# Ruth

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was
a famine in the land. And a certain man from
Bethlehem in Judah, with his wife and two sons,
went to reside in the land of Moab.
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, and they
entered the land of Moab and settled there.
3 Then Naomi's husband Elimelech died, and
she was left with her two sons,
4 who took Moabite women as their wives, one
named Orpah and the other named Ruth.

And after they had lived in Moab about ten
years,
5 both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and
Naomi was left without her two sons and
without her husband.
6 When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD
had attended to his people by providing them
with food, she and her daughters-in-law
prepared to leave the land of Moab.
7 Accompanied by her two daughters-in-law,
she left the place where she had been living and
set out on the road leading back to the land of
Judah.

8 Then Naomi said to her two
daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you to your
mother's home. May the LORD show you loving

devotion,* as you have shown to your dead and
to me.
9 May the LORD enable each of you to find rest
in the home of your new husband."
And she kissed them as they wept aloud
10 and said, "Surely we will return with you to
your people."
11 But Naomi replied, "Return home, my
daughters. Why would you go with me? Are
there still sons in my womb to become your
husbands?
12 Return home, my daughters. Go on, for I am
too old to have another husband. Even if I
thought there was hope for me to have a
husband tonight and to bear sons,
13 would you wait for them to grow up? Would
you refrain from having husbands? No, my
daughters, it is much more bitter for me than for
you, because the hand of the LORD has gone out
against me."
14 Again they wept aloud, and Orpah kissed
her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to
her.
15 "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law has
gone back to her people and her gods; follow
her back home."
16 But Ruth replied:

"Do not urge me to leave you

* **1:8 1:8** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

or to turn from following you.
For wherever you go, I will go,
and wherever you live, I will live;
your people will be my people,
and your God will be my God.
17 Where you die, I will die,
and there I will be buried.
May the LORD punish me,
and ever so severely,
if anything but death
separates you and me."
18 When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined
to go with her, she stopped trying to persuade
her.
19 So Naomi and Ruth traveled until they came
to Bethlehem. When they entered Bethlehem,
the whole town was stirred because of them,
and the women of the town exclaimed, "Can this
be Naomi?"
20 "Do not call me Naomi,† " she replied. "Call
me Mara,‡ because the Almighty§ has dealt quite
bitterly with me.
21 I went away full, but the LORD has brought
me back empty. Why call me Naomi? After all,
the LORD has testified against me, and the
Almighty has afflicted me."
22 So Naomi returned from the land of Moab
with her daughter-in-law Ruth the Moabitess.
And they arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning
of the barley harvest.

---

† **1:20 1:20** *Naomi* means *pleasant*. ‡ **1:20 1:20** *Mara* means *bitter*. § **1:20 1:20** Hebrew *Shaddai*; also in verse 21

# 2

1 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's
side, a prominent man of noble character from
the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.
2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi,
"Please let me go into the fields and glean heads
of grain after someone in whose sight I may find
favor."
"Go ahead, my daughter," Naomi replied.
3 So Ruth departed and went out into the field
and gleaned after the harvesters. And she
happened to come to the part of the field
belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of
Elimelech.
4 Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and
said to the harvesters, "The LORD be with you."
"The LORD bless you," they replied.
5 And Boaz asked the foreman of his
harvesters, "Whose young woman is this?"
6 The foreman answered, "She is the Moabitess
who returned with Naomi from the land of
Moab.
7 She has said, 'Please let me glean and gather
among the sheaves after the harvesters.' So she
came out and has continued from morning until
now, except that she rested a short time in the
shelter."
8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter.
Do not go and glean in another field, and do not
go away from this place, but stay here close to
my servant girls.
9 Let your eyes be on the field they are
harvesting, and follow along after these girls.
Indeed, I have ordered the young men not to

touch you. And when you are thirsty, go and drink from the jars the young men have filled."

10 At this, she fell on her face, bowing low to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you should take notice of me, even though I am a foreigner?"

11 Boaz replied, "I have been made fully aware of all you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth, and how you came to a people you did not know before.
12 May the LORD repay your work, and may you receive a rich reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have taken refuge."

13 "My lord," she said, "may I continue to find favor in your eyes, for you have comforted and spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your servant girls."

