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Open English Translation of the Bible

Ruth

Introduction

This account tells us about what happened back in the time when the tribal leaders (misleadingly called 'Judges' in most older English translations) were still ruling Yisrael (Israel), i.e., before their first king. At that time, a long drought caused a famine in Yisrael, which in turned caused Elimelek to move his family to the neighbouring country of Moav (Moab). After a time, Elimelek died there in Moav, but eventually their two sons married, and this account focuses on Ruth who was one of those wives. When Ruth's husband also died, she displayed amazing love and dedication towards her mother-in-law, No'omi (Naomi, whose name means 'pleasant'). When God blessed Yisrael again with good crops, No'omi returned back to her roots in Yisrael and Ruth accompanied her. According to Jewish customs, Ruth needed to marry a relative of her husband, so that Elimelek's name could continue through the generations. Boaz turned out to be that man, and the son they bore became an ancestor of the future King David, and eventually through time, of Yeshua (Jesus) the messiah.

The previous *Accounts of the Heroes and Guides/Leaders* tells about how much the Jewish people suffered because they had turned away from God. So this account reveals how Ruth, a non-Jew, is blessed after she begins to follow Yisrael's god.

Note that the Hebrew name of the main character in this account is 'תּוֹרוּ' which might be transliterated as 'Rūt' (and pronounced as 'root' with no 'th' at the end). However in weighing up the pros and cons, we have elected to use the traditional spelling of 'Ruth' (rather than 'Rut' which might would be more accurate in one sense, yet would most likely also be pronounced wrongly by most English speakers).

Main components of this account

Ruth accompanies No'omi when she returns home to Beyt-Lehem *1:1-22*
Ruth gets to know Boaz *2:1–3:18*
The marriage of Ruth and Boaz *4:1-22*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

Elimelek goes to Moav during a famine

1:1 Back in the time when the tribal leaders ruled Yisrael (Israel), there was a drought which caused a shortage of food, so a man from the town of Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem) in the Yehudah (Judah) region went to live in the country of Moav (Moab) for a while, taking his wife and their two sons. **2** The man's name was Elimelek and he was married to No'omi (Naomi), and their sons' names were Mahlon and Kilyon. (They were part of the Efratah clan from Beyt-Lehem in Yehudah.) They travelled to the Moav countryside and lived there. **3** Then No'omi's husband Elimelek died, and she was left with her two sons. **4** Eventually they married women from there in Moav—Orpah and Ruth. But after No'omi and her sons had lived in Moav for about then years, **5** Mahlon and Kilyon both also died, and No'omi was left without her husband or her two sons.

Ruth accompanies No'omi back to Beyt-Lehem

6 One day No'omi (Naomi) was in the countryside there in Moav (Moab) when she heard someone telling about how Yahweh had helped his people in Yisrael (Israel) and that now they had plenty of food, so she got ready to return to Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem) with her two daughters-in-law. **7** The three of them left the place where they'd been living in Moav and started walking along the road back to Yehudah (Judah). **8** Then No'omi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Both of you should go back to your parents' homes. I pray that Yahweh will treat you with the same faithfulness that you showed to your now-deceased husbands and to me. **9** May Yahweh enable both of you to find new husbands and find peace and happiness in your new homes with them."

Then she kissed them as they all wept aloud. **10** But they both said, "No, we'll go with you as you return to your relatives."

11 But No'omi responded, "No, go back to your homes my daughters. Why would you bother coming with me? It's not like I could still give birth to more sons to become your husbands. **12** Go on

Literal Version

1:1 And_he/it_was in_the_days_of the_judges of_ _the_judging and_he/it_was a_famine on_the_ _earth and_he/it_went a_man from_Bēyt- food/grain/bread Yəhūdāh/(Judah) to_sojourn in_the_region(s)_of Mō'āv he and_his/its_ _woman/wife and_the_two_of sons_of_his. **2** And_ _name_of the_man was_'Ĕlīmelek and_name_of his/its_wife/woman was_No'omī and_name_of the_two_of sons_of_his was_Maḥlōn and_Kilion 'Ĕfrātī from_Bēyt- food/grain/bread Yəhūdāh and_they_came the_region(s)_of Mō'āv and_ _they_were there. **3** And_ 'Ĕlīmelek the_husband_ _of No'omī _he/it_died and_ she and_the_two_of sons_of_her _she_was_left. **4** And_they_took to/for_them wives Mō'āvites the_name_of the_ _one(f) was_Orpah and_name_of the_second(fs) was_Rūt and_they_lived there about_ten years. **5** And_ also both_of_them Maḥlōn and_Kilion _ _they_died and_ the_woman _she_was_left from_ _both_of children_of_her and_from_husband_of_ _her.

