

The Book of Ruth

CHAPTER 1

1:1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to reside in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

1:2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. And they came to the land of Moab, and remained there.

1:3 Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left with her two sons.

1:4 They married Moabite women; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

1:5 Then those two -- And Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

1:6 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 the Lord had taken note of His people in giving them bread.

1:7 So she went forth out of the place where she was living, and her two daughters in law were with her; and they set out on the road on the way back to Judah.

1:8 But Naomi said to her two daughters in law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house: May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead, and with me.

1:9 May the Lord grant you that each of you may find security in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them; and they raised their voices and wept.

1:10 And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people."

1:11 But Naomi replied, "Turn back, my daughters: why should you go with me? Have I any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? 1:12 Turn back, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I should say, I have hope, if I should marry tonight, and also bear sons; 1:13 Would you until they were grown? Should you stay for them and deprive yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters! My lot is far more bitter than yours, for the hand of the Lord has gone out against me."

1:14 And they broke into weeping again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law farewell; but Ruth clung to her.

1:15 And she said, "See, your sister in law has gone back to her people, and to her gods. Go follow your sister in law."

1:16 But Ruth replied, "Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge: your people shall be my people, and your God my God: 1:17 Where you will die, will I die, and there will I be buried. Thus and more may the Lord do to me if anything but death parts you and me."

1:18 When she (Naomi) saw how determined she was to go with her, she ceased to argue with her. 1:19 And they went back to Bethlehem.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole city was buzzed with excitement over them. The women said, "Can this be Naomi?"

1:20 And she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi, call me Mara: for God (Shaddai) has made my lot very bitter. 1:21 I went away full and the Lord has brought me home again empty: why then call me Naomi, seeing the Lord has dealt harshly against me, when Shaddai has afflicted me?"

1:22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

CHAPTER 2

2:1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

2:2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn behind someone who may show me kindness."

And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

2:3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and as luck would have it, it was on a part of a field belonging unto Boaz, who was of Elimelech's family.

2:4 And presently, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you." And they answered him, "The Lord bless you."

2:5 Then said Boaz to his servant that was set over the reapers, "Whose girl is that?"

2:6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, "It is the Moabite girl that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab: 2:7 And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and has been on feet ever since this morning until now, and she has rested but little in the hut."

2:8 Then said Boaz to Ruth, “Listen to me, daughter. Do not glean in another field, don’t go elsewhere, but stay here with my girls: 2:9 Keep your eyes on the field that they are reaping, and follow them. I have ordered with men not to molest you. And when you are thirsty, go to the jars and drink of that which the young men have drawn.”

2:10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said to him, “Why are you so kind as to single me out, when I am a stranger?”

2:11 And Boaz answered her, “I have been told of all that you have done for your mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how you left your father and mother, and the your native land came to a people that you did not know before. 2:12 May the Lord reward your deeds, the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have sought refuge.”

2:13 Then she said, “You are most kind, my lord to comfort me and speak gently to your maidservant, though I am not so much as your maidservants.”

2:14 And Boaz said to her, “At mealtime come over here, and partake of the meal, and dip your morsel in the vinegar.” And she sat beside the reapers: and he handed her roasted grain, and she ate her fill and had some left over.

2:15 When she was got up again to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves without interference: 2:16 And also let fall some of the handfuls on purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and not scold her.”

2:17 So she gleaned in the field until evening and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.

2:18 She carried it back with her to town: When her mother in law saw what she had gleaned and when she also took out and gave her what she had left over after eating her fill, 2:19 her mother in law said to her, “Where did you glean to day? Where did you work? Blessed be he who took such generous notice of you!”

So she told her mother in law whom she had worked with, saying, “The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz.”

2:20 And Naomi said to her daughter in law, “Blessed be he of the Lord, who has not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead!” Naomi explained to her daughter in law, “The man is related to us, he is one of our redeeming kinsmen.”

2:21 Ruth the Moabite said, He even told me, “Stay close by my workers until my harvest is finished.”

2:22 Naomi said to Ruth her daughter in law, “It is best, my daughter, that you go out with his girls, and not be annoyed in some other field.”

2:23 So she stayed close to the maidservants of Boaz and gleaned until the barley harvest and the wheat harvest were finished. Then she stayed at home with her mother in law.

