

RUTH

CHAPTER 1

And it came to pass when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land: and a certain man went from Bethlehem-judah to sojourn in the land of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. ²And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem-judah: and they came into the country of Moab, and abode there. ³And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. ⁴And they took them wives, women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the second Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. ⁵And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her husband and her two sons. ⁶And she arose, and her two daughters in law, and they returned from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited His people to give them bread. ⁷And she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went by the way to return unto the land of Judah. ⁸And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go now, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal mercifully with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. ⁹The Lord grant that you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. And she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. ¹⁰And they said unto her, We will return with thee unto thy people. ¹¹And Naomi said, Return now, my daughters; and why do ye go with me? have I yet sons in my womb, to be your husbands? ¹²Turn now, my daughters; for I am too old to be married: for I said, Suppose that I were married, and should bear sons; ¹³would ye tarry for them until they were grown? or would ye refrain from being married for their sakes? Not so, my daughters; for I am grieved for you that the hand of the Lord is gone out against me. ¹⁴And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law, and returned unto her people; but Ruth followed her. ¹⁵And Naomi said unto Ruth, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: turn thou also after thy sister in law. ¹⁶And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whithersoever thou goest, I will go; and wheresoever thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. ¹⁷And wheresoever thou diest, I will die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if I leave thee, for death only shall divide between me and thee. ¹⁸And Naomi seeing that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, left speaking unto her more. ¹⁹And they went both of them until they came unto Bethlehem: and it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city rang with them, and they said, Is this Naomi? ²⁰And she said unto them, Nay, call me not Naomi, call me Bitter: for the Mighty One hath dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me back: and why call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath humbled me, and the

Mighty One hath afflicted me? ²²So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

CHAPTER 2

And Naomi had a friend, an acquaintance of her husband; and the man was a mighty man of the kindred of Elimelech, and his name was Boaz. ²And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and I will glean behind the man in whose eyes soever I shall find favour: and she said unto her, Go, daughter. ³And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the land of Boaz, of the kindred of Elimelech. ⁴And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The Lord be with you: and they said unto him, The Lord bless thee. ⁵And Boaz said unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this? ⁶And his servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the land of Moab: ⁷and she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: and she came, and stood from the morning until even, and rested not even a little in the field. ⁸And Boaz said unto Ruth, Hast thou not heard, my daughter? go not to glean in another field, neither depart thou from hence; join thyself here with my damsels. ⁹Let thine eyes be on the field where my men shall reap, and thou shalt go after them: behold, I have charged the young men that they shall not touch thee; and when thou shalt thirst, then shalt thou go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn. ¹⁰And she fell upon her face, and did reverence to the ground, and said unto him, How is it that I have found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? ¹¹And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me how thou hast dealt with thy mother in law after the death of thine husband: and how thou didst leave thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy captivity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not yesterday and the third day heretofore. ¹²The Lord recompense thy work: a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, unto whom thou art come to trust under His wings. ¹³And she said, Let me find grace in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid: and, behold, I shall be as one of thy servants. ¹⁴And Boaz said unto her, Now is it time to eat; come thou hither, and thou shalt eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar: and Ruth sat beside the reapers, and Boaz heaped her meal, and she ate, and was satisfied, and left. ¹⁵And she rose up to glean; and Boaz charged his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and shame her not. ¹⁶And do ye by all means carry if for her, and ye shall surely let fall for her some of that which is heaped up; and let her eat, and glean, and reproach her not. ¹⁷So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley. ¹⁸And

she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and Ruth brought forth, and gave to her what she had left from that wherewith she had been satisfied. ¹⁹And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And Ruth shewed her mother in law where she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz. ²⁰And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed is he of the Lord, for He hath not failed in his mercy with the living and with the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, he is one of our next kinsmen. ²¹And Ruth said unto her mother in law, Yea, he said unto me also, Keep fast by my damsels, until the men have finished all my reaping. ²²And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is well, daughter, that thou wentest out with his damsels; thus shall they not meet thee in another field. ²³And Ruth kept fast by the damsels of Boaz to glean until they had finished the barley harvest and the wheat harvest.