6 And_ she and_daughters-in-law_of_her _she/it_ _arose and_she_returned from_the_region(s)_of Mō'āv if/because she_had_heard in_the_region_ _of Mō'āv if/because_that **YHWH** he_had_visited ~~DOM~~ people_of_his by_giving to/for_them food. **7** And_she_went_out from the_place where she_ _had_been there_(to) and_the_two_of daughters-in-law_of_her with_her/it and_they_ _went on_way to_return to the_land_of Yəhūdāh/(Judah). **8** And_ No'omī _she/it_said to_ _the_two_of daughters-in-law_of_her go return each_woman to_the_house_of her_mother_of_her may_he_deal[1] **YHWH** with_you(pl) covenant_ _loyalty just_as you(pl)_have_dealt with the_dead and_with_me. **9** **YHWH** may_he_give to/for_ _you(pl) and_find rest each_woman the_house_of her/its_husband/man and_she_kissed (to)_them and_they_raised voice_of_their and_they_wept. **10** And_they_said to_her if/because with_you we_ _will_return to_people_of_your. **11** And_ No'omī _ _she/it_said go_back my_daughters_of_my to/for_what will_you(pl)_go with_me still to_me do_sons in_inward_parts_of_my and_they_will_be to/for_you(pl) (into)_husbands. **12** Go_back my_ _daughters_of_my go if/because I_am_too_old for_belonging to_a_husband if/because I_said there_is to_me hope also I_belonged the_night to_a_husband and_also I_bore sons. **13** Therefore

1 **LV 1:8 · Note** OSHB variant note: השעי: (x-qere) 'שַׁעֲרִי': lemma_6213 a morph_HVqj3ms id_08nRZ שַׁעֲרִי

Literal Version

will_you(pl)_wait until that they_will_grow_up therefore will_you_shut_yourselves_off to_not to_ _belong to_a_husband no my_daughters_of_my if/because it_is_bitter to_me very more_than_ _you(pl) if/because it_has_gone_forth on_me the_ _hand_of **YHWH**. **14** And_they_raised voice_of_ _their and_they_wept again and_ Orpah _she_ _kissed (to)_mother-in-law_of_her and_Rūt she_ _clung to_her. **15** And_she/it_said THERE sister-in-law_of_your she_has_returned to people_of_her and_near/to gods_of_her go_back after sister-in-law_of_your. **16** And_ Rūt _she/it_ _said do_not entreat (on)_me to_abandon_you to_ _turn_back from_after_you if/because to where you_will_go I_will_go and_at_where you_will_ _lodge I_will_lodge people_of_your people_of_my and_god_of_your god_of_my. **17** At_where you_ _will_die I_will_die and_there I_will_be_buried thus **YHWH** may_he_do to_me and_thus may_he_ _add if/because (the)_death it_will_separate between_me and_between_you. **18** And_she/it_ _saw if/because_that she was_determined to_go with_her and_she_ceased to_speak to_her. **19** And_ the_two_of_of_them _they_went until came_they Bēyt- leḥem and_he/it_was just_as_ _they_came Bēyt- leḥem and_ all_of the_city _it_ _was_stirred on_them and_they(f)_said is_this No᾽ₒmī. **20** And_she/it_said to_them do_not call to_me No᾽ₒmī call to_me Mara if/because the_ _almighty he_has_caused_bitterness to_me exceedingly. **21** I full I_went and_empty bring_ _back_me **YHWH** to/for_what do_you(pl)_call to_ _me No᾽ₒmī and_**YHWH** he_has_testified against_ _me and_the_almighty he_has_done_harm[23] to_ _me.

22 And_ No᾽ₒmī _she_returned and_Rūt the_ _Mō᾽āv֯ite_woman daughter-in-law_of_her with_ _her/it who_she_returned from_the_region(s)_of Mō᾽āv֯ and_they they_came Bēyt- leḥem at_the_ _beginning_of the_harvest_of barley(s).
2:1 And_belonged_to_No᾽ₒmī a_relative[6] to/for_

Readers' Version

back, my daughters, because I'm too old to remarry. Even if I did hope for that and got married tonight and had some sons, **13** could you wait for them to grow up so you could be remarried? No, my daughters, what's hard for me, even more than your hardships, is that Yahweh is using his power against me."

14 Then they wailed and cried again, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye and left, but Ruth stayed and clung to No'omi. **15** No'omi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is going back to her parents and to her religion. Go back with her."

16 But Ruth replied, "Please don't insist that I leave you and go back, because wherever you go, I'll go with you and wherever you live, I'll live there too. Your people are my people, and your god is my god. **17** Wherever you die, I'll die there too and be buried there. May Yahweh punish me severely if anything other than death separates the two of us."

18 When No'omi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she didn't say any more.

19 So the two of them travelled on until they reached Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem). When they entered Beyt-Lehem, the whole town was curious about them, and the women began asking, "Is that No'omi?"

20 But No'omi told them not to call her 'No'omi' (which means 'pleasant') but to call her 'Mara' (meaning 'miserable') because she said, "The almighty God has made my life very miserable. **21** I went away content with a family, but Yahweh has brought me back with a void. So why call me 'No'omi'? You see, Yahweh has testified against me—the powerful God has brought misfortune on me."

