

Ruth

The Book of Ruth (author unknown but traditionally attributed to the prophet Samuel) provides a narrative about the lineage of King David and, ultimately, Jesus. The story takes place during the time of the Judges, a period of transition between the exodus from Egypt and the establishment of the Kingdom of Israel. It focuses on Ruth, a Moabite woman, and her loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi, after the death of their husbands. When Naomi decides to return to her homeland in Israel, Ruth chooses to accompany her.

After arriving in Israel, Ruth works in the fields, gleaning the leftover grain from the harvest. She ends up working in the field of Boaz, a relative of Naomi, who takes notice of her and shows her favor. Boaz, impressed by Ruth's loyalty and hard work, agrees to be the kinsman-redeemer for Naomi and Ruth, and he eventually proposes to the Moabite woman. Ruth and Boaz marry, ensuring her future and the future of her mother-in-law. The Book of Ruth concludes by tracing the genealogy of Ruth and Boaz's son, Obed, who becomes the grandfather of King David.

The genealogy of Ruth and Boaz's son, Obed, highlights Ruth's inclusion in the lineage of the Israelite monarchy and underscores the integration of foreigners into the Israelite community. Ruth's unwavering loyalty to her mother-in-law and her profound trust in God's provision are not just personal traits, but they embody the central values of the Bible: loyalty, faith, and commitment. Her story is a testament to how God works through ordinary people, like Ruth, to bring about His plan. It also highlights the importance of following God's will and the blessings that come from doing so.

1 **Now** it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, **that there** was a famine in the land.

And a certain man of

Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

2 And the name of the man was Elimelech,

and the name of his wife Naomi, **and the name of his two sons** Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah.

And they came into the country of Moab, **and** continued there.

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

4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; **the name of the one** was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: **and they** dwelled there about ten years.

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

6 Then she arose with her daughters in law, **that she** might return from the country of Moab:

for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people **in** giving them bread.

7 Wherefore 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 unto the land of Judah.

8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, **Go,** **return** each to her mother's house: **the LORD** deal kindly with you, **as ye** have dealt with the dead, and with me.

9 The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband.

Then she kissed them; **and they** lifted up their voice, **and** wept.

10 And they said unto her, **Surely we** will return with thee unto thy people.

11 And Naomi said, **Turn again,** my daughters: **why** will ye go with me? **are there** yet any more sons in my womb, **that they** may be your husbands?

12 Turn again, my daughters, **go** your way; **for I** am too old to have an husband.

If I should say, **I** have hope, **if I** should have an husband also to night, **and** should also bear sons; **13 Would ye** tarry for them **till they** were grown? **would ye** stay for them from having husbands? **nay,** my daughters; **for it grieveth me much for your sakes** that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.

14 And they lifted up their voice, **and** wept again: **and Orpah** kissed her mother in law; **but Ruth** clave unto her.

15 And she said, **Behold,** **thy sister in law** is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: **return thou** after thy sister in law.

16 And Ruth said, **Intreat me not** to leave thee, **or** to return from following after thee: **for whither thou** goest, **I** will go; **and where thou** lodgest, **I** will lodge: **thy people** shall be my people, **and thy God** my God: **17 Where thou** diest, **will I** die,

and there will I be buried:
the LORD do so to me, and more
 also,
if ought but death part thee and
 me.

¹⁸ **When she** saw that she was
 stedfastly minded to go with her,
then she left speaking unto her.

¹⁹ **So they two** went
until they came to Bethlehem.

And it came to pass,
when they were come to
 Bethlehem,
that all the city was moved about
 them,
and they said,
Is this Naomi?

²⁰ **And she** said unto them,
Call me not Naomi,
call me Mara:
for the Almighty hath dealt very
 bitterly with me.

²¹ **I** went out full
and the LORD hath brought me
 home again empty:
why then call ye me Naomi,
seeing the LORD hath testified
 against me,
and the Almighty hath afflicted
 me?

²² **So Naomi** returned, and Ruth the
 Moabitess, her daughter in law,
 with her,
which returned out of the country
 of Moab:
and they came to Bethlehem in the
 beginning of barley harvest.

2 **And Naomi** had a kinsman of
 her husband's, a mighty man
 of wealth, of the family of
 Elimelech;
and his name was Boaz.

² **And Ruth the Moabitess** said
 unto Naomi,
Let me now go to the field,
and glean ears of corn after him in
 whose sight I shall find grace.

And she said unto her,
Go, my daughter.

³ **And she** went,
and came,
and gleaned in the field after the
 reapers:
and her hap was to light on a part
 of the field belonging unto Boaz,
who was of the kindred of
 Elimelech.

⁴ **And, {behold}, Boaz** came from
 Bethlehem,
and said unto the reapers,
The LORD be with you.

And they answered him,
The LORD bless thee.

⁵ **Then** said Boaz unto his servant
 that was set over the reapers,
Whose damsel is this?

⁶ **And the servant that was set**
over the reapers answered and
 said,
It is the Moabitish damsel
that came back with Naomi out of
 the country of Moab:

⁷ **And she** said,
I pray you,
let me glean and gather after the
 reapers among the sheaves:
so she came,
and hath continued even from the
 morning until now,
that she tarried a little in the house.

⁸ **Then** said Boaz unto Ruth,
Hearest thou not, my daughter?
Go not to glean in another field,
neither go from hence,
but abide here fast by my maidens:

⁹ **Let thine eyes** be on the field that
 they do reap,
and go thou after them:
have I not charged the young men
that they shall not touch thee?
and when thou art athirst,
go unto the vessels,
and drink of that which the young
 men have drawn.

¹⁰ **Then she** fell on her face,
and bowed herself to the ground,
and said unto him,
Why have I found grace in thine
 eyes,
that thou shouldest take
 knowledge of me,
seeing I am a stranger?

¹¹ **And Boaz** answered and said unto
 her,
It hath fully been shewed me, all
 that thou hast done unto thy
 mother in law since the death of
 thine husband:
and how thou hast left thy father
 and thy mother, and the land of
 thy nativity,
and art come unto a people which
 thou knewest not heretofore.

¹² **The LORD** recompense thy work,
and a full reward be given thee of
 the LORD God of Israel,

under whose wings thou art come
 to trust.

¹³ **Then she** said,
Let me find favour in thy sight, my
 lord;
for that thou hast comforted me,
and for that thou hast spoken
 friendly unto thine handmaid,
though I be not like unto one of
 thine handmaidens.

¹⁴ **And Boaz** said unto her,
At mealtime come thou hither,
and eat of the bread,
and dip thy morsel in the vinegar.
And she sat beside the reapers:
and he reached her parched corn,
and she did eat,
and was sufficed,
and left.

¹⁵ **And when she** was risen up to
 glean,
Boaz commanded his young men,
 saying,
Let her glean even among the
 sheaves,
and reproach her not:

¹⁶ **And let fall** also some of the
 handfuls of purpose for her,
and leave them,
that she may glean them,
and rebuke her not.

¹⁷ **So she** gleaned in the field until
 even,
and beat out that 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 forth,
and gave to her that she had
 reserved after she was sufficed.

¹⁹ **And her mother in law** said unto
 her,
Where hast thou gleaned to day?
and where wroughtest thou?
blessed be he that did take
 knowledge of thee.

And she shewed her mother in law
with whom she had wrought,
and said,
The man's name with whom I
wrought to day is Boaz.

²⁰ **And Naomi** said unto her
 daughter in law,
Blessed be he of the LORD,
who hath not left off his kindness
 to the living and to the dead.