

The Book of Ruth

Ruth 3:9-18

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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

Spread thy skirt ...

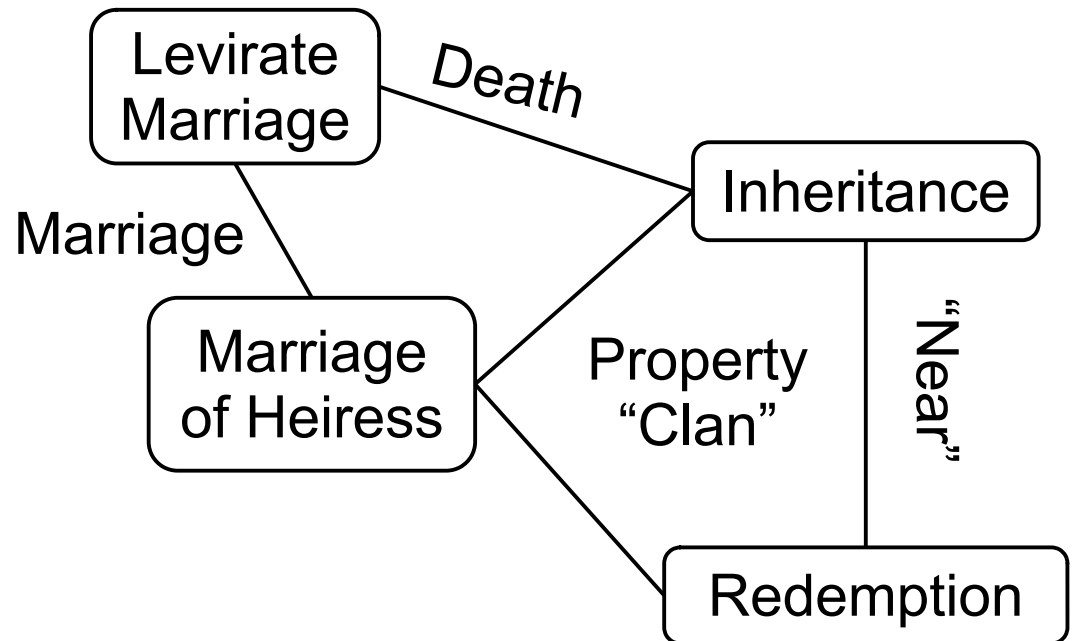
Ezk 16:8 Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and **I spread my skirt over thee**, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

After Peter Lau, *NICOT* (2023)

Hebrew Laws of Marriage and Property

Institution	Legislated	Purpose	Candidate	In Ruth
Levirate Marriage	Deut 25:5-6	Preserve the name of the deceased	If brethren dwell together	1:11-13
Inheritance	Num 27:8-11	Keep property in the clan	Near <i>qarob</i> , same clan (<i>mishpaxa</i>)	2:20; 3:12
Marriage of Heiress	Num 36:6-7	Keep property in the clan	Same family (<i>mishpaxa</i>)	3:9
Redemption	Lev 25:25, 47-49	Keep property in the clan	Near <i>qarob</i> , same clan (<i>mishpaxa</i>)	2:20; 3:9, 12-13; 4:4-9

Levirate Marriage: 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, ... 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.



Hebrew Laws (2)

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 to him qarob** of his **family mishpaxa**, and he shall possess it: ...

Marriage of Heiress: Num 36:6 This is the thing which the LORD doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the **family mishpaxa** of the tribe of their father shall they marry. 7 So shall not the inheritance of the children of Israel remove from tribe to tribe:

Redemption: Lev 25:25 If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his **kin qarob** come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold. ... 49 Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his **family mishpaxa** may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.

The Case of Ruth and Boaz

Rut 4:3 And he said unto the kinsman [*goʔēl*, **redeemer**], Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's: 4 And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt **redeem** it, **redeem** it: but if thou wilt not **redeem** it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to **redeem** it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will **redeem** it.

תֹּן *xesed* H2617 in the Family

10 thou hast shewed more kindness *xesed*

Rut 1:8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal **kindly** with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

Rut 2:20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who [Boaz] hath not left off his **kindness** to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.

God's *xesed*

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, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

Psa 106:1 Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his **mercy** endureth for ever. (cf. 107:1; 118:1, 29; 136:1)

Mutual Submission in Ruth

3:5, Ruth → Naomi: All that thou sayest **unto me**, I will do
 3:11, Boaz → Ruth: All that thou sayest, I will do **to/for thee**

A General Principle

Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves **one to another** in the fear of God.

	Submission of the Junior: Obey	Submission of the Senior: Do
Ruth	3:5 all that thou sayest unto me	3:11 I will do for thee
Ephesians	5:22-24 wives subject in every thing	5:25-29 nourish and cherish sacrificially
	6:1-3 children obey parents	6:4 nurture and admonish
	6:5-8 servants obey from the heart	6:8 wholehearted, unthreatening care

3:11 A Virtuous Woman

Prov. 31:10 Who can find a **virtuous woman**? for her price is far above rubies.

Prov. 12:4 A **virtuous woman** is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

3:16 Who Art Thou, My Daughter?

Gen 27:18 And [Jacob] came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; **who art thou, my son?**



Ruth 3:16
16 And when she came to her mother in law,
she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And
she told her all that the man had done to her.



Gen 27:18
18 And he came unto his father, and
said, My father: and he said, Here
am I; who art thou, my son?

When Jacob explained why he had
gotten back so quickly, did Isaac believe
him?



3:18 Sit Still

Exo 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, **stand still**, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

2Ch 20:17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: **set yourselves, stand ye still**, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

Psa 46:10 **Be still**, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Isa 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and **rest** shall ye be saved; in **quietness** and in **confidence** shall be your strength:

...