

The Book of Ruth

Ruth 1:4-13

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1:1-22, Death and Emptiness

- 1-7, **End of a family line** in Moab
- 8-19a, Dialog on the Road
- 19b-22, Naomi and **townswomen** (**gate**)

2:1-23, Seeking Short-Term Security

- 1-3, Home: Naomi accepts Ruth's Plan
- 4-17, Field: Ruth meets Boaz
- 18-23, Home: Naomi and Ruth debrief

3:1-18, Seeking Permanent Security

- 1-5, Home: Ruth accepts Naomi's Plan
- 6-15, Threshing Floor: Ruth and Boaz
- 16-18, Home: Naomi and Ruth debrief

4:1-22, Redemption and Fullness

- 1-12, **Gate**: Boaz and elders
- 13-17, Home: Naomi and **townswomen**
- 18-22, **Beginning of royal line** in Israel

After Peter Lau, *NICOT* (2023)

Beth-lehem: House of Bread (!)

The Women of Moab

Num 25:1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit **whoredom** with the **daughters of Moab**. 2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of **their gods**: and the people did eat, and bowed down to **their gods**.

To Moab and Back

1:1 a certain man ... **went** to **sojourn**

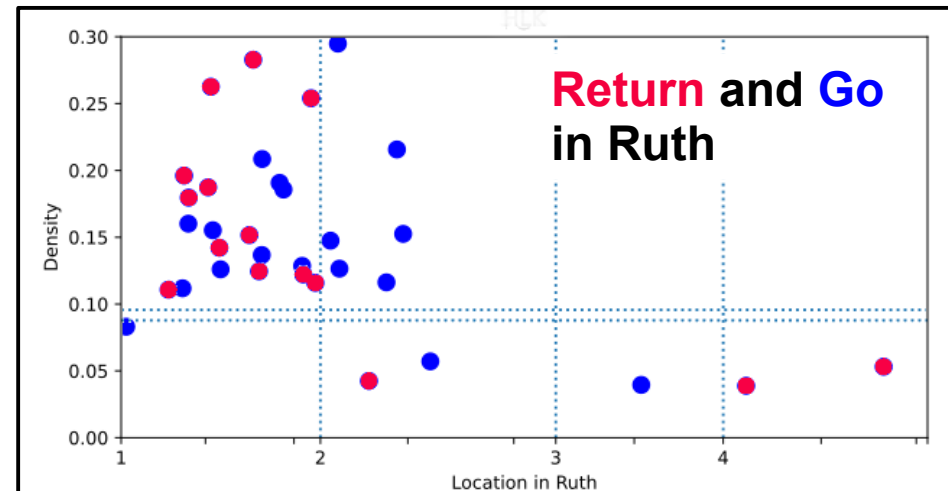
1:2 they ... **continued** there

1:4 they **dwelled [sat]** there

1:6 she **arose** to **return**

1:7a she **went** forth

1:7b they **went** to **return**



Chiasm (AB-C-D-C'-B'A'B'') in 1:1-6

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

B: And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah **went to sojourn** in the **country of Moab**, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. [external inclusio]

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

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

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

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

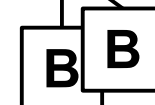
B': 6 Then she **arose with her daughters in law**, that she might **return** from the **country of Moab**:

B'': 7 Wherefore she **went forth** out of the place where she was, and **her two daughters in law with her**; and they **went** on the way to **return** unto the land of Judah.

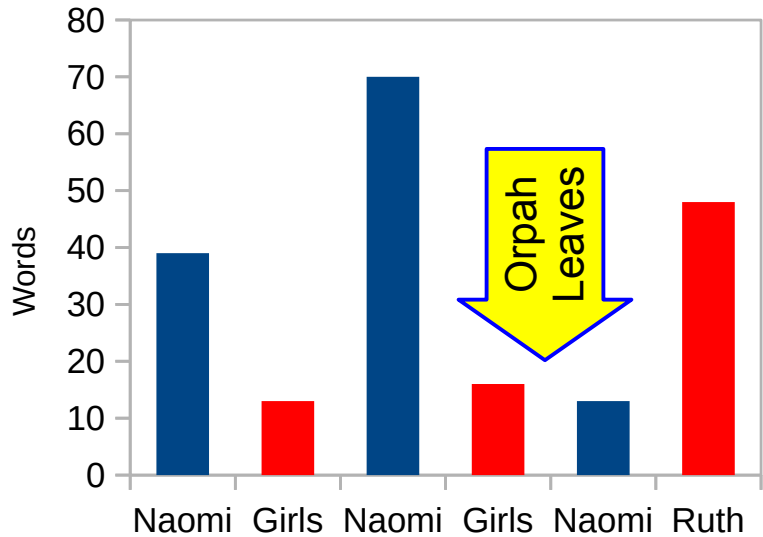
C': 5 And Mahlon and Chilion **died** also both of them; and **the woman was left** of her two sons and her husband.



(Un)folding



1:8-19a, Dialog on the Road: Naomi's Proposal



Naomi's Overgeneralization

Jhn 21:21 Peter seeing [John] saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? 22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.

Rom 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

Mother's House

Gen. 24:28 And the damsel ran, and told them of **her mother's house** these things.