Ruth collects grain in Boaz' field

22 And so No'omi (Naomi) had returned to Yisrael (Israel), along with her daughter-in-law, Ruth the Moavit, and they arrived there in Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem) at the start of the barley harvest.

2 LV 1:21 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently from BHQ.

3 LV 1:21 · Note OSHB note: We read one or more accents in L differently than BHS. Often this notation indicates a typographical error in BHS.

6 LV 2:1 · Note OSHB variant note: עדימ: (x-qere) 'עֲדוֹמִ': lemma_4129 morph_HNcmsa id_08swV עֲדוֹמִ

Readers' Version

2:1 Now there was a relative there of No'omi's deceased husband. His name was Boaz and he was a very wealthy man from the same clan as Elimelek had been.

2 Ruth the Moavit said to No'omi, "Allow me to go to the countryside and pick up any heads of grain that the harvesters drop.[4] I'll follow any harvester who seems kind."

"Go ahead, my daughter," No'omi replied.

3 So Ruth left and went to the countryside where she picked up heads of grain after the harvesters, and it just so happened that that part of the countryside belonged to Boaz who was Elimelek's relative.

4 Just then, Boaz arrived from the town and greeted the harvesters, "May Yahweh be with you," to which they replied, "May Yahweh bless you also."

5 Then he asked the foreman of the harvesters, "Whose daughter is that young woman over there?"

6 "She's a young Moavit," the man replied. "The one who came with No'omi when she returned from Moav (Moab). **7** She asked me for permission to follow the harvesters and pick up any heads of grain that drop, and she's been doing it since early morning until just recently she's taking a break now in the shelter.

8 So Boaz approached Ruth, "Young woman," he said, "listen here. Don't leave this place or go to any other field to pick up grain, but just stay close by these young female workers of mine. **9** Watch where the men are harvesting and follow along behind them. I've told them not to bother you. And whenever you're thirsty, help yourself from

Literal Version

_her/its_man/husband a_man mighty_of wealth from_the_clan_of 'Elīmelek and_his/its_name was_Bo'az. **2** And_ Rūt the_Mō'āvite_woman _ _she/it_said to No'ₒmī let_me_go please the_field so_that_I_may_glean[789] among_grain[101112] behind the_one_whom I_will_find favour in_eyes_ _of_his and_she/it_said to/for_her/it go my_ _daughter_of_my. **3** And_she_went and_she_came and_she_gleaned in_the_field behind the_ _harvesters and_ chance_of_her _it_chanced_on the_portion_of the_field of_Bo'az who was_from_ _the_clan_of 'Elīmelek. **4** And_BEHOLD/LO/SEE Bo'az was_coming from_Bēyt- food/grain/bread and_he/it_said to_harvesters **YHWH** be_with_ _you(pl) and_they_said to_him/it may_he_bless_ _you **YHWH**. **5** And_ Bo'az _he/it_said to_servant_ _of_his who_was_appointed over the_harvesters belongs_to_whom the_young_woman (the)_this. **6** And_ the_servant who_was_appointed over the_ _harvesters _he_answered and_he_said is_a_ _young_woman Mō'āvite she who_she_returned with No'ₒmī from_the_region_of Mō'āv. **7** And_ _she/it_said let_me_glean please and_I_will_ _gather among_sheaves behind the_harvesters and_she_came and_she_has_stayed from_then this_morning and_unto now this sitting_her the_ _house little. **8** And_ Bo'az _he/it_said to Rūt am_ _not have_you_heard my_daughter_of_my do_not go to_glean in_a_field another and_also not you_ _must_pass_on from_this_field and_thus you_ _will_stay with servants_of_my_female. **9** Eyes_of_ _your in_the_field which they_are_harvesting and_you_will_go[131415] behind_them am_not have_I_commanded ~~DOM~~ the_young_men to_not to_touch_you and_you_will_be_thirsty and_you_ _will_go to the_vessels and_you_will_drink some_ _of_that_which they_will_draw the_young_men. **10** And_she_fell on face_of_her and_she_bowed_ _down ground_to_the and_she/it_said to_him/it

4 **RV 2:2 · Cross-ref.** Lev 19:9-10; Deu 24:19.

