therefore stay from having husbands? no, my daughters, for <sup>5</sup>it grieveth me much for your sakes, for *the* hand of Jehovah is gone forth against me. **14** And they lifted up their voice, and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law *good-bye*, but Ruth clave unto her.

**15** And she said, Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her god: return thou after thy sister-in-law. **16** And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, *and* to return from following after

<sup>1</sup> *Hb.* field

<sup>2</sup> *Hb.* Noomi

<sup>3</sup> *Possibly as a result of Ehud's victory in Jg 3.*

<sup>4</sup> *Mahlon with Ruth; Chilion with Orpah.* ch. 4:10.

<sup>5</sup> *Or,* it is far more bitter for me than for you,

thee, for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God; **17** where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: Jehovah do so to me, and more also, *if aught* but death part thee and me. **18** And when she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, she left off speaking unto her.

**19** So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Beth-lehem, that all the city was moved about them, and *the women* said, *Is* this Naomi? **20** And she said unto them, Call me not <sup>6</sup>Naomi, call me <sup>7</sup>Mara; for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. **21** I went out full, and Jehovah hath brought me home again empty; why call ye me Naomi, seeing Jehovah hath testified against me, and *the* Almighty hath afflicted me? **22** So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, who returned out of *the* country of Moab, and they came to Beth-lehem in *the* <sup>8</sup>beginning of barley harvest.

**2** And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of <sup>9</sup>wealth, of *the* family of Elimelech, and his name was Boaz. **2** And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean among the ears of grain after *him* in whose sight I shall find favor. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. **3** And she went, and came and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on *the* portion of the field *belonging* unto Boaz, who *was* of *the* family of Elimelech. **4** And, behold, Boaz came from Beth-lehem, and said unto the reapers, Jehovah *be* with you. And they answered him, Jehovah bless thee. **5** Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel *is* this? **6** And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, *It is the* Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of *the* country of Moab: **7** and she said, Let me glean, I pray you, and gather after the reapers among the sheaves. So she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, save that she tarried a little in the house.

**8** Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither pass from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens. **9** Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them; have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of *that* which the young men

<sup>6</sup> *That is,* Pleasant,

<sup>7</sup> *That is,* Bitter;

<sup>8</sup> *Commonly in late March.*

<sup>9</sup> *Or,* valor,

have drawn. 10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to *the* ground, and said unto him, Why have I found favor in thy sight, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I *am* a foreigner? 11 and Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been showed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother-in-law since *the* death of thy husband; and *how* thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and *the* land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people that thou knewest not heretofore. 12 Jehovah recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of Jehovah, *the* God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to take refuge. 13 Then she said, Let me find favor in thy sight, my lord, for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken <sup>10</sup>kindly unto thy handmaid, though I be not as one of thy handmaidens.

14 And at meal-time Boaz said unto her, Come hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers, and <sup>11</sup>they reached her parched *grain*, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left thereof. 15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not. 16 And also pull out *some* for her from the bundles, and leave *it*, and let her glean, and rebuke her not.

17 So she gleaned in the field until even; and she beat out that which she had gleaned, and it was about an <sup>12</sup>ephah of barley. 18 And she took *it* up, and went into the city; and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned; and she brought forth and gave to her that which she had left after she was sufficed. 19 And her mother-in-law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned today? and where hast thou wrought? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she showed her mother-in-law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought today *is* Boaz. 20 And Naomi said unto her daughter-in-law, Blessed *be* he of Jehovah, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man *is* nigh of kin unto us, <sup>13</sup>one of our near kinsmen. 21 And Ruth the Moabitess said, Yes, he said unto me, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest. 22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter-in-law, *It is* good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, and that they meet thee not in any other field. 23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz, to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

<sup>10</sup> *Hb.* to the heart of thy handmaid,

<sup>11</sup> *Or,* he

<sup>12</sup> *The ephah is about 0.6 U.S. bushel (just over 21 liter). See note on Ex 16:36.*

<sup>13</sup> *Or,* one of them that hath *the* right to ransom for us. *See Lv 25:25.*

3 And Naomi her mother-in-law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek <sup>14</sup>rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? 2 And now *is* not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley tonight in the threshing-floor. 3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the threshing-floor, *but* make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. 4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. 5 And she said unto her, All that thou <sup>15</sup>sayest I will do.

