

THE BOOKE OF RVTH

THE ARGVMENT OF THE BOOKE OF RVTH.

Amongst other things that happened to the people of Ifrael, in the time of the Iudges, this hiftorie of Ruth, to witt, her coming from Moab, her conuerfion to true Religion, godlie conuerfation, and mariage with Booz of the tribe of Iuda, is recorded, as a more principal matter. For that not onlie king Dauid, but confequently alfo our SAVIOVR, the Redemer of mankind defcended from her. VVherby was forefigned, that as faluation thus proceeded from the Gentiles together with the Iewes: fo the Gentiles are made partakers of the fame grace. More clerly prophecied, as S. Hierom noteth, by Ifai (*cap. 16.*) faying: *Send forth ô Lord the lambe, the Ruler of the earth, from the Rocke of the defert to the mount of the daughter of Sion.* That is, from Ruth the gentile to Hierufalem, or rather to the Church. This mariage of Ruth came to paffe about the time of Abefan Iudge. The booke was written, as is moft probable, by Samuel: and is diuided into foure chapters; whole contentes folow in their places.

Iudic. 12.

The hiftorie of Ruth is regeftred in holie Scripture, for the genealogie of Dauid, and efpecially of our Sauour Chrift.

Chapter 1

By occafion of famine Elimelech of Bethleem going with his wife Noemi, and two fonnes, into the Land of Moab, there dieth. 4. His fonnes marrie wiues of that countrie, and die without iffue. 6. Noemi returning homewardes hardly perfwadeth one of her daughters in law, to part from her. 15. The other, called Ruth, wil needes goe with her, profefing the fame God and Religion. 19. So thefe two arriue in Bethleem.

In the dayes of one Iudge, when the Iudges ruled, there came a famine in the Land. And there went a man of Bethleem Iuda, to feiourne in the

land of Moab with his wife, and two children. ² Himself was called Elimelech, and his wife, Noemi: and his two fonnes, the one Mahalon, and the other Chelion, Ephraites of Bethleem Iuda. And entring into the countrie of Moab, they abode there. ³ And Elimelech the husband of Noemi died: and she remained with her fonnes. ⁴ Who tooke wiues of the Moabites, of the which one was called Orpha, and the other Ruth. And they abode there ten yeares, ⁵ and both died, to witte, Mahalon and Chelion: and the woman remayned deftitute of her two children & her husband. ⁶ And she arofe to goe into her countrie with both her daughters in law from the countrie of Moab: for she had heard that our Lord had respected his people, & had geuen them victuals. ⁷ She therfore went forth from the place of her peregrination, with both her daughters in law: and being now fette in the way to returne into the Land of Iuda, ⁸ she faid to them: Goe into your mothers houle, our Lord doe mercie with you, as you haue done with the dead and with me. ⁹ Grant he vnto you to find rest in the houfes of your husbandes, which you shal take. And she kiffed them. Who lifting vp their voice beganne to weepe, ¹⁰ & to say: We wil goe on with thee to thy people. ¹¹ To whom she answered: Returne my daughters, why come you with me? shal I haue fonnes any more in my wombe, that you may hope for husbandes of me? ¹² Returne my daughters, and goe your wayes: for I am now spent with old age, and not fitte for wedlocke. Although I might conceiue this night, and beare children, ¹³ if you would expect til they grow, and be of mans age, you shal be old women before you marrie. Doe not fo my daughters, I besech you: for your distresse doth the more greue me, and the hand of our Lord is come forth againft me. ¹⁴ Therfore lifting vp their voice, they beganne to weepe agayne, Orpha kiffed her mother in law, and returned: Ruth cleaued to her mother in law, ¹⁵ to whom Noemi faid: Behold thy kinfewoman is returned to her people, and ^a)to her

