

## RUTH

## Chapter 1

*Naomi and Ruth*

**1** ¶ Now it came to pass in the days when the <sup>a</sup>judges ruled, that there was a <sup>b</sup>famine in the land. And a certain man of <sup>c</sup>Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of <sup>d</sup>Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

**2** Now the name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife, Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, <sup>e</sup>Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. And they came into the <sup>f</sup>country of Moab and remained there.

**3** Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died. And she was left and her two sons.

**4** And they took for themselves wives of the women of Moab. The name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years.

**5** Then Mahlon and Chilion also died. And the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

**6** ¶ So she arose with her daughters-in-law so that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab how the Lord had <sup>g</sup>visited His people in <sup>h</sup>giving them bread.

**7** Therefore, she went forth out of the place where she was and her two daughters-in-law with her. And they

went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

**8** Now Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, <sup>i</sup>“Go. Return each of you to your mother's house. <sup>j</sup>The LORD may deal kindly with you as you have dealt <sup>k</sup>with the dead and with me.

**9** “The LORD grant that you may find <sup>l</sup>rest, each *of you* in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

**10** And they said to her, “Surely we will return with you to your people.”

**11** But Naomi said, “Return, my daughters. Why will you go with me? *Are there still more* sons in my womb <sup>m</sup>that they may be your husbands?”

**12** “Return, my daughters. Go *your way*, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, *and* I should have a husband tonight and also bear sons,

**13** “would you wait for them until they were grown? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters, for it grieves me much for your sakes that the <sup>n</sup>hand of the LORD has gone out against me.”

**14** And they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth <sup>o</sup>clung to her.

**15** ¶ And she said, “Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to <sup>p</sup>her

**Chapter 1:** a Jg 2:16-18 b Gn 12:10; 26:1 c Jg 17:8 d Gn 19:37 e Gn 35:19 f Jg 3:30 g Ex 3:16; 4:31 h Mt 6:11 i Ja 24:15 j 2 Tm 1:16-18 k Rt 2:20 l Rt 3:1 m Dt 25:5 n Jg 2:15 o Pv 17:17 p Jg 11:24

people and to her gods. <sup>a</sup>Return after your sister-in-law.”

**16** But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you *or* turn back from following you. For where you go, I will go. And where you lodge, I will lodge. <sup>s</sup>Your people *will be* my people and your God my God.

**17** “Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. <sup>v</sup>The LORD do so to me and more also, *if anything* but death separates you and me.”

**18** <sup>u</sup>When she saw that she was determined to go with her, then she said no more to her.

**19** ¶ So they both went until they came to Bethlehem. Now it came to pass when they had come to Bethlehem that <sup>v</sup>all the city was stirred about them. And they said, <sup>w</sup>“*Is this Naomi?*”

**20** And she said to them, “Do not call me Naomi. Call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

**21** “I went out full, but <sup>x</sup>the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why *then* call me Naomi, seeing the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?”

**22** ¶ So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law with her, who returned out of the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem <sup>y</sup>at the beginning of the barley harvest.

## Chapter 2

### Ruth Meets Boaz

**1** ¶ Now Naomi had a <sup>a</sup>kinsman of her husband’s, a mighty man of wealth of the family of <sup>b</sup>Elimelech. And his name *was* <sup>c</sup>Boaz.

**2** And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Let me go to the <sup>d</sup>field and the grain after *one* in whose sight I will find grace.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.”

**3** So she went and came and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field *belonging* to Boaz, who *was* of the family of Elimelech.

**4** ¶ And behold, Boaz came from <sup>e</sup>Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, <sup>f</sup>“The LORD *be* with you.” And they answered him, “The LORD bless you.”

**5** Then Boaz said to his servant who was set over the reapers, “Whose young woman *is* this?”

**6** And the servant who was set over the reapers answered and said, “It is the Moabite young woman <sup>g</sup>who came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab.

**7** “And she said, ‘Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.’ So she came and has continued even from the morning until now, except for a short rest in the house.”

**8** ¶ Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Listen carefully, my daughter? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here. But remain here with my servant girls.

**9** “*Let* your eyes *be* on the field that they reap, and go after them. I have

charged the young men that they not touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink of *that* which the young men have drawn.”

**10** Then she <sup>h</sup>fell on her face and bowed herself to the ground. And she said to him, “Why have I found <sup>h</sup>favor in your eyes that you should take notice of me, seeing I *am* a foreigner?”

