Ruth

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was
a famine in the land. A man from Bethlehem in
Judah went to live in the country of Moab with
his wife and his two sons.
2 The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's
name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons
were Mahlon and Chilion. They were
Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They
came to the country of Moab and stayed there.
3 Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she
was left with her two sons.
4 They took Moabite wives. One was named
Orpah and the other Ruth. They lived there
about ten years.
5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and
the woman was left without her two children
and her husband.
6 She arose with her daughters-in-law to
return from the country of Moab, for she had
heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had
visited his people by giving them bread.
7 She left the place where she had been, with
her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the
road to return to the land of Judah.
8 Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go
back, each to her mother's house. May the LORD
show you kindness, as you have shown to the
dead and to me.

9 May the LORD grant that you find rest, each
in her husband's house." Then she kissed them,
and they lifted up their voices and wept.
10 They said to her, "We will certainly return
with you to your people."
11 Naomi said, "Go back, my daughters. Why
would you go with me? Do I still have sons in
my womb who could become your husbands?
12 Go back, my daughters; go your way, for I
am too old to have a husband. Even if I said I
had hope, even if I had a husband tonight and
bore sons,
13 would you wait for them until they grew
up? Would you remain unmarried for them?
No, my daughters. It is far more bitter for me
than for you, for the hand of the LORD has gone
out against me."
14 They lifted up their voices and wept again.
Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung
to her.
15 Naomi said, "Your sister-in-law has returned
to her people and her gods. Return after your
sister-in-law."
16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you
and turn back from following you. Where you
go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your
people will be my people, and your God my God.
17 Where you die, I will die, and there I will be
buried. May the LORD do so to me and more
also. Only death will separate you and me."
18 When Naomi saw that she was determined
to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.
19 The two of them went on until they came to

Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole city was stirred because of them, and the women said, “Is this Naomi?”

20 She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi.
Call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very
bitterly with me.
21 I went away full, and the LORD has brought
me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi,
when the LORD has testified against me and the
Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”
22 So Naomi returned from the country of
Moab, and Ruth the Moabite, her
daughter-in-law, was with her. They came to
Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley
harvest.

2

1 Naomi had a relative on her husband’s side,
a man of great wealth from the clan of
Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.
2 Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Please let
me go to the field and glean among the heads of
grain behind someone in whose eyes I find
favor.” She said to her, “Go, my daughter.”
3 She went and gleaned in the field behind the
reapers. She happened to come to the part of the
field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan
of Elimelech.
4 Boaz came from Bethlehem and said to the
reapers, “The LORD be with you!” They said to
him, “The LORD bless you!”
5 Boaz said to his servant who was in charge
of the reapers, “Whose young woman is this?”

6 The servant in charge of the reapers
answered, “She is the young Moabite woman
who returned with Naomi from the country of
Moab.
7 She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather
among the sheaves behind the reapers.’ She
came and has continued from morning until
now, except for a little rest in the house.”
8 Boaz said to Ruth, “Listen, my daughter. Do
not go to glean in another field or leave this
place. Stay here close to my young women.
9 Keep your eyes on the field they are
harvesting and follow the women. Have I not
commanded the young men not to touch you?
When you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink
what the young men have drawn.”
10 She fell on her face and bowed to the
ground. She said to him, “Why have I found
favor in your eyes, that you should take notice
of me, when I am a foreigner?”
11 Boaz answered her, “I have been fully told
all you have done for your mother-in-law since
your husband died, how you left your father
and mother and the land of your birth and came
to a people you had not known before.
12 May the LORD repay your work, and may
your reward be full from the LORD, the God of
Israel, under whose wings you have come to
take refuge.”
13 She said, “May I find favor in your eyes, my
lord, for you have comforted me and spoken
tenderly to your servant, though I am not like
one of your female servants.”

14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here,
eat some bread, and dip your morsel in the
vinegar.” She sat beside the reapers, and he
offered her roasted grain. She ate and was
satisfied and had some left over.
15 When she arose to glean, Boaz commanded
his young men, “Let her glean even among the
sheaves, and do not shame her.
16 Also pull out some stalks from the bundles
for her and leave them for her to glean. Do not
rebuke her.”
17 She gleaned in the field until evening. She
beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about
twenty quarts of barley.
18 She carried it into the city, and her
mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She
also brought out and gave her what she had left
after she was satisfied.
19 Her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did
you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed
be the one who took notice of you!” She told her
mother-in-law whom she had worked with and
said, “The name of the man I worked with today
is Boaz.”
20 Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed
be he by the LORD, who has not abandoned his
kindness to the living and the dead.” Naomi said
to her, “The man is related to us, one of our
redeemers.”
21 Ruth the Moabite said, “He also told me,
‘Stay close to my young men until they have
finished all my harvest.’ ”
22 Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It
is good, my daughter, for you to go out with his

young women, so that you will not be attacked
in another field."
23 So she stayed close to Boaz's young women,
gleaning until the barley harvest and the wheat
harvest were finished. She lived with her
mother-in-law.

