

# The Book of Ruth

## The Argument

This book is entitled after the name of Ruth: which is the principal person spoken of in this treatise. Wherein also figuratively is set forth the state of the Church which is subject to manifold afflictions, and yet at length God giveth good and joyful issue: teaching us to abide with patience till God deliver us out of troubles. Herein also is described how Jesus Christ, who according to the flesh ought to come of David, proceeded of Ruth, of whom the Lord Jesus did vouchsafe to come, notwithstanding she was a Moabite of base condition, and a stranger from the people of God: declaring unto us thereby that the Gentiles should be sanctified by him and joined with his people, and that there should be but one sheepfold, and one shepherd. And it seemeth that this history appertaineth to the time of the Judges.

### Chapter 1

2 *Elimélech goeth with his wife & children into the land of Moáb.*  
3 *He and his sons die. 19 Naomi and Ruth come to Beth-léhem.*

**I**n the time that the judges <sup>^</sup>ruled, there was a dearth in the <sup>^</sup>land, and a man of Beth-léhem <sup>^</sup>Judáh went for to sojourn in the country of Moáb, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

2 And the name of the man was Elimélech, and the name of his wife, Naomí: and the names of his two sons, Mahlón, and Chilión, Ephrathites of Beth-léhem Judáh: and when they came into the land of Moáb, they continued there.

3 Then Elimélech the husband of Naomí died, and she remained with her two sons,

4 Which took them wives of the <sup>^</sup>Moabites: the ones name was Orpáh, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

5 And Mahlón and Chilión died also both twain: so the woman was left *desítute* of her two sons, and of her husband.

6 ¶ Then she arose with her daughters in law, and returned from the country of Moáb, for she had heard say in the country of Moáb, that the Lord had <sup>^</sup>visited his people, & given them bread.

7 Wherefore she departed out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her, and they went on their way to return unto the land of Judáh.

8 Then Naomí said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each of you unto her own mother's house: the Lord shewe favor unto you, as ye have done with the dead, and with me.

9 The Lord grant you, that you may find <sup>^</sup>rest, either of you in the house of her husband. And when she kissed them, they lift up their voice and wept.

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

11 But Naomí said, Turn again, my daughters: for what cause will you go with me? are there any mo 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, and if I had an husband this night: yea, if I had born sons,

13 Would ye tarry for them, till they were of age? would ye be differed for them from taking of husbands? nay my daughters: for it grieveth me <sup>^</sup>much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord is gone out against me.

14 Then they lift up their voice, and wept again, and Orpáh <sup>^</sup>kissed her mother in law, but Ruth abode still with her.

15 And Naomí said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto

her people and unto her gods: <sup>^</sup>return thou after thy sister in law. 16 And Ruth answered, Entreat me not to leave thee, nor to depart from thee: for whither thou goest, I will go: and where thou dwellest, I will dwell: thy people *shalbe* my people, and thy God my God.

17 Where thou dyest, will I die, & there will I be buryed, the Lord do so to me and more also, if *ought* but death depart thee & me.

18 ¶ When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, she left speaking unto her.

19 So they went both until they came to Beth-léhem: and when they were come to Beth-léhem, it was <sup>^</sup>noised of them through all the city, and they said, Is not this Naomí?

20 And she answered them, Call me not <sup>^</sup>Naomí, *but* call me <sup>^</sup>Mará: for the Almighty hath given me much bitterness.

21 I went out full, and the Lord hath caused me to return empty: why call ye me Naomí, seeing the Lord hath humbled me, and the Almighty hath brought me unto adversity.

22 So Naomí returned and Ruth the Moabitesse her daughter in law with her, when she came out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-léhem in the beginning of 'barley harvest.

### Chapter 2

1 *Ruth gathereth corn in the fields of Bóaz. 15 The gentleness of Bóaz toward her.*

**T**hen Naomí's husband had a kinsman, one of great <sup>^</sup>power of the family of Elimélech, and his name was Bóaz.

2 And Ruth the Moabitesse said unto Naomí, I pray thee, let me go to the field, and <sup>^</sup>gather ears of corn after him, in whose sight I find favor. And she said unto her, Go my daughter.

3 ¶ When she went, and came and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and it came to pass, that she met with the portion of the field of Bóaz, who was of the family of Elimélech.

4 And behold, Bóaz came from Beth-léhem, and said unto the reapers, The Lord *be* with you: and they answered him, The Lord bless thee.

5 Then said Bóaz unto his servant that was appointed over the reapers, Whose maid is this?

6 And the servant that was appointed over the reapers, answered, and said, It is the Moabitish maid, that came with Naomí out of the country of Moáb:

7 And she said unto us, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers <sup>^</sup>among the sheaves: so she came, and hath

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1 <sup>^</sup>Ebr., judged.

1 a In the land of Canaan.

1 b In the tribe of Judah, which was also called Bethlehem Ephrathah, because there was another city so called in the tribe of Zebulun.

4 c By this wonderful providence of God, Ruth became one of God's household, of whom Christ came.

6 d By sending them plenty again.