**11** And Boaz answered and said to her, “It has fully been reported to me <sup>h</sup>all that you have done to your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and *how* you have left your father and your mother and the land of your nativity, and have come to a people that you did not previously know.

**12** <sup>k</sup>“The LORD repay your work. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, <sup>h</sup>under whose wings you have come to trust.”

**13** Then she said, <sup>m</sup>“Let me find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me, and indeed you have spoken kindly to your maidservant, <sup>n</sup>though I am not like one of your maidservants.”

**14** ¶ At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come over here. Eat of the bread and dip your morsel in the vinegar.” So she sat beside the reapers and he served her roasted grain. And she ate and <sup>o</sup>was satisfied and had some leftover.

**15** And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not insult her.

**16** “And allow some to fall purposely from the bundles for her, and

leave *them* so that she may glean *them*. And do not rebuke her.”

**17** ¶ So she gleaned in the field until evening. And she beat out what she had gleaned and it was about an ephah of <sup>p</sup>barley.

**18** So she took *it* up and went into the city. And her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. And she took *it* out and gave to her <sup>q</sup>what she had reserved after she was satisfied.

**19** Then her mother-in-law said to her, “Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed is he who <sup>r</sup>took notice of you.” And she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, “The man’s name with whom I worked today *is* Boaz.”

**20** Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, <sup>s</sup>“May he be blessed of the LORD who <sup>h</sup>has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and to the dead.” And Naomi said to her, “The man *is* a close relative to us. *He is* one of <sup>u</sup>our next kinsmen.”

**21** Then Ruth the Moabitess said, “He said to me also, ‘You will stay close by my young men until they have ended all my harvest.’”

**22** And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “*It is* good, my daughter, that you go out with his maidens so that you are not harmed in another field.”

**23** So she kept close by the maidens of Boaz to glean to the end of the barley harvest and of the wheat harvest. And she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

## Chapter 3

*Ruth & Boaz at the Threshing Floor*

1 ¶ Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, <sup>a</sup>should I not try to find a home for you so that it may <sup>b</sup>be well with you?”

2 “And now *is* not Boaz of our relatives, with <sup>c</sup>whose maidens you were? Behold, he winnows barley tonight in the threshing floor.

3 “Wash and <sup>d</sup>anoint yourself, therefore, and put on your clothes, and go down to the threshing floor. *But* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

4 “And it will be when he lies down, that you will mark the place where he lies. And you will go in and uncover his feet and lay down. Then he will tell you what you will do.”

5 So she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.”

6 ¶ Then she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law told her.

7 Now when Boaz had eaten and drunk and <sup>e</sup>his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. And she came softly and uncovered his feet and laid herself down.

8 ¶ Now it came to pass at midnight that the man was afraid and turned himself, *and* behold, a woman was lying at his feet.

9 And he said, “Who *are* you?” And she answered, “I *am* Ruth <sup>f</sup>your maid. Spread, therefore, your covering over your maid, for you *are* a <sup>g</sup>near kins-

man.”

10 Then he said, <sup>h</sup>“The LORD bless you, my daughter, *for* you have shown more kindness afterward than <sup>i</sup>at the beginning, inasmuch as you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.

11 “And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do to you all that you request, for all the city of my people know that you *are* a <sup>j</sup>virtuous woman.

12 “And now it is true that I *am* <sup>k</sup>your <sup>l</sup>near kinsman. However, <sup>m</sup>there is a kinsman closer than I.

13 “Remain this night and it will be in the morning *that* if he will <sup>n</sup>perform to you the part of a kinsman, good. Let him do the kinsman’s part. But if he will not do the part of a kinsman to you, then *as* <sup>o</sup>the LORD lives I will do the part of a kinsman to you. Lie down until the morning.”

14 ¶ So she lay at his feet until the morning, and she rose up before one could recognize another. And he said, <sup>p</sup>“Let it not be known that a woman came into the threshing floor.”

15 He also said, “Bring the veil that *you have* upon you and hold it.” And when she held it, he measured six *measures* of barley and laid *it* on her. And she went into the city.

16 And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “How did it go, my daughter?” And she told her all that the man had done for her.

17 And she said, “He gave me these six *measures* of barley, for he said to me, ‘Do not go empty to your mother-in-law.’”