7 **LV 2:2 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

8 **LV 2:2 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

9 **LV 2:2 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

10 **LV 2:2 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

11 **LV 2:2 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

12 **LV 2:2 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

13 **LV 2:9 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

14 **LV 2:9 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

15 **LV 2:9 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

Literal Version

why have_I_found favour in_eyes_of_your to_pay_
_regard_to_me and_I[16][17][18] am_a_foreigner.
11 And_ Bo´az _he_answered and_he/it_said
to/for_her/it fully_(be_told) it_has_been_told to_
_me all that you_have_done with mother-in-law_
_of_your after the_death_of your(fs)_
_man/husband and_you_left father_of_your[19][20][21]
and_mother_of_your and_the_land_of your_
_kindred_of_your and_you_came to a_people
which not you_knew yesterday three_days_ago.
12 **YHWH** may_he_reward deed[s]_of_your and_
_may_it_be wage[s]_of_your complete from_with
YHWH the_god_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) whom you_
_have_come to_take_refuge under wings_of_his.
13 And_she/it_said I_am_finding favour in_eyes_
_of_your my_master if/because you_have_
_comforted_me and_because/when you_have_
_spoken to the_heart_of your_maidservant_of_
_your and_I not I_am like_one_of your(pl)_
_maidservants_of_your. **14** And_he/it_said to_her
Bo´az to_the_time_of the_meal approach here
and_you_will_eat some_of the_food and_you_will_
_dip of_bread_of_your_piece in_vinegar and_she_
_sat_down from_the_side_of the_harvesters and_
_he_held_out to/for_her/it roasted_grain and_
_she/it_ate and_she_was_satisfied and_she_had_
_excess. **15** And_she/it_arose to_glean and_ Bo´az
_he/it_commanded ~~DOM~~ servants_of_his to_say
also between the_sheaves she_will_glean and_not
you(pl)_must_humiliate_her. **16** And_also indeed_
_(pull_out) you(pl)_will_pull_out to/for_her/it
some_of the_bundles_grain and_you(pl)_will_
_leave_them and_she_will_glean and_not you(pl)_
_must_rebuke (in)_her. **17** And_she_gleaned in_
_the_field until the_evening and_she_beat_out
~~DOM~~ that_which she_had_gleaned and_he/it_was
about_an_'ēyfāh barley(s). **18** And_she_lifted_it_
_up and_she_went the_city and_ mother-in-law_
_of_her _she/it_saw ~~DOM~~ that_which she_had_
_gleaned and_she/it_produced and_she_gave
to/for_her/it ~~DOM~~ that_which she_had_left_over
from_abundance_of_her. **19** And_she/it_said
to/for_her/it mother-in-law_of_her where did_

Readers' Version

the water jars that the men keep filled."

10 Then she knelt down on the ground and bowed her head low to the ground and said, "Why are you being so kind to me when I'm a foreigner? I wasn't expecting your attention."

11 "People have told me," Boaz replied, "about everything you've done for your mother-in-law since your husband died—how you left your parents and your homeland behind and came here to live with people that you hadn't even met before. **12** May Yahweh reward your hard work. Since you've come here for protection under Yisrael's (Israel's) god Yahweh, may he reward you in full."

13 "My lord," she replied, "I trust that I'll continue to please you because you've comforted me by speaking so kindly to me, your servant, even though I'm not like your servant girls."

14 Then when it was time to eat, Boaz told Ruth, "Come and join us. Take some bread and dip it in the sauce and eat." So she sat beside the harvesters, and he also offered her some roasted grain. She ate until she was full and even had some left over. **15** Then she went back to picking up heads and Boaz ordered his men, "Let her gather grain even among the bundles and don't shame her. **16** Even pull some stalks out from the bundles and drop them for her to pick up, and don't tell her off."

17 So Ruth picked up grain in the countryside until evening and when she beat the heads and collected the grains, she had a large basket of barley. **18** So she picked up the basket and headed back into town and showed her mother-in-law how much she had collected. Ruth also gave No'omi (Naomi) the roasted grain left-over from her lunch. **19** "Where did you pick up grain today and where did you work?" asked No'omi. "May the man who took notice of you be blessed."

So she told her mother-in-law where she had

16 **LV 2:10 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

17 **LV 2:10 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

18 **LV 2:10 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

19 **LV 2:11 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

20 **LV 2:11 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

21 **LV 2:11 · Note** OSHB note: We read punctuation in L differently from BHS.

Readers' Version

worked, "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz."

20 "May he be blessed by Yahweh," responded No'omi. "Yahweh *hasn't* forgotten his kindness towards us who are still living and to our husbands who've died." And then she added, "That man is a close relative of Elimelek. In fact, he's one of those responsible for taking care of our family."[5]

21 "He also told me," said Ruth the Moavit, "to stay with his workers until they finish the harvesting."

22 "It's good, my daughter," said No'omi to her daughter-in-law, "for you to stay near his servant girls because you don't know how people might treat you in another field."

23 So Ruth stayed near Boaz' servant girls and picked up heads of grain until the end of the barley harvest and then the wheat harvest, and she lived with her mother-in-law.

Ruth requests Boaz to assume his responsibilities

3:1 One day Ruth's mother-in-law No'omi (Naomi) said to her, "My daughter, I think I need to be finding a secure living situation for you? **2** Now, Boaz whose servant girls you've been working with, he's a relative of ours. In fact, he'll be on the threshing floor winnowing barley tonight. **3** So wash yourself and put on some perfume. Wear your cloak and go out to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you're there until he's finished eating and drinking. **4** Then when he lies down to sleep, pay attention to where he lies down. Once he's asleep, go and lift the blanket near his feet and lie down. Then he'll tell you what to do next."

