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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 'רוּת' 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 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,

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 'Efrātī 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 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_

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

Literal Version

_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᾽āv῾ite_woman
daughter-in-law_of_her with_her/it who_she_returned from_
_the_region(s)_of Mō᾽āv῾ 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_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᾽āv῾ite_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᾽āv῾ite 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_

Readers' Version

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.
2:1 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

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.

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

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

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.

Readers' Version

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 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 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 re-

Literal Version

_harvesting and_you_will_go[131415] behind_them am_not have_ _I_commanded ᴅᴏᴍ 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 why have_I_found favour in_eyes_of_your to_pay_regard_to_me and_I[161718] am_a_ _foreigner. **11** And_ Bo͗az _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[192021] 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 Yisrāʾēl/(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 Bo͗az 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_ Bo͗az _he/it_commanded ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ that_which she_had_ _gleaned and_he/it_was about_an_ʾēyfāh barley(s). **18** And_she_ _lifted_it_up and_she_went the_city and_ mother-in-law_of_her _she/it_saw ᴅᴏᴍ that_which she_had_gleaned and_she/it_ _produced and_she_gave to/for_her/it ᴅᴏᴍ 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_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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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_Bo͗az. **20** And_ No͗ˌmī _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_ᴅᴏᴍ

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.

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.

Literal Version

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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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) ᴅᴏᴍ that_ _which you_will_do.[29] **5** And_she/it_said to_her/it 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_

Readers' Version

sponsible 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."

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 followed 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 responsibility 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.

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5 **RV 2:20 · Cross-ref.** Lev 25:25.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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)

Readers' Version

12 It is true that I have a responsibility towards your family,[24] but there's another 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 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 back, then let me know, because you are the clos-

Literal Version

_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_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_Bo͗az he_went_up the_gate and_he/it_sat_ _down//remained//lived there and_BEHOLD/LO/SEE the_ _kinsman-redeemer was_passing_by whom Bo͗az 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 No͗ₒmī 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_ Bo͗az _he/it_said in/on_day acquire_you the_ _field from_the_hand_of No͗ₒmī and_from_with Rūt the_ _Mō'āvite_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_kinsman-redeemer _he/it_said

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

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.

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

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: ב/סורט: (x-qere) 'בְּ/רֶטֶסֶמ': lemma_b/2962 n_1.0.0 morph_HR/D id_08vSy בְּ/רֶטֶסֶמ

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

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

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

Literal Version

not I_am_able mmm[46] to_me lest I_should_ruin ᴅᴏᴍ inheritance_of_my_own redeem to/for_yourself(m) you ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ all_of that belonged_to_'Elīmelek and_ᴅᴏᴍ all_of that belonged_to_Kilion and_Maḥlōn from_the_hand_of No'ₒmī. **10** And_also ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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.

13 And_ Bo'az _he/it_took ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ 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 ᴅᴏᴍ the_child and_she_ _placed_him on_bosom_of_her and_it_became to_him/it (into)_

Readers' Version

est 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 (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

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.

43 RV 4:12 · Cross-ref. Gen 38:27-30.

46 LV 4:6 · Note OSHB variant note: לואנ/ל: (x-qere) 'לְאִנְ/ל': lemma_l/1350 a morph_HR/Vqc id_08Ynf לְאִנְ/ל

Readers' Version

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

_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 ˊŌvˇēd he was_the_father_of Yishay/(Jesse) the_father_of Dāvid. **18** And_these are_the_descendants_of Perets Perets he_fathered ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ Ḫetsrōn. **19** And_Ḫetsrōn he_ _fathered ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ Rām and_Rām he_fathered ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ ˊAmmināfirst_dāvˇ. **20** And_ˊAmminādāvˇ he_fathered ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ Naḫshōn and_Naḫshōn he_fathered ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ Salmah. **21** And_Salmōn he_fathered ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ Bo˙az and_Bo˙az he_fathered ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ ˊŌvˇēd. **22** And_ˊŌvˇēd he_fathered ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ Yishay and_Yishay he_fathered ~~ᴅᴏᴍ~~ Dāvid.

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47 **RV 4:17 · Cross-ref.** Mat 1:5-6.