Chapter 3: a 1 Tm 5:8 b Rt 1:9 c Rt 2:3,8 d 2 Sm 14:2 e Jg 19:6,9,22 f Ez 16:8 g Rt 2:20; 3:12 h Rt 2:20 i Rt 1:8 j Pv 12:4; 31:10-31 k Rt 3:9 l Rt 4:1 m Dt 25:10 n Jr 4:2; 12:16 o 1 Co 10:32

18 Then she said, <sup>p</sup>“Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out, for the man will not rest until he has finished the thing this day.”

## Chapter 4

### *Boaz Marries Ruth*

1 ¶ Then Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, <sup>a</sup>the kinsman of whom Boaz spoke came by, to whom he said, “Come over here, my friend and sit down.” And he turned aside and sat down.

2 And he took ten men of the <sup>b</sup>elders of the city and said, “Sit down here.” And they sat down.

3 Then he said to the kinsman, “Naomi, who has come again out of the country of Moab, is selling a parcel of land <sup>c</sup>that belonged to our brother Elimelech.

4 “And I thought to inform you, saying, <sup>d</sup>“Buy *it* <sup>e</sup>before those who are here and before the elders of my people. If you will redeem *it*, redeem *it*. But if you will not redeem *it*, <sup>f</sup>then tell me so that I may know, <sup>g</sup>for *there is no one to redeem it beside you, and I am after you.*” And he said, “I will redeem *it*.”

5 Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead <sup>h</sup>in order to raise up the name of the dead with his inheritance.”

6 <sup>b</sup>And the kinsman said, “I cannot redeem *it* for myself, lest I jeopard-

dize my own inheritance. Redeem my right for yourself, for I cannot redeem *it*.”

7 ¶ <sup>i</sup>Now this *was the custom* in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning exchange of *property*, for to confirm all things a man took off his shoe and gave *it* to his neighbor. And this *was the manner* legalizing transactions in Israel.

8 Therefore, the kinsman said to Boaz, “Buy *it* for yourself.” So he took off his shoe.

9 And Boaz said to the elders and to all the people, “You *are* witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that *was* Elimelech’s and all that *was* Chi-lion’s and Mahlon’s.

10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, I have purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead on his inheritance so <sup>j</sup>that the name of the dead not be cut off from among his brethren and from the town records. You *are* witnesses this day.”

11 And all the people who *were* in the gate and the elders, said, “*We are* witnesses. <sup>k</sup>The LORD make the woman who has come into your house like Rachel and like Leah, which two <sup>l</sup>built the house of Israel. And may you do well in <sup>m</sup>Ephratah and be famous in <sup>n</sup>Bethlehem.

12 “And let your house be like the house of <sup>o</sup>Perez, <sup>p</sup>whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of <sup>q</sup>the seed that

p Ps 37:3,5 Chapter 4: a Rt 3:12 b 1 Kg 21:8 c Lv 25:25 d Jr 32:7,8 e Gn 23:18 f Lv 25:25 g Mt 22:24 h Rt 3:12,13 i Dt 25:7-10 j Dt 25:6 k Ps 127:3; 128:3 l Gn 29:25-30 m Gn 35:16-18 n Mc 5:2 o Mt 1:3 p Gn 38:6-29 q 1 Sm 2:20

the LORD will give you from this young woman.”

*Genealogy of David*

**13** ¶ So Boaz <sup>t</sup>took Ruth and she became his wife. And when he went in to her, <sup>s</sup>the LORD enabled her to conceive and she bore a son.

**14** And <sup>t</sup>the women said to Naomi, “Blessed *be* the LORD who has not left you this day without a kinsman so that his name may be famous in Israel.

**15** “And he will be to you a restorer of *your* life and a provider for your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is <sup>u</sup>better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”

**16** Then Naomi took the child and

laid it in her bosom and became a nurse to him.

**17** <sup>v</sup>And the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “There is a son born to Naomi.” And they called his name Obed. He *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David.

**18** ¶ <sup>w</sup>Now these *are* the generations of <sup>x</sup>Perez: to Perez was born Hezron,

**19** and to Hezron was born Ram, and to Ram was born Amminadab,

**20** and to Amminadab was born <sup>y</sup>Nahshon, and to Nahshon was born <sup>z</sup>Salmon,

**21** and to Salmon was born Boaz, and to Boaz was born Obed,

**22** and to Obed was born Jesse, and to Jesse was born <sup>a</sup>David.

r Rt 3:11 s Gn 29:31; 33:5 t Lk 1:58 u 1 Sm 1:8 v Lk 1:58 w 1 Ch 2:4,5 x Nm 26:20,21 y Nm 1:7 z Mt 1:4 a Mt 1:6