Literal Version

_you_glean the_day and_where did_you_work
may_he_be the_one_of_who_paid_regard_to_you
blessed and_she_told to_mother-in-law_of_her
~~DOM~~ whom she_had_worked with_him/it and_
_she/it_said the_name_of the_man whom I_
_worked with_him/it the_day is_Bo'az. **20** And_
No'omī _she/it_said to_daughter-in-law_of_her he
be_blessed to/for_**YHWH** who not he_has_
_abandoned loyalty_of_his_covenant with the_
living and~~DOM~~ the_dead and_she/it_said to/for_
_her/it No'omī is_near to/for_us the_man is_one_
_of_our_kinsman-redeemers he. **21** And_ Rūt the_
_Mō'āvite_woman _she/it_said also if/because_
_that he_said to_me with the_servants who to_me
you_will_stay until (if) they_have_completed ~~DOM~~
all_of the_harvest which to_me. **22** And_ No'omī _
_she/it_said to Rūt daughter-in-law_of_her is_
_good my_daughter_of_my
that/for/because/then/when you_will_go_out
with servants_of_his_female and_not people_will_
_molest (in)_you in_a_field another. **23** And_she_
_stayed with_the_female_servants_of Bo'az to_
_glean until the_harvest_of the_barley(s) and_
_the_harvest_of the_wheat(s) was_complete and_
_she_dwelt with mother-in-law_of_her.

3:1 And_she/it_said to/for_her/it No'omī
mother-in-law_of_her my_daughter_of_my not
will_I_seek to/for_you(fs) a_resting_place that it_
_will_go_well to/for_you(fs). **2** And_now not is_
_Bo'az relative_of_our whom you_were with
servants_of_his_female THERE he will_be_
_winnowing ~~DOM~~ the_threshing_floor_of the_
_barley(s) the_night. **3** And_you_will_wash and_
_you_will_anoint_yourself and_you_will_put
mmm[26] on and[27] the_threshing_floor do_not
make_yourself_known to_man until finishes_he
to_eat and_to_drink. **4** And_let_it_be when_he_
_lies_down and_you_will_take_note_of ~~DOM~~ the_
_place where he_will_lie_down there and_you_
_will_go and_you_will_uncover feet_of_his and[28]
and_he he_will_tell to/for_you(fs) ~~DOM~~ that_
_which you_will_do.[29] **5** And_she/it_said to_her/it

5 **RV 2:20 · Cross-ref.** Lev 25:25.

26 **LV 3:3 · Note** OSHB variant note: **ד/תלמש**: (x-qere) 'ד/עָתְלְמֵשׁ': lemma_8071 n_1.0.0 morph_HNcfpc/Sp2fs id_08i9m ד/עָתְלְמֵשׁ

27 **LV 3:3 · Note** OSHB variant note: **ו/יתדרי**: (x-qere) 'ו/תְּדַרֶיָ': lemma_c/3381 morph_HC/Vqq2fs id_08XPV ו/תְּדַרֶיָ

28 **LV 3:4 · Note** OSHB variant note: **ו/יתבכש**: (x-qere) 'ו/תְּבָכֶּשׁ': lemma_c/7901 n_1 morph_HC/Vqq2fs id_08fE2 ו/תְּבָכֶּשׁ

29 **LV 3:4 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHQ.

Literal Version

all that you_are_saying[30] I_will_do. **6** And_she_
_went_down the_threshing_floor and_she_did
according_to_all that she_had_commanded_her
mother-in-law_of_her. **7** And_ Bo´az _he_ate and_
_he_drank and_ his/its_heart _it_was_good and_
_he_went to_lie_down at_the_end_of the_heap
and_she_came in_secrecy and_she_uncovered
feet_of_his and_she_lay_down. **8** And_he/it_was
in_the_middle_of the_night and_ the_man _he_
_trembled and_he_twisted and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE
a_woman was_lying_down feet_of_his. **9** And_
_he/it_said who are_you[31] and_she/it_said I am_
_Rūt your(ms)_female_slave and_you_will_
_spread_out skirt_of_your over maidservant_of_
_your if/because are_a_kinsman-redeemer you.
10 And_he/it_said you be_blessed to/for_**YHWH**
my_daughter_of_my you_have_made_good
loyalty_of_your (the)_latter more_than (the)_
_former to_not to_go after the_young_men
whether poor and_if rich. **11** And_now my_
_daughter_of_my do_not fear all that you_are_
_saying I_will_do for_you if/because all_of the_
_gate_of my_people_of_my is_knowing
if/because_that are_a_woman_of ability you.
12 And_now if/because truly if/because wwww[32]
am_a_kinsman-redeemer I and_also there_is a_
_kinsman-redeemer near more_than_I. **13** Stay
the_night and_it_was in_morning if he_will_
_redeem_you good let_him_redeem and_if not
he_will_be_willing to_redeem_you and_I_will_
_redeem_you I by_the_life of_**YHWH** lie_down
until the_morning. **14** And_she_lay_down
mmm[3334353637] until the_morning and_she/it_
_arose in/on/at/with[38] anyone he_recognized
~~DOM~~ his/its_neighbour and_he/it_said not let_it_

Readers' Version

5 "I'll do everything you say," Ruth answered,
6 then she went out to the threshing floor and did
everything her mother-in-law had instructed.