14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here; have some bread and dip it into the vinegar sauce." So she sat down beside the harvesters, and he offered her roasted grain, and she ate and was satisfied and had some left over.

15 When Ruth got up to glean, Boaz ordered his young men, "Even if she gathers among the sheaves, do not insult her.
16 Rather, pull out for her some stalks from the bundles and leave them for her to gather. Do not rebuke her."

17 So Ruth gathered grain in the field until
evening. And when she beat out what she had
gleaned, it was about an ephah of barley.*
18 She picked up the grain and went into the
town, where her mother-in-law saw what she
had gleaned. And she brought out what she had
saved from her meal and gave it to Naomi.
19 Then her mother-in-law asked her, "Where
did you glean today, and where did you work?
Blessed be the man who noticed you."
So she told her mother-in-law where she had
worked. "The name of the man I worked with
today is Boaz," she said.
20 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law,
"May he be blessed by the LORD, who has not
withdrawn his kindness from the living or the
dead." Naomi continued, "The man is a close
relative. He is one of our kinsman-redeemers.†"
21 Then Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also told
me, 'Stay with my young men until they have
finished gathering all my harvest.' "
22 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law
Ruth, "My daughter, it is good for you to work
with his young women, so that nothing will
happen to you in another field."
23 So Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of
Boaz to glean grain until the barley and wheat

---

* **2:17 2:17** *An ephah* is approximately 20 dry quarts or 22 liters (probably about 29 pounds or 13.2 kilograms of barley). † **2:20 2:20** The Hebrew word for *kinsman-redeemer* or *guardian-redeemer* is a legal term for the kinsman who redeems or vindicates a relative; see Leviticus 25:25–55.

harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

# 3

1 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, should I not seek a resting place for you, that it may be well with you?
2 Now is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been working, a relative of ours? In fact, tonight he is winnowing barley on the threshing floor.
3 Therefore wash yourself, put on perfume, and wear your best clothes.* Go down to the threshing floor, but do not let the man know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.
4 When he lies down, note the place where he lies. Then go in and uncover his feet, and lie down, and he will explain to you what you should do."
5 "I will do everything you say," Ruth answered.
6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law had instructed her to do.
7 After Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then Ruth went in secretly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.
8 At midnight, Boaz was startled, turned over, and there lying at his feet was a woman!
9 "Who are you?" he asked.

---

* **3:3 3:3** Qere; Ketiv *your cloak*

"I am your servant Ruth," she replied. "Spread
the corner of your garment† over me, for you
are a kinsman-redeemer.‡"
10 Then Boaz said, "May the LORD bless you,
my daughter. You have shown more kindness
now than before, because you have not run
after the younger men, whether rich or poor.
11 And now do not be afraid, my daughter. I
will do for you whatever you request, since all
my fellow townspeople know that you are a
woman of noble character.
12 Yes, it is true that§ I am a
kinsman-redeemer, but there is a redeemer
nearer than I.*
13 Stay here tonight, and in the morning, if he
wants to redeem you, good. Let him redeem
you. But if he does not want to redeem you, as
surely as the LORD lives, I will. Now lie here
until morning."
14 So she lay down at his feet until morning,
but she got up before anyone else could
recognize her.
Then Boaz said, "Do not let it be known that a
woman came to the threshing floor."
15 And he told her, "Bring the shawl you are
wearing and hold it out." When she did so, he

† **3:9 3:9** Or *Spread your wing*; the word for *wing* can also mean *corner of a garment*; see Ruth 2:12. ‡ **3:9 3:9** The Hebrew word for *kinsman-redeemer* or *guardian-redeemer* is a legal term for the kinsman who redeems or vindicates a relative; similarly in verses 12 and 13; see Leviticus 25:25–55. § **3:12 3:12** Ketiv adds *if*, not read * **3:12 3:12** That is, more closely related

poured in six measures of barley† and placed it
on her. Then he went‡ into the city.
16 When Ruth returned to her mother-in-law,
Naomi asked her, "How did it go, my daughter?"
Then Ruth told her all that Boaz had done for
her.
17 And she said, "He gave me these six
measures of barley, for he said, 'Do not go back
to your mother-in-law empty-handed.' "
18 "Wait, my daughter," said Naomi, "until you
find out how things go, for he will not rest
unless he has resolved the matter today."