CHAPTER 3

3:1 Naomi her mother in law said to her, “My daughter, I must seek a home for you where you will be happy. 3:2 Now, there is our kinsmen, Boaz whose girls you were close to. He will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor tonight.

3:3 So bathe, anoint yourself, dress up and go own to the threshing floor: but do not disclose yourself to the man, until he has finished eating and drinking.

3:4 When he lies down, note the place where he lies down, and go over and uncover his feet, and lie down. He will tell you what you are to do.”

3:5 And she replied, “I will do everything that you tell me. “

3:6 She went down to the threshing floor, and did just as her mother in law instructed her.

3:7 Boaz ate and drank and was in a cheerful mood and went to lie down beside the grain pile. Then she went stealthily and uncovered his feet and lay down.

3:8 And it came to pass at midnight, the man gave a start and pulled back, and behold, a woman lay at his feet.

3:9 “Who are you?” he asked. And she answered, “I am Ruth your handmaid: spread therefore your robe over your handmaid; for are a redeeming kinsman.”

3:10 He exclaimed, “Be blessed of the Lord, daughter! Your latest deed of loyalty is greater than the first, in that you have not turned to younger men, whether poor or rich.

3:11 And now, daughter, have no fear; I will do in your behalf whatever you ask, for all the elders of the know that you are a fine woman. 3:12 But while it is true that I am a redeeming kinsman: there is another redeemer closer than I. 3:13 Stay for the night. Then in the morning if he will act as a redeemer, good, let him redeem. But if he will not do his part for you, then I will act as a redeemer for you, as the Lord lives. Lie down until morning.”

3:14 And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could distinguish another. And he said, “Let it not be known that a woman came to the threshing floor.”

3:15 Also he said, "Hold out the shawl that you are wearing." And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and put it on her back: and she went into town.

3:16 When she came to her mother in law, she said, "Who are you, my daughter?" And she told her all that the man had done to her. 3:17 And she added, "He gave me these six measures of barley and he said to me, do not go back empty to your mother in law."

3:18 Naomi said, "Stay here, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turn out: for the man will not rest until he has finished this thing today."

Chapter 4

4:1 Meanwhile Boaz had gone up to the gate, and sat down there: and behold, the redeemer of whom Boaz had spoken came by. He called, "Come over here and sit down!" And he came over and sat down.

4:2 The Boaz took ten elders of the town, and said, "Be seated here." And they sat down.

4:3 He said to the redeemer, "Naomi, now returned from the country of Moab, must sell the piece of land that belonged to our kinsman, Elimelech's: 4:4 I thought I should disclose the matter to you and say, Buy it in the presence of those seated here and the elders of my people. If you are willing to redeem it, redeem! But if you will not redeem it, then tell me, for there is no one to redeem it but you and I come after you."

And he said, "I will redeem it."

4:5 Then said Boaz, "When you acquire the property from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabite, you must also acquire the wife of the deceased, so as to perpetuate the name of the deceased upon his estate."

4:6 The redeemer replied, "Then I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance: You take over my right of redemption, for I am unable to exercise it."

4:7 Now this was formerly done in Israel in cases of redemption or exchange, to validate any transaction a man plucked off his sandal and gave it to another: and this was a testimony in Israel.

4:8 So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Acquire for yourself," he drew off his sandal.

4:9 And Boaz said to the elders, and to all the people, "You are witnesses today, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi.

4:10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I acquired to be my wife, so as to perpetuate the name of the deceased upon his estate, that the name of the deceased may not disappear among his kinsmen, and from the gate of his home town. You are witnesses today."

4:11 And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, “We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman that is coming into your house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel. Prosper in and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem: 4:12 And let your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, of the offspring which the Lord shall give you of this young woman.”

4:13 So Boaz married Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he cohabited with her, the Lord let her conceive gave her conception, and she gave birth to a son.

4:14 And the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, which has not left you this day without a redeemer. May his name be famous in Israel.

4:15 He will renew your life and sustain your old age, for he is born of your daughter in law, who loved you and is better to you than seven sons.”

4:16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse to it.

4:17 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 Jesse, the father of David.

4:18 Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez begat Hezron, 4:19 And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab, 4:20 And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon, 4:21 And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed, 4:22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.