7 When Boaz had finished eating and drinking
and was feeling cheery, he went off to lie down at
the end of the pile of grain. Then Ruth quietly fol-
lowed him, and uncovered his feet and lay down
there. **8** But Boaz was startled in the middle of the
night, and when he turned over he was stunned to
find a woman lying at his feet. **9** "Who are you?"
he asked.

"I'm your servant Ruth," she replied, "Spread
your cloak over me[22] because you have a responsi-
bility as our close relative."

10 "My dear girl, may Yahweh bless you." Boaz
replied, "You have shown more kindness now that
before,[23] because you haven't chased after the
young men, whether rich or poor. **11** So now dear
girl, don't be afraid. I'll do what you've asked for,
because the whole town knows that you're an
honourable woman. **12** It is true that I have a re-
sponsibility towards your family,[24] but there's an-
other man who's more closely related to you all
than me. **13** Stay here for the rest of the night, and
then in the morning, if he'll accept then he can
marry you. But if he's not willing to take care of
you, then as Yahweh lives, I'll do it myself. Now lie
down here until morning."

14 So Ruth lay there near his feet until morning,
but she got up before it was light enough to be
recognised as Boaz had said, "It's best if no one

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22 **RV 3:9 · Note** This was the cultural way for Ruth to request Boaz to take her as his wife.

23 **RV 3:10 · Note** Probably referring to Ruth's faithfulness to her mother-in-law.

24 **RV 3:12 · Cross-ref.** Ruth 2:20.

30 **LV 3:5 · Note** OSHB variant note: (x-qere) 'יְלֹא': lemma_413 n_0.0 morph_HR/Sp1cs id_08k23 יְלֹא

31 **LV 3:9 · Note** OSHB note: We agree with both BHS 1997 and BHQ on an unexpected reading.

32 **LV 3:12 · Note** OSHB variant note: **אם**: (x-qere)

33 **LV 3:14 · Note** OSHB variant note: **ו/תלגרמ**: (x-qere) 'וְיִתּוֹלְגְּרַמ': lemma_4772 n_1.2.0 morph_HNcfpc/Sp3ms id_08EAT וְיִתּוֹלְגְּרַמ

34 **LV 3:14 · Note** OSHB note: Marks a place where we agree with BHQ against BHS in reading L.

35 **LV 3:14 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more consonants in L differently from BHS.

36 **LV 3:14 · Note** OSHB note: Marks an anomalous form.

37 **LV 3:14 · Note** OSHB note: We read one or more vowels in L differently from BHS.

38 **LV 3:14 · Note** OSHB variant note: **בורט/ב**: (x-qere) 'בְּרֶטֶם': lemma_b/2962 n_1.0.0 morph_HR/D id_08vSy בְּרֶטֶם

Readers' Version

knows that a woman visited the threshing floor."
15 Then Boaz said, "Bring your cloak here and hold it out." So she held it while he poured a generous amount of barley into it, and lifted it onto her shoulder. Then he or she[25] went into the town.
16 When Ruth got home, her mother-in-law asked her, "My daughter, how did everything go?"

So Ruth told her everything that Boaz had said and done for her **17** and she also said, "He gave me all this barley because he told me that he didn't want me to return to my mother-in-law empty-handed."

18 "Okay my daughter," No'omi (Naomi) responded. "Wait now until we see what happens, because that man won't rest today until the matter gets settled."

Boaz takes over the land and gets Ruth as a wife

4:1 Meanwhile, Boaz went to the place inside the town gate (where people conducted their official business) and sat down there. Just as he had hoped, the man responsible for No'omi's (Naomi's) family came along—the man whom Boaz had mentioned earlier—and Boaz called out to him by name and said, "Come over here and sit down." So the man came over and sat down. **2** Then Boaz called over ten of the older, well-respected men from the town and asked them to sit and witness their discussion, so they sat down with them. **3** Then Boaz asked the other relative, "The part of the countryside that belonged to our relative Elimelek is for sale. No'omi, who recently returned from Moav (Moab), is selling it. **4** I thought that I should tell you about it and in case you buy the land while the people sitting here are listening, including these leaders of our people. If you want to buy it back into the family, then do so. But if you do not want to buy it

Literal Version

_be_known if/because_that the_woman she_came the_threshing_floor. **15** And_he/it_said give the_ _shawl which is_on_you and_take_hold on_it and_ _she_took_hold on_it and_he_measured_out six barley(s) and_he_put_it on/upon_it(f) and_he_ _came the_city. **16** And_she_came to mother-in-law_of_her and_she/it_said who are_ _you my_daughter_of_my and_she_told to/for_ _her/it ~~DOM~~ all that he_had_done to/for_her/it the_man. **17** And_she/it_said the_six the_ _barley(s) the_these he_gave to_me if/because he_said[39] do_not go empty to mother-in-law_of_ _your. **18** And_she/it_said sit_down my_daughter_ _of_my until that you_will_know how a_matter will_it_fall_out if/because not the_man he_will_ _be_at_peace if/because (if) he_has_finished the_ _matter the_day.