6 And she went down unto the threshing-floor, and did according to all that her mother-in-law bade her. 7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at *the* end of the heap of grain: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. 8 And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was <sup>16</sup>afraid, and turned himself; and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. 9 And he said, Who *art* thou? And she answered, I *am* Ruth thy handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thy handmaid; for thou *art* <sup>17</sup>a near kinsman. 10 And he said, Blessed *be* thou of Jehovah, my daughter: thou hast showed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou sayest; for all *the* <sup>18</sup>city of my people doth know that thou *art* a worthy woman. 12 And now it is true that I *am* a near kinsman; howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I. 13 Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, *that* if he will perform unto thee *the* part of a kinsman, well; let him do *the* kinsman's part: but if he will not do *the* part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do *the* part of a kinsman to thee, *as* Jehovah liveth: lie down until the morning.

14 And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could discern another. For he said, Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing-floor. 15 And he said, Bring the mantle that is upon thee, and hold it; and she held it; and he measured six *measures* of barley, and laid *it* on her: and <sup>19</sup>he went into the city. 16 And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, <sup>20</sup>Who *art* thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her. 17 And she said, These six *measures* of barley

<sup>14</sup> *Or,* a resting-place for thee,

<sup>15</sup> *So* Some mss., Sept., Vg. Some mss., Aram. *read* sayest unto me I will do.

<sup>16</sup> *Or,* startled,

<sup>17</sup> *Or,* one that hath *the* right to ransom. *Hb.* goel.

<sup>18</sup> *Hb.* gate *See* ch. 4:1, 11.

<sup>19</sup> Aram., Vg. *read* she went into the city.

<sup>20</sup> *Or,* How hast thou fared, *So* Massoretic, Sept.<sup>mss</sup> Aram. 2QRuth<sup>b</sup> Sept.<sup>mss</sup> (Vg.) *read* How are you,

gave he me; for he <sup>21</sup>said, Go not empty unto thy mother-in-law. 18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how *the* matter will fall; for the man will not rest, until he have finished the thing *this* day.

4 Now Boaz went up to <sup>22</sup>the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the near kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down. 2 And he took ten men of *the* elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down. 3 And he said unto the near kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of *the* country of Moab, selleth the parcel of land, which *was* our brother Elimelech's: 4 and I thought to <sup>23</sup>disclose *it* unto thee, saying, Buy *it* before them that sit here, and before *the* elders of my people. If thou wilt ransom *it*, ransom *it*: but if <sup>24</sup>thou wilt not ransom *it*, then tell me, that I may know; for *there is* none to ransom *it* besides thee; and I *am* after thee. And he said, I will ransom *it*. 5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of *the* hand of Naomi, thou must buy *it* also of Ruth the Moabitess, *the* wife of the dead, to raise up *the* name of the dead upon his inheritance. 6 And the near kinsman said, I cannot ransom *it* for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: take thou my right of ransoming on thee; for I cannot ransom *it*.

7 Now this *was the custom* in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning exchanging, to confirm all things: a man drew off his shoe, and gave *it* to his neighbor; and this *was the manner of* attestation in Israel. 8 So the near kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy *it* for thyself. And he drew off his shoe. 9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and *unto* all the people, Ye *are* witnesses *this* day, that I have bought all that *was* Elimelech's, and all that *was* Chilion's and Mahlon's, of *the* hand of Naomi. 10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, *the* wife of Mahlon, have I bought to be my wife, to raise up *the* name of the dead upon his inheritance, that *the* name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from *the* gate of his place: ye *are* witnesses *this* day. 11 And all the people that *were* in the gate, and the elders, said, *We are* witnesses. Jehovah make the woman that is come into thy house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and <sup>25</sup>do thou worthily in Ephrathah, and be famous in Beth-lehem: 12 and let thy house be like *the* house of Perez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which Jehovah shall give thee of this young woman.

<sup>21</sup> Many mss., Hb<sup>mg</sup> Sept., Aram. *read* said to me,

<sup>22</sup> the gate: *where civic business was transacted*.

<sup>23</sup> Hb. uncover thine ear,

<sup>24</sup> So Sept., Aram., Vg. Hb. he will not

<sup>25</sup> Or, get thee wealth (*or, power*) in Ephrathah,

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went in unto her, and Jehovah gave her conception, and she bare a son. 14 And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed *be* Jehovah, who hath not left thee *this* day without a near kinsman; and let his name be famous in Israel. 15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of <sup>26</sup>soul, and a nourisher of thine old age, for thy daughter-in-law, who loveth thee, who is better to thee than seven sons, hath borne him. 16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. 17 And the women her neighbors gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he *is the* father of <sup>27</sup>Jesse, *the* father of David.

18 Now these *are the* generations of Perez: Perez begat Hezron, 19 and Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab, 20 and Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat <sup>28</sup>Salmon, 21 and Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed, 22 and Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

*End of the Book of Ruth*

<sup>26</sup> Hb. נפש nephesh *or, life, or, being,*

<sup>27</sup> Hb. Ishai,

<sup>28</sup> Hb. Salmah,