

## RUTH

<sup>1</sup> In the days of one judge, when judges were sovereigns *in Israel*, hunger was made in the land; and a man of Bethlehem of Judah went to be a pilgrim in the country of Moab, with his wife and *[his]* two free sons. *(In the days of the judges, when they were the rulers in Israel, there was hunger in the land; and a man of Bethlehem of Judah went to live in the country of Moab, with his wife and their two sons.)*

<sup>2</sup> He was called Elimelech, and his wife *(was)* Naomi, and his two sons, the one *was called* Mahlon, and the tother Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem of Judah; and they entered into the country of Moab, and they dwelled there, *(or and they went to the country of Moab, and they lived there).*

<sup>3</sup> And Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she *(was)* left with her sons;

<sup>4</sup> and they took wives of Moab, of which wives one was called Orpah, the tother Ruth. And the sons dwelled there ten years *(or And the sons lived there for ten years),*

<sup>5</sup> and both died, that is, Mahlon and Chilion; and the woman *(was)* left, and was made bare of her two free sons, and her husband. *(and then both of them died, that is, Mahlon and Chilion; and so the woman was bereaved of her two sons, and her husband.)*

<sup>6</sup> And she rose to go with ever either wife of her sons into her country from the country of Moab; for she had heard, that the Lord had beheld his people, and had given meats to them. *(And she rose up to go with the wives of both of her sons back to her country from the country of Moab; for she had heard, that the Lord had looked kindly again upon his people, and had given them food.)*

<sup>7</sup> And so she went out from the place of her pilgrimage with ever either wife of her sons; and now when she was set in the way of turning again into the land of Judah, *(And so she went out from the place where she lived with the wives of both of her sons; and now when she was set on the way, returning to the land of Judah,)*

<sup>8</sup> she said to them, Go ye *(again)* into the house of your mother; the Lord do mercy with you, as ye did with the dead men, and with me;

<sup>9</sup> the Lord give to you to find rest in the houses of *[the]* husbands which ye shall take. And she kissed them. And they began to weep with *(a)* high voice,

<sup>10</sup> and to say, We shall go with thee to thy people.

<sup>11</sup> To whom she answered, My daughters, turn ye again, why come ye with me? I have no more sons in my womb, that ye may hope husbands of me; *(To whom she answered, My daughters, return ye home, why come ye with me? I have no more sons in my womb, that ye may have any hope of husbands from me;)*

<sup>12</sup> my daughters of Moab, turn ye again, and go, *(or my daughters of Moab, return ye, and go*

*home*); for now I am made eld, and I am not able to the bond of marriage; yea, though I might conceive in this night, and bear sons,

<sup>13</sup> though ye will abide till they waxed, and [*ful*] fill the years of marriage, ye shall sooner be eld women than ye shall be wedded; I beseech (*thee*), my daughters, mourn ye not, for your anguish oppresseth me the more, and the hand of the Lord is gone out against me.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, when the voice was raised (*up*), again they began to weep. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, and turned again, and Ruth abode with her mother-in-law, (*or And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, and returned home, but Ruth stayed with her mother-in-law*).

<sup>15</sup> To whom Naomi said, Lo! thy kinswoman turned again to her people, and to her gods; go thou with her.

<sup>16</sup> And Ruth answered, Be thou not against me, that I forsake thee, and go away; whither ever thou shalt go, I shall go, and where thou shalt dwell, I shall dwell together (*with thee*); thy people is my people, and thy God is my God; (*And Ruth answered, Be thou not against me, that I should desert thee, and go away from thee; wherever thou shalt go, I shall go, and where thou shalt live, I shall live with thee; thy people is my people, and thy God is my God;*)

<sup>17</sup> what land shall receive thee dying, I shall die therein *also*, and there I shall take place of burying; God do to me these things, and add these things, if death alone shall not part me and thee. (*whatever land shall receive thee when*

*thou diest, I shall die there also, and that shall be the place where I am buried; yea, God do to me terrible things, and add other things as well, if anything but death separate me and thee.)*

<sup>18</sup> Therefore Naomi saw, that Ruth had deemed with steadfast soul to go with her, and she would not be against her, neither counsel further turning again to her *countrymen*, (*or and so she would not be against her; nor further counsel her to return to her own people*).

<sup>19</sup> And (*so*) they went forth together, and came into Bethlehem; and when they entered into the city, swift fame (*a*)rose with all men, and women said, This is that Naomi.