4:1 And_Bo'az he_went_up the_gate and_he/it_ _sat_down//remained//lived there and_ _BEHOLD/LO/SEE the_kinsman-redeemer was_ _passing_by whom Bo'az he_had_spoken and_ _he/it_said turn_aside sit here a_certain_one a_ _certain_one and_he_turned_aside and_he_sat_ _down. **2** And_he/it_took ten men of_the_elders_ _of the_city and_he/it_said sit here and_they_sat_ _down. **3** And_he/it_said to_redeemer the_ _portion_of the_field which belonged_to_ _brother_of_our to_'Elīmelek No'omī who_she_ _returned from_the_region_of Mō'āv she_has_ _sold. **4** And_I I_said I_will_uncover ear_of_your to_say acquire_it before those_sitting and_before the_elders_of my_people_of_my if you_will_ _redeem redeem and_if not he_will_redeem tell to/for_me and[44] if/because there_is_not except_ _you to_redeem and_I am_after_you and_he/it_ _said I I_will_redeem. **5** And_ Bo'az _he/it_said in/on_day acquire_you the_field from_the_hand_ _of No'omī and_from_with Rūt the_Mō'āvīte_ _woman the_wife_of the_dead_man you_have_ _acquired[45] to_raise_up the_name_of the_dead_ _man over inheritance_of_his. **6** And_ the_

25 RV 3:15 · Note TC: There's no separate Hebrew word for 'he' or 'she' here—it's part of the verb 'he/she_went' but it's unclear if this original verb was marked *masculine* or *feminine*, hence you'll find both alternatives in various Bible translations.

39 LV 3:17 · Note OSHB variant note: (x-qere) 'יֹלֶא': lemma_413 n_0.1 morph_HR/Sp1cs id_086C3 יֹלֶא

44 LV 4:4 · Note OSHB variant note: עדרא/ו: (x-qere) 'הָעְדֶּא/ו': lemma_c/3045 n_1.1.1 morph_HC/Vqh1cs id_08fbk הָעְדֶּא/ו

45 LV 4:5 · Note OSHB variant note: יתינק: (x-qere) 'הָתִּנָּק': lemma_7069 n_0.1 morph_HVqp2ms id_08cqw הָתִּנָּק

Literal Version

_kinsman-redeemer _he/it_said not I_am_able mmm[46] to_me lest I_should_ruin ~~ĐOM~~ inheritance_of_my_own redeem to/for_ _yourself(m) you ~~ĐOM~~ of_redemption_of_my_right if/because not I_am_able to_redeem_it. **7** And_ _this formerly_former_times was_in_ _Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) on the_redemption and_on the_ _exchanging to_confirm every_of matter anyone he_drew_off sandal_of_his and_he/it_gave to_ _neighbour_of_his and_this was_the_attestation in_Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **8** And_ the_kinsman-redeemer _he/it_said to_Bo'az acquire_it to/for_you(fs) and_he_drew_off sandal_of_his. **9** And_ Bo'az _ _he/it_said to_elders and_all the_people are_ _witnesses you(pl) the_day if/because_that I_ _acquire ~~ĐOM~~ all_of that belonged_to_'Elīmelek and_~~ĐOM~~ all_of that belonged_to_Kilion and_ _Maḥlōn from_the_hand_of No'omī. **10** And_also ~~ĐOM~~ Rūt the_Mō'āvite_woman the_wife_of Maḥlōn I_acquire to_me to/for_(a)_woman to_ _raise_up the_name_of the_dead_man over inheritance_of_his and_not the_name_of the_ _dead_man it_will_be_cut_off from_with brothers_of_his and_from_the_gate_of his_place_ _of_his are_witnesses you(pl) the_day. **11** And_ all_of the_people which was_at_gate and_the_ _elders _they_said we_are_witnesses **YHWH** may_ _he_make ~~ĐOM~~ the_woman who_is_about_to_ _come into house_of_your like_Rāḥēl and_like_ _Lē'āh who the_two_of_of_them they_built ~~ĐOM~~ the_house_of Yisrā'ēl/(Israel) and_make wealth in_'Efrātāh and_proclaim a_name in_house_of leḥem. **12** And_let_it_be household_of_your like_ _the_household_of Perets whom Tāmār she_bore to_Yəhūdāh/(Judah) from the_offspring which **YHWH** he_will_give to/for_yourself(m) from the_ _young_woman (the)_this.

Readers' Version

back, then let me know, because you are the closest relative to Elimelek, and I am next after you."

"I'll buy it," the man replied.

5 "When you buy the land from No'omi," Boaz continued, "you will also need to marry Ruth, our deceased relative's widow from Moav, so that she'll have a son who will inherit the property and continue Elimelek's family line."

6 "I can't buy it back myself, then," the closer relative answered. "If I did that, I would ruin my own son's inheritance. You can have the land and the woman instead of me, because I simply can't take it."

