

# RUTH

## Conversational Version

### Elimelech's Family Moves to Moab

**1:**<sup>1</sup>Judges were ruling when a famine came over the country. A man from Bethlehem in Judah went with his wife and sons to stay in Moab. <sup>2</sup>His name was Elimelech, his wife was Naomi, and his sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites. <sup>3</sup>But Elimelech died and Naomi was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>They married Moabite wives Orpah and Ruth. They lived there about 10 years, <sup>5</sup>and Mahlon and Chilion died too. So Naomi lost her husband and both sons.

**Ruth 1:1-5**

### Naomi and Ruth Return

**6-7**With her daughters-in-law she started to go back from Moab, because she'd heard that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. <sup>8</sup>She told them,

*"Both of you, go to your mother's house. May the LORD deal graciously with you, as you have with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup>May he grant you to find a home in your husband's house."*

She kissed them. They cried <sup>10</sup>and said to her, "No, we'll go with you to your people."

**11**But Naomi said, "Go back, my daughters. Why go with me? Can I still have sons to become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>I'm too old to have a husband. If I said I have hope, even if I should have a husband tonight and have sons, <sup>13</sup>would you wait till they were grown? Would you hold back from marrying? No, it's really bitter for me that the LORD has worked against me."

**Ruth 1:6-13**

**14**Then they cried out loud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. **15**Naomi said, "See, your-sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

**16**But Ruth said,

*"Don't ask me not to follow you. I'll stay where you stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. <sup>17</sup>I'll die where you die and be buried there. The LORD do so to me and more if even death separates me from you."*

**18**When Naomi saw she was determined to go with her, she didn't say anything more.

**19**The two of them went on to Bethlehem. When they got there, the whole town was stirred. The women said, "Is this Naomi?"

**20***"Don't call me Naomi, call me Mara. The Almighty has dealt 'bitterly' with me. <sup>21</sup>I went away full; he brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has made me suffer; the Almighty has brought me misfortune."*

<sup>22</sup>So Naomi came back, and Ruth came with her. They reached Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Ruth 1:14-22

### Ruth Meets Boaz

<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Naomi's husband Elimelech had a wealthy relative named Boaz. <sup>2</sup>Ruth said to Naomi, "Let me go glean among the heads of grain after one that might take an interest in me." "Go ahead, my daughter."

<sup>3</sup>She went and gleaned behind the harvest crew. She happened to come to the part of the field that belonged to Boaz. <sup>4</sup>He came from Bethlehem and said to the crew, "The LORD be with you."

They said, "The LORD bless you."

<sup>5</sup>He asked the crew chief, "Whose young woman is this?"

<sup>6</sup>"She's the Moabite that came back with Naomi. <sup>7</sup>She asked to glean behind the harvest crew among the bundles. She came and stayed since morning. She's been sitting in the house for a little while."

Ruth 2:1-7

<sup>8</sup>Boaz told Ruth,

"Listen carefully, my daughter. Don't glean anywhere else. Stay here with my maids. <sup>9</sup>Watch which field they harvest and follow them. I've warned the young men not to bother you. When you're thirsty, go to the water jars and drink what the servants draw."

<sup>10</sup>She fell on her face, bowing to the ground, "Why have I been pleasing enough to you that you've paid attention to me? I'm a foreigner."

<sup>11</sup>Boaz said,

"I've heard what you've done for your mother-in-law after her husband died: you left your parents and the land where you were born and came to people you didn't know. <sup>12</sup>May the LORD God of Israel reward your work and pay your wages in full under whose wings you've taken refuge."

<sup>13</sup>She said, "You've been gracious to me, my lord. You've comforted me and talked nice to me, though I'm not one of your workers."

Ruth 2:8-13

<sup>14</sup>At mealtime Boaz told her, "Come and eat some bread and dip your piece in the wine." She sat beside the harvest crew, and he served her roasted grain. She ate till she was satisfied and had some left over. <sup>15</sup>When she got up to glean, Boaz told his men, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and don't get after her for it. <sup>16</sup>Pull some out from the bundles and leave it for her. Don't fuss at her."

<sup>17</sup>She gleaned in the field till evening. When she beat out what she'd gleaned, it was about 1.1 bushels <sup>1</sup>ephah of barley. <sup>18</sup>She picked it up and went into town, and her mother-in-law saw it. She gave Naomi what she had left after she'd had enough.

Ruth 2:14-18

<sup>19</sup>Her mother-in-law said, "Where'd you glean today? Where'd you work? May he who noticed you be fortunate."

