### Ruth

## Chapter 4

1Well, the [next morning], BoAz went and sat down at the [city] gate.  
  
Then {Look!} before long, he saw the man he’d told [Ruth] about, so he asked him to come and sit in a secluded spot. 2He also found ten of the city’s elders and asked them to come and sit with them. So, they all sat down together.  
  
3Then BoAz said to the relative:  
  
 ‘This matter is regarding the portion of the field that belonged to our brother EliMelech, which he passed on to NaOmi...  
  
 ‘Since she’s just returned from the land of MoAb, 4I thought that I should whisper in your ear and urge you to purchase the field before others in the city do so, or before the elders claim it, for you’re [EliMelech’s] closest living relative.  
  
 ‘However, if you aren’t interested in buying it, let me do that, since I’m next in line as his relative.’  
  
And [the man] replied:  
  
 ‘I’ll [claim it] as his next of kin!’  
  
5And BoAz said:  
  
 ‘Well, on the day that you buy the field from NaOmi, you must also take the Moabite woman, Ruth. For she was the [wife] of your dead relative, and you have to keep his name alive to receive his inheritance.’  
  
6Well at that, the relative said:  
  
 ‘Oh! Then I won’t be able to accept the responsibility of being his closest relative, for I’m afraid that it would ruin the rights of my own inheritors.  
  
 ‘So, you may go and claim the right.’  
  
7Now, it was the custom in IsraEl at the time (when it came to establishing matters to do with inheritances and such) for the man who [was giving up his right], to untie his sandal and give it to the one who would be the acting next-of-kin, as proof that the right of inheritance was being given to him.  
  
For this is how they testified to such things in IsraEl back then.  
  
8So when the relative told BoAz that he could buy it for himself and the right of inheritance would be his, he untied his sandal and gave it to BoAz...  
  
9Then BoAz said to the elders and to everyone else who was sitting there:  
  
 ‘You people are all eye-witnesses today that I’ve acquired the right to buy everything that belonged to EliMelech, ChiLion, and MahLon from NaOmi… 10Including Ruth, the Moabite woman.  
  
 ‘So I’ve now acquired MahLon’s woman as mine, and I’ll raise a [son] in the name of the one who died, so that his inheritance won’t be lost.  
  
 ‘For I’m his brother, and you and all the people at this gate are my witnesses.’  
  
11Well, the elders all agreed, saying:  
  
 ‘We are eye-witnesses. And may Jehovah make the woman who’s entering your home like RachaEl and LeAh who built the house of IsraEl!  
  
 ‘May they succeed in doing that in a powerful way in EphRatha, and in making a name in BethLehem.  
  
 12‘May your house become like the house of Perez, whom Thamar bore to Judah; and regarding your offspring, may Jehovah give you children from this maidservant.’  
  
  
13So BoAz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he [slept with] her and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son.  
  
14And thereafter, she said to NaOmi:  
  
 ‘May Jehovah be praised, because He didn’t rest until He provided a son for you today!  
  
 ‘May [this son] speak of your name in IsraEl, 15and may he restore life and nourishment to your grey hair; for your daughter-in-law has given birth to a good child who’s better than seven sons!’  
  
16Well after that, NaOmi took the boy and held him to her breasts, becoming his wet nurse. 17Then she called the neighbors in and named him…  
  
She said:  
  
 ‘Since NaOmi has now given birth to a son, I’ll call him Obed [meaning, Servant].’  
  
  
This one became the father of JesSe and the grandfather of David.  
  
18Now, these are the descendants of Perez:  
  
 • Perez fathered HezRon,  
 • 19HezRon fathered Aram,  
 • Aram fathered AmiNadab,  
 • 20AmiNadab fathered NaShon,  
 • NaShon fathered SalMon,  
 • 21SalMon fathered BoAz,  
 • BoAz fathered Obed,  
 • 22Obed fathered JesSe, and  
 • JesSe fathered David.

# 1 Samuel

1 Samuel is a history book.  
  
It’s usually pronounced as ‘First Samuel,’ although some say ‘One Samuel.’  
  
It’s the first part of a 4-part book, now known as 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings. The Septuagint traditionally calls these books 1 to 4 Kings.  
  
It was believed to be written SamuEl until it reaches chapter 25 where it records his death. At that point, tradition states that Gad and Nathan compiled or wrote the rest of the books. However, there are remarks added such as ‘to this day,’ which suggest that it was edited later on, possibly by Ezra.  
  
1 Samuel covers the time from Samuel’s birth until the death of King Saul and his son JoNathan.  
  
  
Large Septuagint differences  
  
Interestingly, the oldest manuscripts of the Greek Septuagint don’t feature the contradictory parts of the story of David and GoliAth. This shows that the confusing parts were, in fact, later additions. Our manuscripts don’t include them, so we cross out those texts. You’ll find these corrections in chapters 17 and 18.