7 (At that time in Yisrael (Israel), people had a different way of buying land or exchanging goods between them. In order to make these matters legally binding, one man would take off one of his sandals and give it to the other party.[40] That was the way people in Yisrael confirmed what they had agreed to do.)

8 "You buy it yourself," the relative said and he took off one of his sandals and gave it to Boaz.

9 Then Boaz said to the respected men and to all the other people who were there, "Today you have all witnessed that I've bought from No'omi all the property that belonged to Elimelek, Kilyon, and Mahlon. **10** I am also taking Ruth, Mahlon's widow from Moav, to be my wife so that she can have a son. Everyone will consider that son to be Elimelek's descendant and he will inherit the property and carry on Elimelek's family name among his relatives and here in his hometown.[41] You've seen and heard that today and can tell anyone who asks about it."

11 All the respected men, and the others who were sitting at the town gate, agreed, and they said, "Yes, we are your. We pray that Yahweh will allow this woman who will be coming into your home, to be like Rahel (Rachel) and Le'ah, the two who gave birth to our ancestors and started our people, Yisrael.[42] May you become great in the clan of Efratah and famous here in Beyt-Lehem

40 **RV 4:7-8 · Cross-ref.** Deu 25:9.

41 **RV 4:10 · Cross-ref.** Deu 25:5-6.

42 **RV 4:11 · Cross-ref.** Gen 29:31.

46 **LV 4:6 · Note** OSHB variant note: לוֹאג/ל: (x-qere) לְאֹג/ל: lemma_l/1350 a morph_HR/Vqc id_08Ynf לְאֹג/ל

Readers' Version

(Bethlehem)! **12** We pray that your family will be like the family of your ancestor Perets, son of Yehudah (Judah) and Tamar,[43] because of the many descendants that Yahweh will give to you and this young woman."

Boaz' descendants

13 So Boaz married Ruth, and when he slept with her, Yahweh enabled her to become pregnant and she gave birth to a son. **14** The women in Beyt-Lehem (Bethlehem) said to No'omi (Naomi), "Praise Yahweh for giving you a male descendant to preserve your family today. We pray to Yahweh that people throughout Yisrael (Israel) will greatly respect him. **15** Your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who's been better to you than if you had seven sons, has given birth to him. Now he'll make you feel young again and he'll take care of you when you get old." **16** Then No'omi picked up the baby and held him closely and became like second mother to him.

17 The women who were living nearby said, "It is as if No'omi now has a son!" They named him Oved.

Eventually Oved went on to become the father of Yishay (Jesse), who became the father of King David.[47] **18** Here is a list of the descendants of Perets: Perets's son was Hetsron. **19** Hetsron's son was Ram and Ram's son was Aminadav. **20** Aminadav's son was Nahshon and Nahshon's son was Salmon. **21** Salmon's son was Boaz and Boaz's son was Oved. **22** Oved's son was Yishay and Yishay's son was King David.

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Literal Version

13 And_ Bo'az _he/it_took ~~DOM~~ Rūt and_it_became to_him/it to/for_(a)_woman and_he_went to_ _her/it and_ **YHWH** _he/it_gave to/for_her/it conception and_she/it_gave_birth a_son. **14** And_ the_women _they_said to No'ₒmī **YHWH** who not he_has_caused_to_cease to/for_you(fs) a_ _kinsman-redeemer the_day be_blessed and_ his/its_name _may_it_be_proclaimed in_ _Yisrā'ēl/(Israel). **15** And_it_was to/for_you(fs) (into)_one_who_restores life and_to_sustain ~~DOM~~ age_of_your_old if/because daughter-in-law_of_ _your who she_loves_you she_has_given_birth_ _to_him who she is_good to/for_you(fs) more_ _than_seven sons. **16** And_ No'ₒmī _she/it_took ~~DOM~~ the_child and_she_placed_him on_bosom_of_ _her and_it_became to_him/it (into)_a_nurse. **17** And_they_called to_him/it the_female_ _neighbours a_name to_say a_son he_has_been_ _born to_No'ₒmī and_they_called his/its_name ʻŌvēd he was_the_father_of Yishay/(Jesse) the_ _father_of Dāvid. **18** And_these are_the_ _descendants_of Perets Perets he_fathered ~~DOM~~ Ḥetsrōn. **19** And_Ḥetsrōn he_fathered ~~DOM~~ Rām and_Rām he_fathered ~~DOM~~ ʻAmminādāv. **20** And_ _ʻAmminādāv he_fathered ~~DOM~~ Naḥshōn and_ _Naḥshōn he_fathered ~~DOM~~ Salmah. **21** And_ _Salmōn he_fathered ~~DOM~~ Bo'az and_Bo'az he_ _fathered ~~DOM~~ ʻŌvēd. **22** And_ʻŌvēd he_fathered ~~DOM~~ Yishay and_Yishay he_fathered ~~DOM~~ Dāvid.

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43 RV 4:12 · Cross-ref. Gen 38:27-30.

47 RV 4:17 · Cross-ref. Mat 1:5-6.