<sup>20</sup> To whom she said, Call ye not me Naomi, *that is, fair*, but call ye me Mara, *that is, bitter*; for Almighty God hath filled me greatly with bitterness. (*To whom she said, Do not ye call me Naomi, or Delightful, or Pleasant, but call ye me Mara, or Bitter; for Almighty God hath filled me with great bitterness.*)

<sup>21</sup> I went out full, and the Lord led me again void; why therefore call ye me Naomi, whom the Lord hath made low, and (*whom*) Almighty God hath tormented?

<sup>22</sup> Therefore Naomi came with Ruth of Moab, the wife of her son, from the land of her pilgrimage, and turned again into Bethlehem, when barley was reaped first. (*And so Naomi came with Ruth the Moabite, her son's wife, from the land where she had lived, and returned to Bethlehem with her; when the barley was first harvested.*)

## CHAPTER 2

<sup>1</sup> Forsooth (*there was*) a mighty man and a man of great riches, Boaz by name, (*who*) was (*a*) kinsman of Elimelech.

<sup>2</sup> And Ruth of Moab said to her mother-in-law, If thou commandest, I shall go into the field, and I shall gather ears of corn that flee the hands of (*the*) reapers, wherever I shall find grace of an husbandman merciful in me (*or wherever I shall find favour from a farmer; who is merciful to me*). To whom she answered, Go, my daughter.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore she went, and gathered ears of corn after the backs of (*some*) reapers. And it befelled, that Boaz was (*the*) lord of that field, (*he*) that was of the kindred of Elimelech.

<sup>4</sup> And lo! (*one day*) Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to his reapers, The Lord be with you. And they answered to him, The Lord bless thee.

<sup>5</sup> And Boaz said to the young man that was chief over the reapers, Who is this damsel?

<sup>6</sup> And he answered, This is the woman of Moab, that came with Naomi from the country of Moab;

<sup>7</sup> and she prayed, that she should gather ears of corn leaving behind, and follow the steps of [*the*] reapers; and from the morrowtide till now she standeth in the field, and soothly neither at a moment she turned again home. (*and she prayed us, that she could gather some ears of corn that were left behind, and follow the steps of the reapers; and so from the morning until now she standeth in the field, and not for a moment hath she purposed to return home.*)

<sup>8</sup> And Boaz said to Ruth, Daughter, hear thou; go thou not into another field to gather, neither go (*thou*) away from this place, but be thou joined to my damsels,

<sup>9</sup> and follow thou where they reap; for I [*have*] commanded to my young men, that no man be dis-easeful to thee; but also if thou thirstest, go to the fardels, and drink waters, of which my young men drink, (*or and if thou thirstest, go and drink from the water jars, which my young men have filled*).

<sup>10</sup> And she felled on her face, and worshipped on the earth; and she said to him, Whereof is this to me, that I should find grace before thine eyes, that thou wouldest know me, a strange woman? (*And she fell on her face, and honoured him on the ground; and she said to him, Whereof is this to me, that I should find favour in thine eyes, and that thou wouldest acknowledge me, who is but a stranger?*)

<sup>11</sup> To whom Boaz answered, All things be told to me, that thou hast done to thy mother-in-law after the death of thine husband, (*or All things have been told to me, what thou hast done for thy mother-in-law after the death of thy husband*), and that thou hast forsaken thy father and thy mother, and the land that thou were born in, and thou art come to a people, that thou hast not known before.

<sup>12</sup> The Lord yield to thee for thy work, and receive thou full meed of the Lord God of Israel, to whom thou camest, and under whose wings thou fleddest. (*May the Lord reward thee for thy*

*good deeds, yea, may thou receive thy full reward from the Lord God of Israel, to whom thou hast come, and under whose wings thou hast fled.)*

<sup>13</sup> And she said, My lord, I have found grace before thine eyes, and thou hast comforted me, and thou hast spoken to the heart of thine handmaid, which am not like

one of thine handmaids. *(And she said, My lord, for I have found favour in thine eyes, and thou hast spoken to the heart of thy servantess, though I am not equal to one of thy servantesses, yea, thou hast greatly comforted me.)*

<sup>14</sup> And Boaz said to her, When the hour of eating is, come thou hither, and eat bread, and wet thy morsel in vinegar. Therefore she sat at the side of *[the]* reapers; and he *(ad)*dressed *(or directed)* to her pottage, and she ate, and was filled; and she took the remnants. *(And Boaz said to her, When it is time to eat, come thou here, and eat bread, and wet thy morsel in the vinegar. And so she sat beside the reapers; and Boaz passed her some roasted grain, and she ate, and was fulfilled; and she took up the remnants.)*

