

Naomi moves from Judah to Moab, and is left with two Moabite daughters-in-law

CHAPTER 1

1 And it was in the days of the judging by those who judged, and there was a famine in the land; and a man of Bethlehem Judah walked to turn aside in the fields of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

2 And the name of the man was Elimelech,² and the name of his wife *was* Naomi, and the name of his two sons *were* Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem Judah, and they came into the country of Moab, and were there.

3 And Elimelech, husband of Naomi, died, and she was left, she and her two sons.

4 And they took to themselves wives, women of Moab; the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the second *was* Ruth; and they sat down there about ten years.

5 And they died also, both of them, Mahlon and Chilion, and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

6 And she and her daughters in law rose, and returned from the fields of Moab, because she had attentively heard in the fields of Moab that Jehovah had visited his people to give food to them.

7 And she went out of the place there where she was, and her two daughters in law with her,

and they walked on the way to return to the land of Judah.

8 And Naomi said to her two daughters in law, Walk, each woman return to the house of her mother; Jehovah do mercy with you, what you have done with the dead and with me.

9 Jehovah give you to be at rest, each woman in the house of her husband. And she kissed them, and they lifted up their voice and wept.

10 And they said to her, No, we will return with you to your people.

11 And Naomi said, Turn back, my daughters; why will you walk with me? Are there still more sons in my womb that they should be for you husbands?

12 Turn back, my daughters, walk, because I am too old to be to a husband. If I should say, There exists to me a cord *of hope*, though I should be to a husband tonight, and though I should bear sons,

13 Would you expectantly watch for them until they were grown? Would you be shut up from being to husbands for them? No, my daughters, because it makes me very bitter for your sakes that the hand of Jehovah has gone out against me.

14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept still more, and Orpah kissed her mother in law, and Ruth clung to her.

² 1:2 **Elimelech** means God Of A King. **Naomi** means Pleasant; **Mahlon** means Sick; **Chilion** means Pining (Failing in Health); **Orpah** means Mane; **Ruth** means Friend.

RUTH 2 *Ruth vows to return to Judah with Naomi taking Jehovah as her God, and meets Boaz*

15 And she said, Behold, your sister in law has turned back to her people and to her gods; turn back after your sister in law.

16 And Ruth said, Do not impinge upon me to leave you, to turn back from after you, because wherever you walk, I will walk; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people *shall be* my people! And your God *shall be* my God!

17 Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried; thus may Jehovah do to me, and more also, because death alone shall separate me from you.

18 And she saw that she was powerfully alert to walk with her, and she ceased speaking to her.

19 And the two of them walked until they came to Bethlehem. And it was, when they had come to Bethlehem, that the whole city was agitated over them, and they said, This *is* Naomi?

20 And she said to them, Do not call me Naomi;²⁰ call me Mara, because the Almighty has caused me to be very bitter.

21 I walked out full, and Jehovah has turned me back empty; why do you call me Naomi; Jehovah has answered me, and the Almighty has done evil to me?

22 And Naomi returned, and Ruth, the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, who returned out of the fields of Moab, and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

²⁰ 1:20 Naomi means Pleasant, and Mara means Bitter.

CHAPTER 2

1 And to Naomi was one known to her husband, a mighty man of resources, of the family of Elimelech, and his name was Boaz.²

2 And Ruth, the Moabitess, said to Naomi, Let me please walk to the field, and glean ears of grain after him in whose eyes there shall be grace toward me. And she said to her, Walk, my daughter.

3 And she walked, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and her happening was to light upon the allotment of the field of Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, Jehovah be with you. And they answered him, Jehovah kneel down with goodness to you.

5 And Boaz said to his young man stationed over the reapers, Whose is this young woman?

6 And the young man stationed over the reapers answered, and said, A young woman, the Moabitess, who turned back with Naomi out of the fields of Moab;

7 And she said, Let me glean, please, and gather among the sheaves after the reapers; and she came, and has stood from the time of the dawn until now, except that she sat down a little in

² 2:1 Boaz means quickness or fleetness.

the house.

8 And Boaz said to Ruth, Do you not hear *me* attentively, my daughter? Do not walk to glean in another field; do not cross over from this, because you shall cling with my young women.

9 Your eyes shall be on the field which they reap, and walk after them; have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? When you thirst, walk to the vessels, and drink from what the young men draw.

10 And she fell on her face, and prostrated herself to the earth, and said to him, What *do you* know by seeing that there exists grace toward me in your eyes, that you should recognize me, and I, a stranger?

11 And Boaz answered, and said to her, Standing out boldly, it has been caused to stand out boldly to me all that you have done to your mother in law after the death of your husband, and you left your father, and your mother, and the land of your nativity, and walked to a people which you did not know by seeing before.

12 May Jehovah make your work complete, and be to you a complete reward from Jehovah, the God of Israel; you have come to trust under his wings.

13 And she said, Let there be grace to me in your eyes, my lord, because you have comforted me, and because you have spoken to the heart of your maidservant, though I am not one of your

maidservants.

14 And Boaz said to her, At the time of food you come here, and eat out of the food, and plunge your morsel in the vinegar. And she sat at the side of the reapers, and he handed to her roasted grain, and she ate, and was satisfied, and left some.

15 And she rose up to glean, and Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her;

16 And pulling out, you shall pull out also from the bundles for her, and leave them, and she shall glean, and you shall not rebuke her.

17 And she gleaned in the field until dusk, and knocked out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

18 And she took it up, and went into the city, and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned; and she brought out, and gave to her what was beyond her satisfaction.

