

The Book of Ruth

Ruth 2:13-23

The Book of Ruth

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)

Ruth in Boaz's Field

Ruth and Naomi	2 Ruth asks permission		18b-22 Naomi explains Boaz
Ruth commutes	3a		18a
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 find grace in thine eyes		13 find grace in thine eyes
Boaz blesses Ruth	11-12		

Fields of Bethlehem. Village on hill to right. Van and Anita Parunak, Oct 1974



Ruth's developing view of herself

2:10, "I am a **stranger** נִכְרִי *nokrî* H5237," a foreigner

2:13, "thine **handmaid** שִׁפְחָה *shiphxa* H8198, a female servant, typically a lady's maid

3:9, "thine **handmaid** אָמָה *āmāh* H519, a female servant, often as wife or concubine to the head of the house.

2:14, Lunch in the Field



Matson Photo Service

Above: <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/matpc.10148/>

Left: <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/matpc.06350/>

2:17, she .. beat out that she had gleaned

How Big is an Ephah?

Exo 16:36 Now an omer is the tenth part of an ephah.

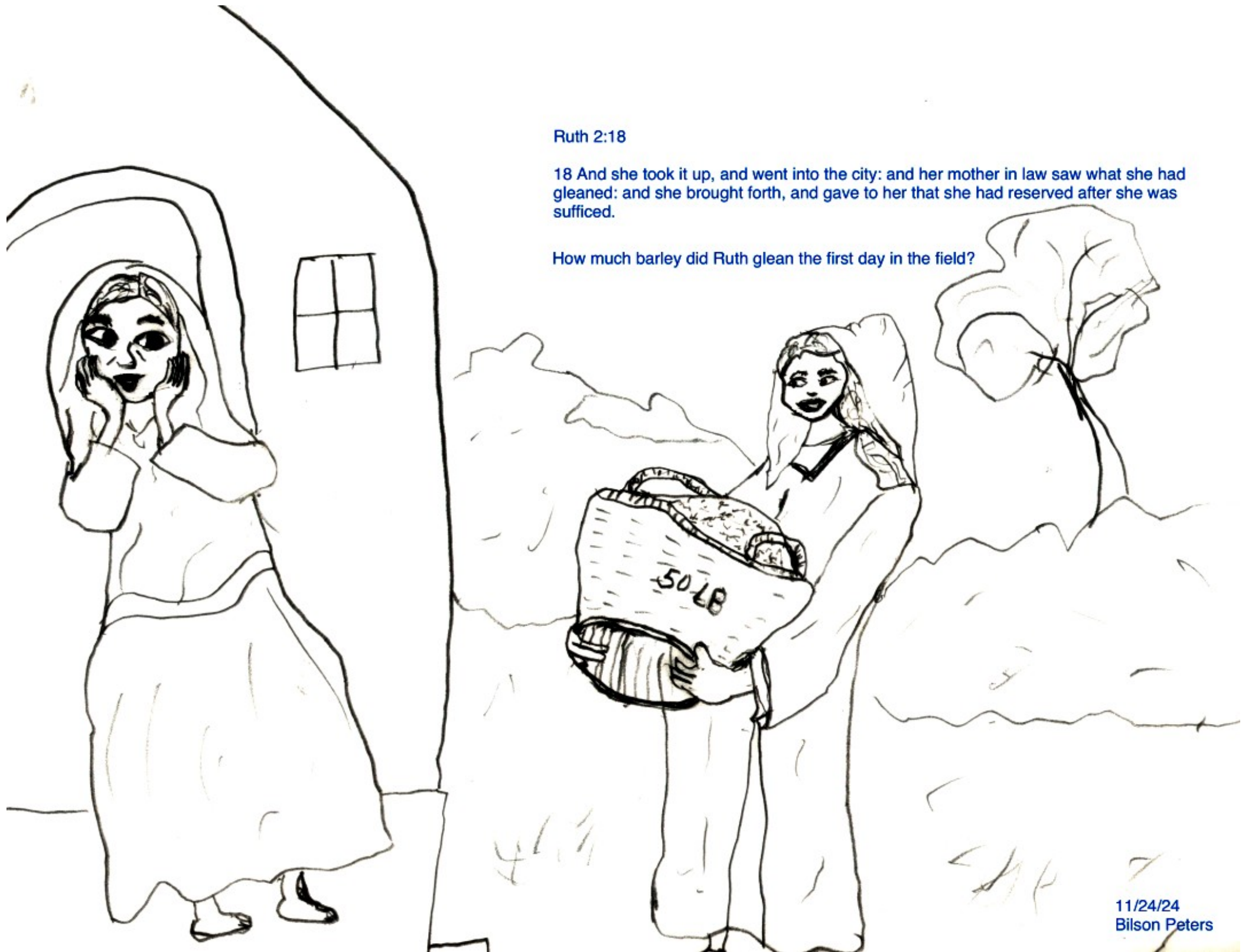
Exo 16:16 This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents. ... 22 And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man

Zec 5:5 Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. 6 And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an **ephah** that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. 7 And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a **woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah**. 8 And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. 9 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and **they lifted up the ephah** between the earth and the heaven. 10 Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? 11 And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.

Ruth 2:18

18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.

How much barley did Ruth glean the first day in the field?



Naomi Debriefs Ruth

Blessing = **Statement** + **Reason**

2:19 **blessed be he** that did take knowledge ...

1:8 **the Lord deal kindly with you**, as ye have dealt ...

2:20 **Blessed be he** ... , who hath not left off his kindness **חסד xesed** H2617 ...

**2:20b near of kin (קרוב qarob H7138):
Inheritance**

Num 27:8 If a man die, and have no son, then ye shall cause his **inheritance** to pass unto his daughter. 9 And if he have no daughter, then ye shall give his **inheritance** unto his brethren. 10 And if he have no brethren, then ye shall give his **inheritance** unto his father's brethren. 11 And if his father have no brethren, then ye shall give his **inheritance** unto his kinsman that is **next קרוב** to him of his **family**, and he shall possess it: ...

one of our next kinsmen **גאֵל goʔēl** H1350 [redeemer]

Lev 25:25 If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his **kin קרוב** come to **redeem** it, then shall he **redeem** that which his brother sold.

Lev 25:47 And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother that dwelleth by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger or sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family: 48 After that he is sold he may be **redeemed** again; one of his brethren may **redeem** him: 49 Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may **redeem** him, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his **family** may **redeem** him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.

Protecting Ruth's Reputation

Naomi modifies Boaz's Instruction

2:21 Thou shalt keep fast by my **young men** (cf. 2:16)

2:22 go out with his **maidens**

that they meet [פגע *pagaʿ* H6293] **thee not in any other field**

Judg. 8:21 Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, Rise thou, and **fall upon** פגע us: for as the man is, so is his strength. And Gideon arose, and slew Zebah and Zalmunna, ...

Boaz's Protection

Rut 2:9 have I not charged the young men that **they shall not touch thee?**

Rut 2:15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and **reproach her not:** 16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and **rebuke her not.**