CHAPTER 3

And she lodged with her mother in law: and Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? ²And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose damsels thou wast? Behold he winnoweth barley to night in the threshing floor. ³But wash thyself, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee up to the threshing floor: and make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. ⁴And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he lieth down, and thou shalt come in, and lift up the covering of his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. ⁵And Ruth said unto her, All that thou sayest I will do. ⁶And she went down unto the threshing floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her. ⁷And Boaz ate and drank, and his heart was glad, and he came to lie down by the side of the heap of corn: and she came secretly, and lifted up the covering of his feet. ⁸And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was amazed, and troubled: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. ⁹And he said, Who art thou? and she said, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near relation. ¹⁰And Boaz said, Blessed be thou of the Lord God, my daughter; for thou hast made thy latter kindness greater than the former, inasmuch as thou followest not young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹And now, my daughter, fear not; whatsoever thou shalt say, I will do to thee: for all the tribe of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman. ¹²And now I am truly akin to thee: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I. ¹³Lodge here for the night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do it: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then I will do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the Lord liveth: lie down until the morning. ¹⁴And she lay at his feet until the morning;

and she rose up before a man could know his neighbour: and Boaz said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor. ¹⁵And he said unto her, Bring the apron that thou hast upon thee; and she held it, and he measured six measures of barley, and put them on her: and she went into the city. ¹⁶And Ruth went in to her mother in law, and she said unto her, My daughter; and Ruth told her all that the man had done to her. ¹⁷And she said unto her, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law. ¹⁸And she said, Be still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not rest until the thing be accomplished this day.

CHAPTER 4

And Boaz went up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake passed by; and Boaz said unto him, Turn aside, sit down here, such an one: and he turned aside, and sat down. ²And Boaz took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here; and they sat down. ³And Boaz said unto the kinsman, As concerning the portion of the field which was our brother Elimelech's, which was given unto Naomi returning out of the land of Moab: ⁴and I said, I will inform thee, saying, Buy it before them that sit, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, and I shall know: for there is none to do the office of a kinsman beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I am here, I will redeem it. ⁵And Boaz said, In the day of thy buying the field of the hand of Naomi and of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, thou must also buy her, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance. ⁶And the kinsman said, I shall not be able to redeem it of myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I shall not be able to redeem it. ⁷And this was in former time the ordinance in Israel concerning redemption, and concerning a bargain, for to confirm every word: a man loosed his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour that redeemed his right: and this was a testimony in Israel. ⁸And the kinsman said, Buy my right for thee: and he drew off his shoe, and gave it him. ⁹And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon, of the hand of Naomi. ¹⁰Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased for myself for to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, so the name of the dead shall not be cut off from among his brethren, and from the tribe of his people: ye are witnesses this day. ¹¹And all the people that were in the gate, said, We are witnesses: and the elders said, The Lord make thy wife that goeth into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which both together did build the house of Israel, and wrought mightily in Ephratah; and there shall be a name to thee in Bethlehem. ¹²And let thine house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the Lord shall give thee of this handmaid. ¹³And Boaz took Ruth, and

she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son. ¹⁴And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not suffered a redeemer to fail thee this day, even to make thy name famous in Israel. ¹⁵And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy soul, and one to cherish thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which hath loved thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath borne him. ¹⁶And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became a nurse unto it. ¹⁷And the neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: this is the father of Jesse, the father of David. ¹⁸And these are the generations of Pharez: Phares begat Hezron; ¹⁹Hezron begat Ram; and Ram begat Amminadab. ²⁰And Amminadab begat Nahshon; and Nahshon begat Salmon. ²¹And Salmon begat Boaz; and Boaz begat Obed. ²²And Obed begat Jesse; and Jesse begat David.