<sup>15</sup> And she rose from thence to gather the ears of corn, by custom. And Boaz commanded to his young men, and said, Also if she will reap with you, forbid ye not her, *(And then she rose up from there to gather the ears of corn again, as was her custom. And Boaz commanded to his young men, and said, Yea, if she will reap with you, forbid ye her not,)*

<sup>16</sup> and also cast ye forth to her handfuls of purpose *(or and also throw ye forth to her some*

*handfuls on purpose*), and suffer ye those to abide, that she gather those without shame; and no man reprove her gathering *them*.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore she gathered in the field till to eventide; and she beat with a rod, and shook out those things that she had gathered; and she found of barley as the measure of *(an) ephah* *(or and she found that she had about a bushel of barley)*.

<sup>18</sup> Which she bare, and turned again into the city, and showed to her mother-in-law; furthermore she brought forth, and gave to her the remnants of her meat, with which meat she was *(ful)filled*. *(Which she carried, and returned to the city, and showed to her mother-in-law; and she also brought forth, and gave her the remnants of her food, with which food she was fulfilled.)*

<sup>19</sup> And her mother-in-law said to her, Where hast thou gathered *this* today, and where hast thou done *(all)* this work? Blessed be he, that had mercy on thee. And Ruth told to her mother-*(in-law)* with whom she *(had)* wrought; and she said that the man's name was called Boaz.

<sup>20</sup> To whom Naomi answered, Blessed be he of the Lord, for he *[hath]* kept also to dead men the same grace, which he gave to the quick. And again she said, He is our kinsman. *(To whom Naomi answered, May the Lord bless him; yea, the Lord hath given the same favour to the living, as to the dead. And she said to Ruth, He is our kinsman.)*

<sup>21</sup> And Ruth said, Also he commanded this thing to me, that so long I should be joined to



his reapers, till all his corns were reaped. (*And Ruth said, And he also commanded this to me, that I should be joined to his reapers, until all his grain was harvested.*)

<sup>22</sup> To whom her mother-in-law said, My daughter, it is better, that thou go out to reap with his damsels, lest in another field any man against-stand thee.

<sup>23</sup> And so Ruth was joined to the damsels of Boaz; and so long she reaped with them, till both the barley and the wheat were closed in the barns. (*And so Ruth was joined to Boaz's young women; and she worked with them, until all the barley and the wheat were harvested, and enclosed in the barns.*)

## CHAPTER 3

<sup>1</sup> And after that Ruth had turned (*again*) to her mother-in-law, she heard of her, My daughter, I shall seek rest to thee, and I shall purvey that it be well to thee. (*And sometime later, when Ruth had returned to her mother-in-law, Naomi said to her, My daughter, I shall seek rest for thee, and I shall purvey that it be well with thee.*)

<sup>2</sup> This Boaz, to whose damsels thou were joined (*to*) in the field, is our kinsman, and in this night he winnoweth the cornfloor of barley (*or and tonight he thresheth barley at his threshing floor*).

<sup>3</sup> Therefore be thou washed, and anointed, and be thou clothed with more honest clothes, and go thou down into the cornfloor; the man see not thee, till he have ended to eat and to drink. (*And so be thou washed, and anointed, and be thou clothed with more honourable, or your best,*

*clothes, and then go thou down to the threshing floor; but do not let the man see thee until he hath finished eating and drinking.)*

<sup>4</sup> Forsooth when he goeth to sleep, mark thou the place in which he sleepeth; and thou shalt come, and uncover the cloth (*or the cloak*), with which he is covered, from the part of the feet, and thou shalt cast thee down, and thou shalt lie there. Forsooth he shall say to thee, what thou oughtest to do.

<sup>5</sup> And Ruth answered, Whatever thing thou commandest to me, I shall do.

<sup>6</sup> And she went down into the cornfloor (*or And she went down to the threshing floor*), and did all things which her mother-in-law commanded to her.

<sup>7</sup> And when Boaz had eaten and (*had*) drunk, and was made more glad, and had gone to sleep beside the mound of sheaves, Ruth came, and hid herself; and when the cloth was uncovered from his feet, she casted down herself, (*or and she turned back the cloak over his feet, and lay herself down*).