19 And her mother in law said to her, In what place did you glean today? And where did you work? May he who recognized you be blessed. And she caused to stand out boldly to her mother in law with whom she had worked, and said, The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz.

20 And Naomi said to her daughter in law, Blessed is he of Jehovah, who has not left off his mercy with the living and with the dead. And Naomi said to her, The

RUTH 3 *Naomi sends Ruth to claim her right of redemption in the threshingfloor of Boaz*

man is near of kin to us; he is of our kinsmen redeemers.

21 And Ruth, the Moabitess, said, He said to me also, You cling firmly with my young men who are mine, until they have ended the whole harvest which is mine.

22 And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter in law, *It is good*, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, so that they do not impinge upon you in another field.

23 And she clung firmly with the young women of Boaz to glean to the end of barley harvest and of the wheat harvest, and she dwelt with her mother in law.

CHAPTER 3

1 And Naomi, her mother in law, said to her, My daughter, shall I not search out rest for you, that it may be well with you?

2 And now is not Boaz of our acquaintance, with whose young women you have been? Behold, he is winnowing barley in the threshingfloor tonight.

3 And you shall wash, and anoint yourself, and put your garments upon you, and go down to the threshingfloor; do not let yourself be known by being seen to the man until he has ended eating and drinking.

4 And it shall be, when he lies down you shall know by seeing the place there where he lies down, and you shall go, and uncover his feet, and lie down, and he will cause to stand out boldly

to you what you are to do.

5 And she said to her, I will do all that you say to me.

6 And she went down to the threshingfloor, and did all that her mother in law commanded her.

7 And Boaz ate, and drank, and his heart felt good, and he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came secretly, and uncovered his feet, and lay down.

8 And it was at the middle of the night, and the man trembled, and bent himself around, and behold, a woman was lying at his feet.

9 And he said, Who are you? And she answered, I am Ruth, your maidservant; and you shall spread out your wings over your maidservant, because you are a kinsman redeemer.

10 And he said, You are blessed of Jehovah, my daughter; you have done your mercy well at the last more than at the first; you did not walk after the young men, whether dangling in need or rich.

11 And now, my daughter, do not fear; I will do all that you say for you, because all the gate of my people know by seeing that you are a woman of resources.

12 And now, assuredly *it is* true that I *am* a kinsman redeemer, and also there exists a kinsman redeemer nearer than I.

13 Stay tonight, and it shall be in the dawn, if he will redeem you, good; he will redeem; also

if he is not inclined to redeem you, then I will redeem you; Jehovah lives; lie down until the dawn.

14 And she lay at his feet until the dawn, and she rose up before a man could recognize his neighbor. And he said, Let it not be known by seeing that a woman came into the threshingfloor.

15 And he said, Bring the wide cloak which is on you, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six of barley, and placed it on her; and she went into the city.

16 And she came to her mother in law, and she said, Who are you, my daughter? And she caused to stand boldly to her all that the man had done to her.

17 And she said, He gave me these six of barley, because he said to me, Do not go empty to your mother in law.

18 And she said, Sit down, my daughter, until that you know by seeing how the word will fall, because the man will not rest until he has finished the word today.

CHAPTER 4

1 And Boaz went up to the gate, and sat down there; and behold, the kinsman redeemer crossed over of whom Boaz had spoken; and he said, Turn aside, sit down here such a one. And he turned aside, and sat down.

2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, You sit down here. And they sat down.

3 And he said to the kinsman redeemer, Naomi who has returned from the fields of Moab will sell the allotment of the field which is to our brother Elimelech.

4 And I said, I will uncover your ear, saying, Set it up in front of the inhabitants, and in front of the elders of my people. If you will redeem, redeem, and if you will not redeem, cause it to stand out boldly to me, that I may know by seeing, because there is none to redeem except you, and I *am* after you. And he said, I will redeem.

5 And Boaz said, The day you set up the field from the hand of Naomi, then you have set up Ruth, the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.

6 And the kinsman redeemer said, I am not able to redeem for myself lest I destroy my inheritance; you redeem my right to redeem for yourself, because I am not able to redeem.

7 And facing back this was *the manner* to redeem and to exchange in Israel, to cause all words to rise and stand firm: a man pulled off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor, and this was evidence in Israel.

8 And the kinsman redeemer said to Boaz, Set it up for yourself. And he pulled off his shoe.

9 And Boaz said to the elders, and to all the people, You *are* witnesses today that I have set up all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and

RUTH 4

The genealogy of Boaz and Ruth

Mahlon's from the hand of Naomi.

10 And also Ruth, the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I have set up as my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead is not cut off from among his brethren and from the gate of his place; you *are* witnesses today!

11 And all the people who were in the gate, and the elders, said, We *are* witnesses! Jehovah give the woman who is coming to your house as Rachel and as Leah, of whom the two built the house of Israel; and make resources in Ephrath, and call out the name in Bethlehem.

12 And let your house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, of the seed which Jehovah shall give you out of this young woman.

13 And Boaz took Ruth, and she was wife to him; and he went in to her, and Jehovah gave her conception, and she bore a son.

14 And the women said to Naomi, Blessed Jehovah, who has not caused to cease from you a kinsman redeemer this day, and his name is called in Israel.

15 And he shall be to you a restorer of life, and a keeper of your old age, because your daughter in law, who loves you has borne him, she who is better to you than seven sons.

16 And Naomi took the child, and laid him in her bosom, and was believing for him.

17 And her neighbors called him a name, saying, A son has been born to Naomi, and they called his name Obed;¹⁷ he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

18 And these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begot Hezron,

19 And Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab,

20 And Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon,

21 And Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed,

22 And Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

¹⁷ 4:17 Obed means Serving.