^a Noemi perfwaded not to idolatrie, but infinuated that if Ruth would not returne to her countrie, she muft also leaue the falfe

goddess, goe with her. ¹⁶ Who answered: Be not against me, to the end that I should leave thee and depart: for whithersoever thou shalt goe, I will goe: and where thou shalt abide, I also will abide. Thy people my people, and thy God my God. ¹⁷ The land that shall receive thee dying, in the same will I die: and there will I take a place for my burial. These things does God to me, & these things adds he, if death onlie shall not separate me and thee. ¹⁸ Noemi therefore seeing, that Ruth with a fixed fast mind had determined to goe forward with her, would not be against it, nor persuade her any more to returne to her friends: ¹⁹ and they went forth together, and came into Bethlehem. Who being entered into the citie, a brute was quickly spread among them: and the women said: This is that Noemi. ²⁰ To whom she said: Call me not Noemi (that is to say, beautiful) but call me Mara (that is to say, bitter) because with bitterness hath the Almighty very much replenished me. ²¹ I went forth ^aful, and our Lord hath brought me backe empty. Why therefore does you call me Noemi whom our Lord hath humbled, and the Almighty hath afflicted? ²² Noemi therefore came with Ruth the Moabite her daughter in law, from the Land of her peregrination: and returned into Bethlehem, when barley was first reaped.

Chapter 2

Ruth gathering eares of corne in Booz field, 8. he kindly biddeth her tarry with his servants. 17. At night she returneth carrying good quantitie of corne, and part of the meate, which they gave her, to her mother in law.

A

nd Elimelech her husband had a son, a mighty man, and of great riches, named Boaz. ² And

goddess. And so she answered, that she would serve the same true God of Israel.

^a She had a husband and two sons, and sufficient provision, but now was bereaved of them all.

Ruth the Moabite said to her mother in law:
 If thou command, I wil goe into the field, and gather the
 eares of corne, that shal escape the handes of the reapers,
 wherefoeuer I fhall find the grace of the father of the
 house fauorable towards me. To whom she answered:
 Goe my daughter. ³ She went therefore and gathered the
 eares of corne after the backes of the reapers. And it
 chanced that the owner of the same field was Booz, who
 was of the kinred of Elimelech. ⁴ And behold, he came
 out of Bethlehem, and said to the reapers: ^a)Our Lord
 be with you. Who answered him: Our Lord bleffe thee.
⁵ And Booz said to the yongman, that was ouerfeer of the
 reapers: Whose maide is this? ⁶ To whom he answered:
 This is that Moabite, which came with Noemi, from the
 countrie of Moab, ⁷ and she desired that she might gather
 the eares of corne that remayne, following the steppes of
 the reapers: and from morning vntil now she stayeth in
 the field, and not so much as for a very moment hath
 she returned home. ⁸ And Booz said to Ruth: Heare me
 daughter, goe not into an other field to gather, neither
 depart thou from this place: but ioine thy selfe to my
 maides, ⁹ and where they haue reaped, follow. For I haue
 commanded my seruantes, that no man molest thee: but
 if thou shalt thirst also, goe to the fardels, and drinke
 the waters, wherof the seruantes also doe drinke. ¹⁰ Who
 falling on her face and adoring vpon the ground, said
 to him: Whence cometh this to me, that I should find
 grace before thine eyes, and that thou wouldest vouchsafe
 to know me a strange woman? ¹¹ To whom he answered:
 All things haue bene told me, which thou hast done to
 thy mother in law after the death of thy husband: and
 that thou hast leift thy parentes, and the land wherein
 thou wast borne, and art come to a people, which be-
 fore thou knewest not. ¹² Our Lord ^b)render vnto thee

^a The Church vfeth this salutation in the holie sacrifice and other
 diuine office.

^b Booz doubted not but reward was due to good workes.

for thy worke, and God grant thou mayest receiue ^{a)}a ful reward of our Lord the God of Ifrael, to whom thou art come, & vnder whose winges thou art fled. ¹³ Who said: I haue found grace in thine eyes my lord, which hath comforted me, and hath spoken to the heart of thy handmaide, which am not like to one of thy maides. ¹⁴ And Booz said to her: When the houre shall come to eate, come hither, and eate bread, and dippe thy morsel in the vinagre. She therefore sat at the side of the reapers, and she heaped to her selfe polent, and did eate and was filled, and tooke the leauinges. ¹⁵ And from thence she arose, to glean the eares of corne after her maner. And Booz commanded his seruantes, saying: Yea and if she wil reape with you, forbid her not: ¹⁶ and of your owne handfulls also cast forth of purpose, and let them remaine, that she may gather them without bashefulness, and gathering let no man controule her. ¹⁷ She gleaned therefore in the field vntil euening: & that which she had gathered beating with a rodde & threshing she found of barley as it were the measure of an ephi, that is, three bushels. ¹⁸ Which carying she returned into the citie, and shewed to her mother in law: moreouer she brought forth, and gaue her of the remaynes of her meate, wherewith she had bene filled. ¹⁹ And her mother in law said to her: Where hath thou gathered to day, and where hath thou wrought? blessed be he that hath had mercie on thee. And she told her with whom she had wrought: and she told the mans name, that he was called Booz. ²⁰ To whom Noemi answered: Be he blessed of our Lord: because the same grace, which he had shewed to the liuing, he hath kept also to the dead. And agayne she said: The man is our nigh cofin. ²¹ And Ruth, This also, quoth she, he commanded me, that so long I should ioine my self to the reapers, til all the corne were reaped. ²² To whom her mother in law said: It is better my daughter, that thou goe forth with his maides to reape, left in an other mans field some may refitt thee. ²³ She therefore ioyned

