

The Book of Ruth

Ruth 2:1-7

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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, Introducing Boaz
- 2, Home: Naomi accepts Ruth's Plan
- 3-17, 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)

Chiastic Organization of Ruth 2

In Naomi's House	Ruth and Naomi	2 Ruth asks permission		18b-22 Naomi explains Boaz
	Ruth commutes	3a		18a
In Boaz's Field	Ruth gleans	3b		17
	Boaz speaks to workers	4-7 blesses reapers, talks to overseer		15-16 gives Ruth special favors
	Boaz speaks to Ruth	8-9 stay close to my workers		14 share our lunch
	Ruth speaks to Boaz	10		13
	Boaz blesses Ruth	11-12		

Helpful Parallels

Describing Boaz

2:1a her husband's **acquaintance** מַיֻדָּא *meyudda*

H4129

2:1b, 3 of Elimelech's **extended clan** מִשְׁפַּחָה

mishpaxa H4940 (next level below tribe)

2:20 a **redeemer** גֹּאֵל *goʾēl* H1350

3:2 a **kinsman** מֹדָאֵץ *modaʿat* H4130

Gleaning (gathering, לָקַט *laqat* H3950)

Deu 24:19 When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for **the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow**: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands. 20 When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again: it shall be for **the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow**. 21 When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean it [לָלַץ *go over repeatedly*] afterward: it shall be for **the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow**.

2 Thes 3:10 If any would not work, neither should he eat.

Gleaning the Manna

Ex. 16:4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and **gather** a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. 5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they **gather** daily. ...

(cf. Lv 19:9,10;23:22)

The Harvest Process

Psa 129:7 Wherewith the **mower** filleth not his hand; nor he that **bindeth sheaves** his bosom.

Mat 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, **Gather [glean]** ye together first the tares, and **bind** them in **bundles** to burn them: but **gather [collect]** the wheat into my barn.

Deu 24:19 When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast **forgot a sheaf in the field**, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow:



Photos: June 1975, near Debir, Van and Anita Parunak

A Biblical Theory of Random Events

1Sam. 6:9 And see, if it [the cart] goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, then he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that smote us: it was **a chance** (מקרה *miqreh* H4745) that happened to us.

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

And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin קרוב unto us, one of our next kinsmen.

Pro 16:33 The **lot** is cast into the lap; but the **whole disposing** thereof is of the LORD.



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5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?

6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:

7 And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.

What did Boaz say to Ruth?

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