3

1 Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My
daughter, should I not seek rest for you, so that it
may be well with you?
2 Now is not Boaz our relative, with whose
young women you have been? He is winnowing
barley at the threshing floor tonight.
3 Wash, anoint yourself, put on your clothes,
and go down to the threshing floor. Do not make
yourself known to the man until he has finished
eating and drinking.
4 When he lies down, note the place where he
lies. Then go, uncover his feet, and lie down. He
will tell you what to do."
5 She said to her, "I will do everything you tell
me."
6 She went down to the threshing floor and did
all her mother-in-law had commanded her.
7 Boaz ate and drank, and his heart was merry.
He went to lie down at the end of the grain heap.
She came quietly, uncovered his feet, and lay
down.
8 At midnight the man was startled and turned
over. A woman was lying at his feet.
9 He said, "Who are you?" She said, "I am Ruth,
your servant. Spread your wing over your
servant, for you are a redeemer."

10 He said, “May you be blessed by the LORD,
my daughter. You have shown greater kindness
in this last act than in the first, by not going after
young men, whether poor or rich.
11 Now, my daughter, do not be afraid. I will
do for you all you say, for everyone at the gate of
my people knows that you are a woman of
worth.
12 Now it is indeed true that I am a redeemer,
but there is a redeemer nearer than I.
13 Stay the night. In the morning, if he will
redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he
is unwilling to redeem you, I will redeem you, as
the LORD lives. Lie down until morning.”
14 She lay at his feet until morning and arose
before one person could recognize another. He
said, “Do not let it be known that the woman
came to the threshing floor.”
15 He said, “Bring the shawl you are wearing
and hold it.” She held it, and he measured six
measures of barley and placed it on her. Then
he went into the city.
16 She came to her mother-in-law, who said,
“How did it go, my daughter?” She told her all
the man had done for her.
17 She said, “He gave me these six measures of
barley, for he said to me, ‘Do not go back to your
mother-in-law empty-handed.’ ”
18 Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you
know how the matter turns out, for the man will
not rest until he settles the matter today.”

4

1 Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there.

Just then the redeemer Boaz had spoken of was
passing by. He said, “Come over and sit here,
so-and-so.” He came over and sat down.
2 He took ten men from the elders of the city
and said, “Sit here.” They sat down.
3 He said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has
returned from the country of Moab, is selling
the plot of land that belonged to our brother
Elimelech.
4 I thought I should let you know and say, ‘Buy
it in the presence of those sitting here and the
elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it,
redeem it. But if he will not redeem it, tell me so
that I may know, for there is no one besides you
to redeem it, and I come after you.” He said, “I
will redeem it.”
5 Boaz said, “On the day you buy the field from
Naomi, you also acquire it from Ruth the
Moabite, the dead man’s wife, to raise up the
dead man’s name over his inheritance.”
6 The redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for
myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. Exercise
my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot
redeem it.”
7 Now in former times in Israel, to confirm any
matter of redemption or exchange, a man would
remove his sandal and give it to the other man.
This was the way of attesting a transaction in
Israel.
8 The redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for
yourself,” and removed his sandal.
9 Boaz said to the elders and all the people,
“You are witnesses today that I have acquired
from Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and

all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon.
10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite,
Mahlon's wife, as my wife, to raise up the dead
man's name over his inheritance, so that the
dead man's name will not be cut off from among
his brothers or from the gate of his hometown.
You are witnesses today."
11 All the people at the gate and the elders
said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the
woman entering your house like Rachel and
Leah, who together built the house of Israel.
May you prosper in Ephrathah and make a
name in Bethlehem.
12 May your house be like the house of Perez,
whom Tamar bore to Judah, through the
offspring the LORD gives you by this young
woman."
13 Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife.
He slept with her, and the LORD granted her
conception, and she bore a son.
14 The women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the
LORD, who has not left you without a redeemer
today. May his name be renowned in Israel.
15 He will restore your life and sustain you in
your old age, for your daughter-in-law, who
loves you and is better to you than seven sons,
has borne him."
16 Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap,
and became his caregiver.
17 The neighboring women gave him a name,
saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They
named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the
father of David.

18 These are the generations of Perez: Perez
fathered Hezron,
19 Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered
Amminadab,
20 Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon
fathered Salmah,
21 Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed,
22 Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered
David.

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