^a Yea a ful reward, answerable to Ruth pietie: VWhich must be spiritual and eternal.

her felf to the maides of Booz: and fo long reaped with them, til the barley and the wheate were layd vp in the barnes.

Chapter 3

Ruth instructed by her mother in law fleepeth at Booz feete, 8. and signifying that she perteyneth to him by the law of affinitie, receiueeth a good answer, 14. and fix meafures of barley.

But after that she was returned to her mother in law, she heard of her: My daughter, I wil feeke thee reft, and wil prouide that it may be wel with thee. ² This Booz, to whose maides thou art ioyned in the field, is our nigh kinfman, and this night he wynoweth the barne floore of the barley. ³ Wash therefore and annoynte thy felf, and put on thy better garmentes, and goe downe into the barne floore, let no man fee thee, til he shal haue ended eating & drinking. ⁴ And when he shal goe to fleepe, marke the place wherein he fleepeth: and thou shalt come, and difcouer the mantel wherwith he is couered toward his feete, and shal caft thy felf downe and lie there: ^a)and he wil tel thee what thou muft doe. ⁵ Who answered: Whatfoeuer thou shalt command, that wil I doe. ⁶ And she went downe into the barne floore, and did al the thinges which her mother in law had commanded her. ⁷ And when Booz had eaten, & drunken, and was made pleafant, and was gone to fleepe by the heape of sheaues, she came clofely, and difcouering the mantel, at his feete, layd her felf downe. ⁸ And behold, when it was now midnight the man was afrayd, and trubled: and he faw a woman lying at his feete, ⁹ and faid to her: Who art thou? And she answered: I am Ruth thy handmaide: fpred thy mantel vpon thy feruant, becaufe thou art nigh of kinne. ¹⁰ And he faid:

^a The euent fhewed that Noemi was inspired by God to geue fuch direction to Ruth, & to foretel what Booz would doe.

Blessed art thou of our Lord my daughter, and the former mercie thou hast passed with the later: because thou hast^a not followed young men either poore or rich. ¹¹ Feare not therefore, but whatsoever thou shalt say to me, I will doe to thee. For all the people that dwelleth within the gates of my citie, knowe, that thou art a woman of vertue. ¹² Neither doe I denie my self nigh of kinne, but there is an other neerer then I. ¹³ Rest this night: and when morning is come, if he will retayne thee by the right of nigh of kindred, the thing is well done, but if he will not, I will take thee without all doubt, our Lord liueth, sleepe vntil morning. ¹⁴ She slept therefore at his feete til the night was gone. Therefore she arose before men could know one another, and Boaz said: Beware lest any man know that thou camest hither. ¹⁵ And agayne: Spread, quoth he, thy mantel, wherewith thou art couered, and hold it with both hands. Who spreading and holding it, he measured six measures of barley, and put it vpon her. Who carrying it entered into the citie, ¹⁶ and came to her mother in law. Who said to her: What hast thou done daughter? And she told her all things, that the man had done to her. ¹⁷ And she said: Behold six measures of barley hath he given me, and he said: I will not haue thee returne empty to thy mother in law. ¹⁸ And Noemi said: Expect daughter til we see what end the thing will haue. For the man will not cease vntil he haue accomplished that which he hath spoken.

Chapter 4

Boaz before the ancients of the citie (the neerer kinsman refusing) possesseth the inheritance Elimelech, 10. and marieth Ruth. 13. Hath by her a sonne, the grandfather of Dauid. 18. Whose genealogie by this occasion is recited, from Phares the sonne of Iudas the patriarch.