9 e Hereby it appears that Naomi by dwelling among idolaters was waxen cold in the true zeal of God, which rather had respect to the ease of the body then to the comfort of the soul.

13 <sup>^</sup>Or, more than you.

14 f When she took leave and departed.

15 g No persuasions can prevail to turn them back from God whom he has chosen to be his.

19 h Whereby appears that she was of a great family and of good reputation.

20 <sup>^</sup>Or, beautiful.

20 <sup>^</sup>Or, bitter.

22 i Which was in the month Nisan, that contains part of March and part of April.

### Chapter 2

1 a Both for virtue, authority and riches.

2 b This her humility declares her great affection toward her mother in law, for as much as she spared no painful diligence to get both their livings.

7 <sup>^</sup>Or, certain handfuls.

continued from that time in the morning unto now, save that she tarried a little in the house.

8 ¶ Then said Bóaz unto Ruth, Hearst thou, my daughter? go to none other field to gather, neither go from hence: but abide here by my maidens.

9 <sup>c</sup>Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after the *maidens*. Have I not charged the servants, that they touch thee not? Moreover when thou art a thirst, go unto the vessels and drink of that which the servants have drawn.

10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed her self to the ground, and said unto him, How have I found favor in thine eyes, that thou shuldest know me, seeing I am <sup>a</sup>a stranger?

11 And Bóaz answered, and said unto her, All is told and shewed me 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 where thou wast bom, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not in time past.

12 The Lord recompense thy work and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israël, under whose <sup>w</sup>wings thou art come to trust.

13 Then she said, Let me find favor in thy sight, my lord: for thou hast comforted me, and spoken comfortably unto thy maid, though I be not like to one of thy maids.

14 And Bóaz said unto her, At the meal time 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 <sup>l</sup>left thereof.

15 ¶ And when she arose: to glean, Bóaz commanded his servants, saying, Let her gather among the sheaves, and do not rebuke her.

16 Also let fall *some* of the sheaves for her, and let it lie, that she may gather it up, and rebuke her not.

17 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and she threshed that she had gathered, and it was about an <sup>\*Epháh</sup> of barley.

18 ¶ And she took it up, and went into the city, and her mother in law saw what she had gathered: also she <sup>t</sup>took forth, and gave to her that which she had reserved, when she was sufficed.

19 Then her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroghtest thou? blessed be he, that knew 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 Bóaz.

20 And Naomí said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the Lord: for he ceaseth not to do good to the living and to the <sup>h</sup>dead. Again Naomí said unto her, The man is near unto us, and of our affinity.

21 And Ruth the Moabitesse said, He said also certainly unto me, Thou shalt be with my servants, until they have ended all mine harvest.

22 And Naomí answered unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is best, my daughter, that thou go out with his maids, that they <sup>^</sup>meet thee not in another field.

23 Then she kept her by the maids of Bóaz, to gather unto the end of barley harvest, and of wheat harvest, and <sup>^</sup>dwelt with her mother in law.

### Chapter 3

9 c That is, Take heed in what field they do reap.

10 d Even of the Moábites, which are enemies of God's people.

12 e Signifying that she shall never want any thing if she put her trust in God and live under his protection.

14 f Which she brought home to her mother in law.

17 <sup>\*Ex.</sup> 16.36

18 g To wit, of her bag, as is in the Chaldee text.

20 h To my husband and children, when they were alive, and now to us.

22 <sup>^</sup>Or, fall upon you.

23 <sup>^</sup>Or, returned to her mother in law.

1 Naomí giveth Ruth counsel. 8 She slepeth at Bóaz feet. 12 He acknowledged him self to be her kinsman.

**A**fterward Naomí her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall not I seek <sup>a</sup>rest for thee, that thou maist prosper? 2 Now also is not Bóaz our kinsman, with whose maids thou wast? behold, he winoweth barley to night in the <sup>^</sup>floor.

3 Wash thy self therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: let not the <sup>b</sup>man know of thee, until he have left eating and drinking.

4 And when he shall sleep, mark the place where he layeth him down, and go, and uncover the place of his feet, and lay thee down, and he shall tell thee what thou shalt do.

5 And she answered her, All that thou biddest me, I will do.

6 ¶ So she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her.

7 And when Bóaz had eaten, and drunken, and <sup>c</sup>cheered his heart, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn, and she came softly, and uncovered the place of his feet, and lay down.

8 And at midnight the man was afraid <sup>^</sup>and caught hold: and lo, a woman lay at his feet.

9 Then he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore the wing of thy garment over thine handmaid: for thou art the kinsman.

10 Then said he, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: thou hast <sup>d</sup>shewed more goodness in the latter end, then at the beginning, in as much as thou followedst not young men, were they poor or rich.

11 And now, my daughter, fear not: I will do to thee all that thou requirest for all the city of my people doeth know, that thou art a virtuous woman.

12 And now, it is true that I am thy kinsman, howbeit there is a kinsman nearer then I.

13 Tarry to night, and when morning is come, if he <sup>e</sup>will do the duty of a kinsman unto thee, well, let him do the kinsman's duty: but if he will not do the kinsman's part, then will I do the duty of a kinsman, as the Lord liveth: sleep until the morning.