*"I worked with a man named Boaz."*

**20** "The LORD bless him. He hasn't withdrawn his kindness to the living and the dead. He's one of our closest relatives."

**21** Ruth said, "Besides, he told me to stay close to his workmen till they've finished his harvest."

**22** Naomi said "It's good for you to go out with his maids so others won't harm you in another field."

**23** She gleaned close by Boaz's maids till the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest. She was living with her mother-in-law.

**Ruth 2:19-23**

### Ruth at the Threshing Floor

**3:1** Then Naomi told her,

*"Let me find a permanent home for you so things will go well for you. 2Isn't Boaz our relative the one whose maids you were with? 3Take a bath, anoint yourself, put on your best clothes, and go down to the threshing floor. Don't make yourself known to him till he's finished eating. 4Notice where he lies down and go uncover his feet and lie down. He'll tell you what to do." [5]*

**6** She went down to the threshing floor and did that. **7** When Boaz had eaten and drunk and was enjoying himself, he went to lie down at the end of the pile of grain. She came secretly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. **8** In the middle of the night, he was startled and bent forward, and a woman was lying at his feet.

**Ruth 3:1-8**

**9** He said, "Who are you?"

*"I'm Ruth. Spread your covering over me. You're a close relative."*

**10** "The LORD bless you, my daughter. You've shown your last kindness to be better than the first by not going after younger men, rich or poor. **11** Don't worry. I'll do what you ask, because my people in town know you're an excellent woman.

**12** I am a close relative, but there's one closer. **13** Stay tonight; in the morning, if he'll redeem you, all right. If he doesn't want to, I will, as sure as the LORD lives. Lie down till morning."

**14** She lay at his feet till morning and got up before people could recognize one another. He said, "No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor. **15** Hold out the cloak you're wearing." She held it out, and he laid six measures of barley on her, and she went into town.

**16** When she got to her mother-in-law, she asked her what happened.

She told her what he'd done, **17** "He gave me these six measures of barley and said not to go to my mother-in-law empty-handed."

**18** "Wait till you find out how the matter goes. He won't rest till he's settled it today."

**Ruth 3:9-18**

## Boaz Marries Ruth

**4:1** Boaz went up to the gate and sat down, and the close relative went past. He said, “Come over here, my friend, and have a seat.” He went over and sat down. **2** He had ten elders of the town sit down there. **3** He told the closest relative, “Naomi is back from Moab and has to sell the ground that belonged to our relative Elimelech. **4** I thought to inform you to buy it with my people sitting here as witnesses. If you’ll redeem it, redeem it. If not, tell me so I’ll know. There’s nobody but you to redeem it. I’m after you.””

“I’ll redeem it.”

**5** “When you buy the field from Naomi, you also need to acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of the deceased, to maintain title to his inheritance.”

**6** The close relative said, “I can’t do that. I’d jeopardize my own inheritance. You redeem it. Take my right of redemption.”

**Ruth 4:1-6**

**7** This was the former custom in Israel when they redeemed and exchanged land. To confirm the transaction, a man would remove his sandal and give it to the other one. **8** The closest relative told Boaz, “Buy it.” The other close relative took off his sandal. **9** Then Boaz told the elders and the people,

“You’re witnesses today that I’ve bought from Naomi everything that belonged to Elimelech, Chilion, and Mahlon. **10** I’ve acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife to maintain title to his inheritance, so his name won’t disappear from his relatives or the court in his birthplace.”

**11** The elders and people in court said,

“We’re witnesses. May the LORD make the woman that’s coming to your home like Rachel and Leah, who built the House of Israel. May you gain wealth in Ephrathah and become famous in Bethlehem. **12** May your house be like the House of Perez that Tamar bore to Judah, through the offspring the LORD gives by this young woman.”

**Ruth 4:7-12**

## The Genealogy of David

**13** Boaz married Ruth, and the LORD enabled her to have a son. **14** The women said to Naomi,

“Blessed is the LORD who has given you a redeemer today. May he become famous in Israel. **15** May he restore your life and sustain you in your old age. Your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”

**16** Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. **17** The neighbor women said, “Naomi has a son!” They named him Obed, who became father of Jesse father of David.

**18** This is the genealogy of their ancestor Perez:

Perez was father of Hezron,

<sup>19</sup>father of Ram, father of Amminadab,  
<sup>20</sup>father of Nahshon, father of  
Salmon, <sup>21</sup>father of Boaz,  
father of Obed, <sup>22</sup>father of Jesse. father of David.

**Ruth 4:13-22**

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