^a It was very commendable that she loved her first husband and mother in law: but more vertue in fleeing occasion of sinne with young men, and seeking to marie according to the law of God with her former husbandes kinsman. *Deut. 25.*

Booz therefore went vp to the gate, and fate there. And when he had feene the nigh kinfman paffe by, of whom the talke was had before, he faid to him: Turne in a litle while, and fitte here: calling him by his name. Who turned in, and fate. ² And Booz taking ten men of the citie, faid to them: Sitte ye here. ³ Who fitting downe, he fpake to the nigh kinfman: Noemi, who is returned from the countrie of Moab, wil fel the part of the field belonging to ^aour brother Elimelech. ⁴ Which I would thee to vnderftand, and would tel thee before al that fitte, and the ancientes of my people. If thou wilt poffeffe it by the right of nigh kindred: bye, and poffeffe it. But if it pleafe thee not, tel me the fame, that I may know what I ought to doe. For there is no nigh kinfman fauing thee, which art firft, and me, who am fecond. But he answered: I wil bye the field. ⁵ To whom Booz faid: When thou shalt bye the field at the womans hand, thou muft take alfo Ruth the Moabite, which was the wife of the deceafed: that thou mayeft rayfe vp the name of thy kinfman in his inheritance. ⁶ Who answered: I yeld my right of nigh kindred: for I may not abolifh the pofteritie of myne owne familie. Doe thou vfe my priuiledge, which I profeffe that I doe willingly forgoe. ⁷ And ^bthis in old time was the maner in Ifrael betwen kinfemen, that if at any time one yelded to an other his right: that the graunt may be fure, the man put of his fhoe, and gaue it to his neighbour. This was a testimonie of yelding in Ifrael. ⁸ Booz therefore faid to his kinfman: Take of thy fhoe. Which immediatly he loofed from his foote. ⁹ But to the ancientes, and the whole people he faid: You are witneffes this day, that I haue purchafed al thinges which were Elimelechs; and Chelions and Mahalons, Noemi deliuering them: ¹⁰ and haue taken in

^a Booz calleth his kinfman brother, as Abraham called Lot his brother, *Gen. 13.* being *his Nephevv.*

^b See *Deut. 25.* noting here withal, that the penaltie was leffe, when an other kinfman vndertaking the marriage, the woman was preuëted from complayning before the iudge.

mariage Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahalon, that I may rayfe vp the name of the deceased in his inheritance, left his name be abolished out of his familie and brethren and people. You, I say, are witnesse of this thing. ¹¹ Al the people that was in the gate answered, and the ancientes: We are witnesse: Our Lord make this woman, which entereth into thy house, as Rachel, and Lia, which builded the house of Ifrael: that she may be an example of vertue in Ephrata, and may haue a famous name in Bethlehem: ¹² and that thy house may be, as the house of Phares, whom Tamar bare to Iudas, of the feede which our Lord shal geue thee of this yong woman. ¹³ Booz therefore tooke Ruth, and had her to wife: and went in vnto her, and our Lord gaue her to conceiue, and to beare a sonne. ¹⁴ And the women said to Noemi: Blessed be our Lord, which hath not suffered that there should fayle a successor of thy familie: that his name should be called in Ifrael. ¹⁵ And thou shouldest haue one that may comfort thy foule, and cherish thy old age. For of thy daughter in law is he borne, which wil loue thee: and much better is she to thee, then if thou hadst feuen sonnes. ¹⁶ And Noemi taking the child put it in her bosome, and did the office of a nourse and of one that should carie him. ¹⁷ And the women her neighbours congratulating her, and saying: There is a sonne borne to Noemi: called his name Obed: this is ^athe father of Ifai, the father of Dauid. ¹⁸ These are the generations of Phares: Phares begat Efron, ¹⁹ Efron begat Aram, Aram begat Aminadab, ²⁰ Aminadab begat Nahaffon, Nahaffon begat Salmon, ²¹ Salmon begat Booz, Booz begat Obed, ²² Obed begat Ifai, Ifai begat Dauid.

^a Here appeareth the final cause of writing this hystorie, to shew the Genealogie of King Dauid from Iudas the Patriarch, of whom Christ should descend, so prophesied: *Gen. 49.* and shewed to be performed: *Mat. 1.*