14 ¶ And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she arose before one could know another: for he said, Let no man know, that a woman came in to the floor.

15 Also he said, bring the <sup>^</sup>sheet that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measures six *measures* of barley, and laid them on her, and went into the city.

16 And when she came to her mother in law, she said, <sup>h</sup>Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her,

17 And said, These six *measures* of barley gave he me: for he said to me, Thou shalt not come empty unto thy mother in law.

18 Then said she, My daughter, sit still, until thou know how the thing will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he hath finished the matter this same day.

### Chapter 4

2 Bóaz speaketh to Ruth's next kinsman touching her marriage. 7 The ancient custom in Israël. 10 Bóaz maryeth Ruth, of whom

1 a Meaning, that she would provide her of an husband, with whom she might live quietly.

2 <sup>^</sup>Or, in the barn.

3 b Bóaz, nor yet any other.

7 c That is, had refreshed himself among his servants.

8 <sup>^</sup>Or, turned himself from one side to another.

10 d You showed yourself from time to time more virtuous.

13 e If he will make you to be his wife by the title of affinity, according to God's law. Deu. 25.5.

15 <sup>^</sup>Or, mantle.

16 f Perceiving by her coming home, that he had not taken her to wife, she was astonished.

he begetteth Obéd. 18 The generation of Phárez.

Then went Bóaz up to the <sup>a</sup>gate, & sat there, and behold, the kinsman, of whom Bóaz had spoken, came by: & he said, <sup>b</sup>Ho, such one, come, sit down here. And he turned, & sat down. 2 Then he took ten men of the Elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down. 3 And he said unto the kinsman, Naomí, that is come again out of the country of Moáb, will sell a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimélech's. 4 And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the <sup>c</sup>assistans, and before the Elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, tell me: for I know that there is none <sup>d</sup>besides thee to redeem it, and I am after thee. Then he answered, I will redeem it. 5 Then said Bóaz, What day thou byest the field of the hand of Naomí, thou must also buy it of Ruth the Moabitesse the wife of the dead, to stir up the name of the dead, upon his <sup>e</sup>inheritance. 6 And the kinsman answered, I can not redeem it, lest I destroy mine own inheritance: redeem my right to thee, for I can not redeem it. 7 Now this was the manner beforetime in Israël, concerning redeeming and changing, for to stablish all things: a man did pluck off his shoe, and gave it his neighbor, and this was a sure <sup>e</sup>witness in Israël. 8 Therefore the kinsman said to Bóaz, Buy it for thee: and he drew off his shoe. 9 And Bóaz said unto the Elders and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimélech's, and all that was Chilión's and Mahlón's, of the hand of Naomí. 10 And moreover, Ruth the Moabitesse the wife of Mahlón, have I bought to be my wife, to stir up the name of the dead upon his

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1 a Which was the place of judgement.

1 b The Ebrewes here use two words which have no proper signification, but serve to note a certain person: as we say, ho, syrray, or ho, such one.

4 <sup>c</sup>Or, inhabitants.

4 c For you are the next of the kin.

5 d That his inheritance might bear his name that is dead.

7 e That he had resigned his right, Deut. 25.9.

inheritance, and that the name of the dead be not put out from among his brethren, and from the gate of his <sup>f</sup>place: ye are witnesses this day.

11 And all the people that were in the gate, and the Elders said, *We are witnesses*: the Lord make the wife that cometh into thine house, like Rahél and like Leáh, which twain did build the house of Israël: and that thou maist do worthily in <sup>g</sup>Ephráthah, and be famous in Beth-léhem,

12 And that thine house be like the house of Phárez (<sup>h</sup>whom Thamár bare unto Judáh) of the seed which the Lord shall give thee of this young woman.

13 ¶ So Bóaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave, that she conceived, and bare a son.

14 And the woman said unto Naomí, Blessed *be* the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, and <sup>i</sup>his name shalbe continued in Israël.

15 And this shall bring thy life again, and cherish thine old age: for thy daughter in law which loveth thee, hath born unto him, and she is better to thee then <sup>j</sup>seven sons.

16 And Naomí took the child, and layed it in her lap, and became nurse unto it.

17 And *the women* her neighbors gave it a name, saying, There is a child born to Naomí, and called the name thereof Obéd: the same was the father of Jshái, the father of David.

18 ¶ These now are the generations of <sup>k</sup>Phárez: Phárez begate Hezrón,

19 And Hezrón begate Ram, and Ram begate Amminadáb,

20 And Amminadáb begate Nahshón, and Nahshón begate Salmáh,

21 And Salmón begate Bóaz, and Bóaz begate Obéd,

22 And Obéd begate Jshái, and Jshái begate David.

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10 f Or, of the city where he remained.

11 g Ephráthah and Beth-léhem are both one.

12 <sup>h</sup>Gen. 38.29.

14 h He shall leave a continual posterity.

15 i Meaning, many sons.

18 <sup>j</sup>\*1 Chron. 2.5, Mat. 1.3.

18 k This generation is brought into show that David by succession came of the house of Judah.