<sup>8</sup> And lo! now at midnight, the man dreaded, and was troubled, (*or And behold! at midnight, the man was startled, or was afraid, and he woke up from his sleep*); and he saw a woman lying at his feet;

<sup>9</sup> and he said to her, Who art thou? She answered, I am Ruth, thine handmaid; stretch forth thy cloth on thy servantess, for thou art nigh of kin. (*and he said to her, Who art thou? She answered, I am Ruth, thy servantess; stretch*

*forth thy cloak over thy servantess, for thou art my next of kin.)*

<sup>10</sup> And he said, Daughter, thou art blessed of the Lord, and thou hast overcome the former mercy with the latter (*or and now thou hast surpassed thy earlier proof of family devotion, or loyalty, with this one*); for thou followedest not young men, poor either rich.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, do not thou dread, but whatever thing thou shalt say to me, I shall do to thee; for all the people that dwelleth within the gates of my city know, that thou art a woman of virtue. (*And so, do not thou fear, but whatever that thou shalt ask of me, I shall do for thee; for all the people who liveth within the gates of my city know, that thou art a woman of virtue.*)

<sup>12</sup> And I forsake not, that I am of nigh kin, but another man is nearer kin than I; (*And I do not deny, that I am your close kin, but another man is a closer kin than I;*)

<sup>13</sup> (*so*) rest thou here this night, and when the morrowtide is made, if the man will hold thee to wife by right of nigh kin (*or if the man will make thee his wife by right of next of kin*), (*then*) the thing is well done; and if he will not, (*then*) I shall take thee without any doubt, (*as*) the Lord liveth; (*so*) sleep thou till the morrowtide.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore she slept at his feet till to the going away of [*the*] night, and then she rose (*up*), before that men should know each other. And Boaz said to her, Be thou ware lest any man know, that thou camest hither.

15 And again he said, Stretch forth thy mantle with which thou art covered, and hold thou with ever either hand. And while she stretched forth and held, he meted six measures of barley, and putted on her; and she bare, and entered into the city, *(And then he said, Stretch forth thy mantle with which thou art covered, and hold thou it with both hands. And while she stretched it forth and held it, he measured, or counted, out six measures of barley, and put it on her mantle; and she carried it, and went into the city,)*

16 and came to her mother-in-law. Which said to Ruth, What hast thou done, daughter? And Ruth told to her all things, which the man had done to her. *(and came home to her mother-in-law. And Naomi said to Ruth, What happened, my daughter? And Ruth told her all the things, that the man had done for her.)*

17 And Ruth said, Lo! he gave to me six measures of barley; and he said, I will not that thou turn again void to thy mother-in-law. *(And Ruth added, Behold! he gave me six measures of barley; for he said, I will not have it that thou return empty-handed to thy mother-in-law.)*

18 And Naomi said, Abide, daughter, till we see what issue the thing shall have, *(or And Naomi said, Just wait, or Have patience, daughter, until we see what shall happen);* for the man shall not cease, no but he *[ful]* fill those things which he spake.

## CHAPTER 4

1 Therefore Boaz ascended to the gate, and sat

there, (*or And so Boaz went up to the gate, and sat down there*); and when he had seen the kinsman pass forth, of whom the word was had, Boaz said to him, Bow thou a little, and sit here; and he called him by his name. And he turned (*back*), and sat (*down*).

<sup>2</sup> And Boaz took ten elder men of the city, and he said to them, Sit ye down here. And while they sat (*or And when they had sat down*),

<sup>3</sup> Boaz spake to the kinsman, (*and said*), Naomi, that turned again from the country of Moab, sold, *that is, is in purpose to sell, for it was not yet sold*, the part of the field of our brother Elim-elech, (*Boaz said to his kinsman, Our kinswoman Naomi, who hath returned from the country of Moab, is selling the portion of the field, that was Elimelech's, our kinsman,*)

<sup>4</sup> which thing I would that thou hear; and I would say to thee before all men sitting, and greater in birth of my people. If thou wilt have in possession the field by right of nigh kin, buy thou, and have thou in possession; soothly if it displeaseth thee, show thou this same thing to me, that I know what I ought to do; for none is nigh in kin, besides thee which art the former, and besides me which am the second. And the man answered, I shall buy the field. (*which thing I desire that thou hear about; and I say it to thee before all the men sitting here, and of great age, that is, the elders, of my people. If thou wilt have the field for a possession by right of next of kin, buy thou it, and have thou it for a possession; but if it displeaseth thee, tell thou this to me, so that*

*I know what I ought to do; for no one is next of kin, besides thee, who art the first by right, and I, who am the second. And the man answered, I shall buy the field.)*