Gen. 24:67 And Isaac brought her into **his mother Sarah's tent**, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.


Deal Kindly (do **טוֹן chesed H2617**)

Exo 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in **goodness** and truth, 7 Keeping **mercy** for thousands, ...

Psa 118:1, 29; 136:1; etc. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his **mercy** endureth for ever.

Ruth 2:20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his **kindness** to the living and to the dead.

Ruth 3:10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more **kindness** in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

9b-10, Girls' First Response		14, Girls' Second Response
		14c but Ruth clave unto her.
9b Then she kissed them;		14b and Orpah kissed her mother in law;
and they lifted up their voice, and wept.		14a And they lifted up their voice, and wept again:
10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.		

9-10, The Girls Respond

Return ... unto thy people

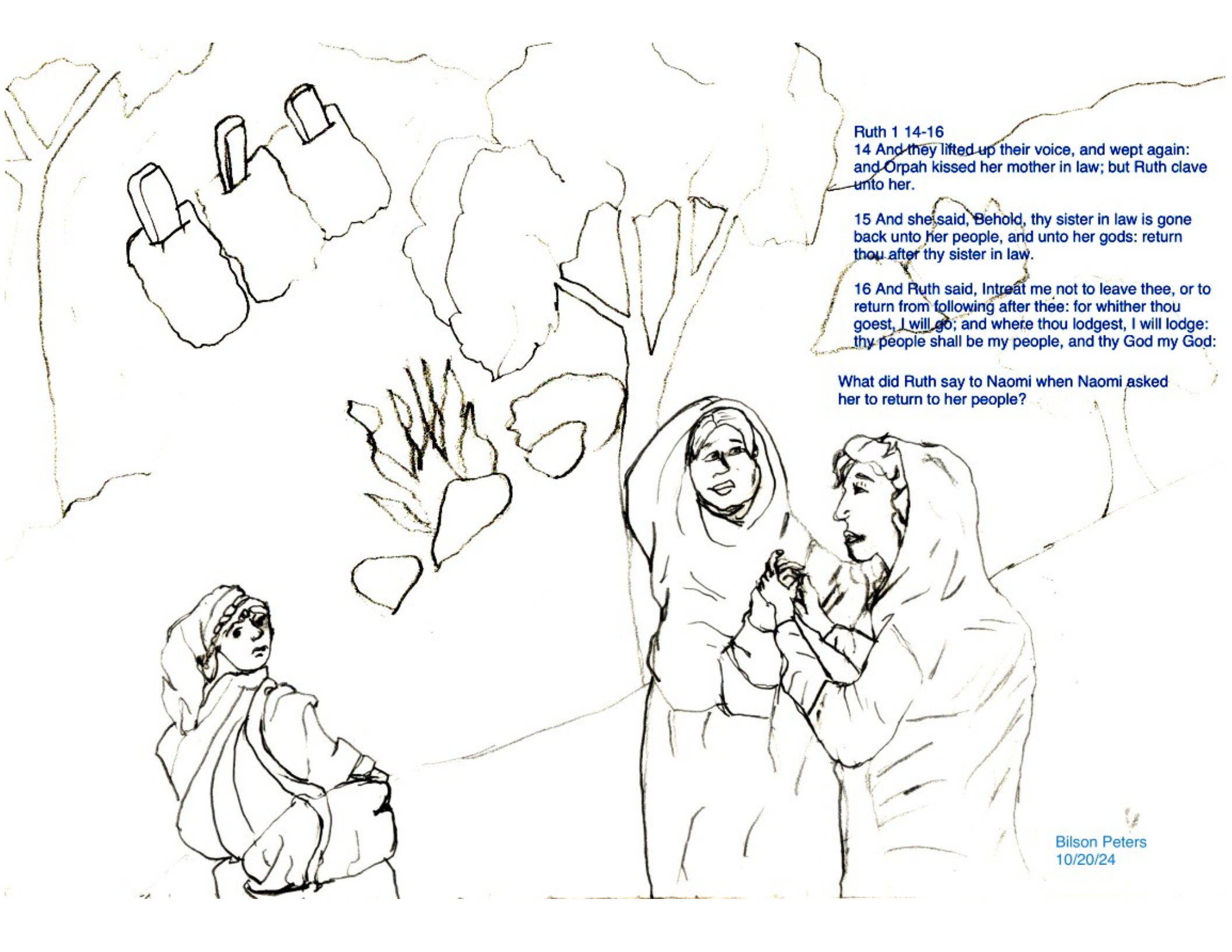
Ruth 1:15 Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her **people**, and unto her **gods**:

Ruth 1:16: **thy people** shall be my people, and **thy God** my God.

11-13, Naomi's Remarriage?

Gen 38:6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name was Tamar. 7 And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD slew him. 8 And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and **raise up seed to thy brother**. ... 10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD: wherefore he slew him also. 11 Then said Judah to Tamar his daughter in law, Remain a widow at thy father's house, till Shelah my son be grown: for he said, Lest peradventure he die also, as his brethren did. And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house. ... 26 And Judah acknowledged them, and said, **She hath been more righteous than I**; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son.

Deu 25:5 If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: **her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife**, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. 6 And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.



Ruth 1 14-16

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

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

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

What did Ruth say to Naomi when Naomi asked her to return to her people?