# 4

1 Meanwhile, Boaz went to the gate and sat
down there. Soon the kinsman-redeemer* of
whom he had spoken came along, and Boaz said,
"Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So
he went over and sat down.
2 Then Boaz took ten of the elders of the city
and said, "Sit here," and they did so.
3 And he said to the kinsman-redeemer,
"Naomi, who has returned from the land of
Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged
to our brother Elimelech.
4 I thought I should inform you that you may
buy it back in the presence of those seated here

† **3:15 3:15** Possibly six seahs (two ephahs), or approximately 39.6 dry quarts or 43.8 liters (about 58 pounds or 26.3 kilograms of barley) ‡ **3:15 3:15** Most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, Vulgate, and Syriac *she went* * **4:1 4:1** The Hebrew word for *kinsman-redeemer* or *guardian-redeemer* is a legal term for the kinsman who redeems or vindicates a relative; also in verses 3, 6, 8, and 14; see Leviticus 25:25–55.

and in the presence of the elders of my people.
If you want to redeem it, do so. But if he† will
not redeem it, tell me so I may know, because
there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am
next after you."
"I will redeem it," he replied.
5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land
from Naomi and also from Ruth the Moabitess,
you must also acquire‡ the widow of the
deceased in order to raise up the name of the
deceased on his inheritance."
6 The kinsman-redeemer replied, "I cannot
redeem it myself, or I would jeopardize my own
inheritance. Take my right of redemption,
because I cannot redeem it."
7 Now in former times in Israel, concerning
the redemption or exchange of property, to
make any matter legally binding a man would
remove his sandal and give it to the other party,
and this was a confirmation in Israel.
8 So the kinsman-redeemer removed his
sandal and said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself."
9 At this, Boaz said to the elders and all the
people, "You are witnesses today that I am
buying from Naomi all that belonged to
Elimelech, Chilion, and Mahlon.
10 Moreover, I have acquired Ruth the
Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, to raise
up the name of the deceased through his
inheritance, so that his name will not disappear

† **4:4 4:4** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; many Hebrew manuscripts, LXX, Vulgate, and Syriac *you* ‡ **4:5 4:5** Qere; Ketiv *I also acquire*

from among his brothers or from the gate of his
home. You are witnesses today."
11 "We are witnesses," said the elders and all
the people at the gate. "May the LORD make the
woman entering your home like Rachel and
Leah, who together built up the house of Israel.
May you be prosperous in Ephrathah and
famous in Bethlehem.
12 And may your house become like the house
of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of
the offspring the LORD will give you by this
young woman."
13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife.
And when he had relations with her, the LORD
enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a
son.
14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be
the LORD, who has not left you this day without
a kinsman-redeemer. May his name become
famous in Israel.
15 He will renew 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 given him birth."
16 And Naomi took the child, placed him on
her lap, and became a nurse to him.
17 The neighbor women said, "A son has been
born to Naomi," and they named him Obed. He
became the father of Jesse, the father of David.
18 Now these are the generations of Perez:

Perez was the father of Hezron,
19 Hezron was the father of Ram,
Ram was the father of Amminadab,

20 Amminadab was the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon was the father of Salma,§
21 Salmon was the father of Boaz,
Boaz was the father of Obed,
22 Obed was the father of Jesse,
and Jesse was the father of David.

§ **4:20 4:20** Leningrad Codex and most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts, some LXX manuscripts, and Vulgate (see also verse 21 and LXX of 1 Chronicles 2:11) *Salmon*

# Masoretic English Tanakh

## The Tanakh (Law, Prophets, and Writings) of the Holy Bible in English, conformed to the Masoretic Text.

Public Domain

Language: English

Dialect: American

Extracted from the Berean Standard Bible 2026 and conformed to the Masoretic Text, as represented by the Westminster Leningrad Codex by David Kaye. Dedicated by David Kaye to the Public Domain 13 October 2026. The base Berean Standard Version was dedicated to the Public Domain by their translation team.

2026-11-06

---

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 6 Nov 2026 from source files dated 6 Nov 2026
57a43e4f-c98f-5585-a058-a31edbd6ec60