<sup>5</sup> To whom Boaz said, When thou hast bought the field (out) of the hand of the woman, thou oughtest also to take to wife Ruth of Moab, that was the wife of the dead man, that thou raise the name of thy kinsman in his heritage. *(To whom Boaz then said, And when thou hast bought the field from the hand of the woman, thou ought also to take for a wife Ruth the Moabite, who was the wife of the dead man, so that thou can raise up the name of thy kinsman on his inheritance, that is, on his land.)*

<sup>6</sup> And he answered, I forsake the right of nigh kin; for I ought not to do away the heritage of mine own family; use thou my privilege, the which I acknowledge me to want gladly. *(And the man answered, If that be so, then I forsake the right of next of kin; for I ought not to take away any inheritance from my own family; use thou my privilege, though I acknowledge that I truly had wanted that land.)*

<sup>7</sup> Forsooth this was the custom by eld time in Israel among kinsmen, that if a man gave his right to another man, that the granting were steadfast, the man should unlace his shoe, and give it to his kinsman; this thing was *(the)* witnessing of *(such)* a gift in Israel.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore Boaz said to his kinsmen, Take off thy shoe from thee; and he unlaced it anon from

his foot (*or and at once he unlaced his shoe and took it off his foot*).

<sup>9</sup> And Boaz said to the greater men in birth, and to all the people, Ye be witnesses today, that I have taken in possession all things that were of Elimelech, and of Chilion, and of Mahlon, by the gift of Naomi; (*And Boaz said to the men of great age, that is, the elders, and to all the people there, Ye be my witnesses today, that I have taken in possession all the things that were Elimelech's, and Chilion's, and Mahlon's, by purchasing them from Naomi;*)

<sup>10</sup> and that I have taken into wedlock Ruth of Moab, the wife of Mahlon, that I raise up the name of the dead man in his heritage; lest his name be done away from his family, and from his brethren, and his people. Ye, he said, be witnesses of this thing. (*and that I have also taken into wedlock Ruth of Moab, the wife of Mahlon, so that I can raise up the name of the dead man on his inheritance, that is, on his land; lest his name be done away from his family, and from his kinsmen, and from his people. Ye be my witnesses of this, he said.*)

<sup>11</sup> All the people, that was in the gate, answered, and the greater men in birth, (*and said*), We be witnesses; the Lord make this woman, that entereth into thine house, as Rachel and Leah, that builded the house of Israel, that she be ensample of virtue in Ephratah, and have a solemn name in Bethlehem; (*And all the people, and the men of great age, or the elders, who were there at the city gate, answered, We be thy*

witnesses; *may the Lord make this woman, who entereth into thy house, like Rachel and Leah, who built the house of Israel, and may she be an example of virtue in Ephratah, and have a famous name in Bethlehem;*)

<sup>12</sup> and thine house be made as the house of Pharez, whom Tamar childed to Judah, of the seed which the Lord shall give to thee of this damsel. *(and may thy house be made like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore for Judah, through the children, or the descendants, whom the Lord shall give thee by this young woman.)*

<sup>13</sup> Then Boaz took Ruth, and he took her to wife *(or and he made her his wife)*; and he entered to her, and the Lord gave to her, that she conceived, and childed a son.

<sup>14</sup> And women said to Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which suffered not, that an heir failed to thy family, and his name were called in Israel; *(And the women said to Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, who hath not left thy family without an heir; may his name be known in all of Israel;)*

<sup>15</sup> and that thou have *(him)*, that shall comfort thy soul, and nourish thine old age. For *a child* is born of thy daughter-in-law, that shall love thee, and he is better to thee, than if thou haddest seven sons. *(and that thou have him, who shall comfort thy soul, and nourish thy old age. For a child is born of thy daughter-in-law, who loveth thee, yea, she hath done more for thee than if thou haddest seven sons.)*

<sup>16</sup> And Naomi putted the child, whom she received, in her bosom, *(or And Naomi took the*



*child, and put him in her bosom*); and she did the office of a nurse, and of a bearer-about.

<sup>17</sup> And [*the*] women neighbours thanked her, *or joyed together with her*, and said, A son is born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed. This is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

<sup>18</sup> These be the generations of Pharez; Pharez begat Hezron; (*For these be the descendants of Perez; Perez begat Hezron;*)

<sup>19</sup> Hezron begat Ram; Ram begat Amminadab;

<sup>20</sup> Amminadab begat Nahshon; Nahshon begat Salmon;

<sup>21</sup> Salmon begat Boaz; Boaz begat Obed;

<sup>22</sup> Obed begat Jesse; Jesse begat David the king. (*Obed begat Jesse; and Jesse begat David, the king of Israel.*)

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#### **Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling (Enhanced)**

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