

The Book of Ruth in Rhyme

Chapter 1

It was the time of the Judges,
Everything was quite bad.
And there was famine in Israel,
There was little food to be had.

Elimelech and wife Naomi
Of Bethlehem town,
Gathered little to feed them
Not enough food to be found.

Both they and their two sons
Were so determined to eat,
They solved their hunger problem
By using their own feet.

They headed east to Moab
Where they heard there was bread.
And made Moab their home
And lived there instead.

Life was good for a time,
Living in their new home.
Then Elimelech died,
Naomi and sons were all alone.

Both sons Mahlon and Chilion
Each now a grown man,
Took a wife from Moab,
And lived ten years in the land.

Son Chilion married Orpah,
Son Mahlon married Ruth.
Moabite descendants of Lot,
From Genesis, a known truth.

Then more tragedy came,
Likely all three women cried,
When both Mahlon and Chilion,
The only sons of Naomi also died.

Their situation became grave,
These three women would reflect,
With no husbands or sons
To provide or protect.

Then Naomi and her daughters-in-law
Rose up and towards Judah did head,
Hearing that her people had again
From the LORD been given bread,

Loving these young women dearly,
Naomi said to them with great care,
Return to the house of your mothers,
May each find new husbands there.

Orpah and Ruth wept,
And spoke to Naomi so:
"With you we will return.
To your people we will go."

Naomi said, Can I yet bear sons?
Am I not almost too old to marry?
And if I married today and bore sons,
Until they're grown would you tarry?

So Orpah kissed Naomi,
And went on her way.
Ruth clung to Naomi,
And pleaded to stay.

To Ruth, Naomi again spoke,
"Your sister-in-law has left, you see,
To her people and her gods,
For your sake, return and like her be."

Ruth said with determination,
"Ask me not to leave you
But this you can surely know,
Wherever you lead I will also go.

Wherever you live I will also tarry
The people of you will also be mine
Your God will be the God I serve
The place you die I will be buried.

The LORD do so to me
And so much the more,
If anything but death separates us
Of what I've said before."

Because Naomi could in Ruth
See her great determination,
She ceased asking her to leave,
And ended the conversation.

Now Naomi and Ruth traveled
Until they came unto Beth-le-hem.
All the city became very excited how
Naomi returned this way to them.

They asked "Is this really Naomi?"
Naomi spoke of what they did see.
No longer Naomi, but Mara call me.
For I left full; the LORD returned me empty.

So Naomi & Ruth to Bethlehem came
After from Moab they did depart.
They arrived when the barley harvest
Was nearly about to start.

Chapter 2

Now Naomi's husband had a relative
A man of great wealth all the same.
He was of the family of Elimelech
And Boaz was this man's name.

Ruth asked Naomi to let her go out
Into the harvest fields to glean.
To pick up the fallen heads of grain,
After the reapers to pick clean.

"Go, my daughter," said Naomi.
And to the fields Ruth did advance
And while doing so she didn't know
She came to Boaz' field by chance.

Boaz arrived and blessed in the LORD
Those who were doing his reaping.
The reapers replying in a similar way,
Blessed him who was providing their keeping.

Boaz saw the new gleaning woman
And asked his servant about her.
"About her, let it be told me."
"She came from Moab with Naomi.

She asked to pick up the grain which the
reapers are dropping.
She has worked from morning til now,
almost without even stopping."

Boaz then spoke to Ruth with care.
"You must not go to reap elsewhere.
Stay by my women, the men have been
told.
Not to touch you, and to give you water
that's cold."

Ruth fell on her face
And bowed to the ground,
And asked, "Why show me favor –
A foreigner in town?"

Boaz said, "It has been told to me
All you've done for Naomi, you see.
How you left your family and home
To a people you had not before known.

The LORD repay your work
And a full reward be given you
Under Whose wings you have come
Because of all that you do."

Ruth said, "May I find favor
My lord, in your sight.
What comfort and kind words
Though your maids I am not like."

At mealtime Boaz with her shared his
bread
And to his young men generously said
"Let Ruth glean among the sheaves,
And drop grain bundles instead."

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So Ruth gleaned in the field until eve,
And then beat out every last sheave.
She then to Naomi returned in stride
Sharing the food she had kept aside.

Seeing the grain gleaned by Ruth,
Naomi blessed the owner in truth.
Ruth said "The man who the field has"
"For whom I worked is named Boaz."

Naomi said to Ruth in great glee
"Boaz – a kinsman-redeemer is he!
Blessed be the LORD who has not
Forgotten the dead, or you, or me!"

Ruth said "He has said to stay near
To his workers 'til harvest has passed.
Naomi agreed, "In his field and with his
women until the final day last."

Near the young women Ruth always did
stay
From the field of Boaz she never did stray
When the harvests ended, both barley
and wheat,
Naomi and Ruth dwelt in their home
down the street.

Chapter 3

Naomi then to her daughter-in-law did
suggest,
"Shall I not seek for you security and rest?
Boaz – our kinsman-redeemer by right
Winnows barley at the threshing floor
tonight.

So wash and anoint yourself, and dress
with your garment best.
Then go down to where the grain is now
being threshed.

Stay out of the way until he has eaten and
laid down,
And note where he lies, so you can
approach him at rest.

Go in and uncover his feet and lie down,
And wait at his feet without making a
sound.

Once he is of your presence aware,
What you are to do he will declare.

Ruth agreed and did as she was told,
Ending up by his feet in the night cold.
Boaz awoke, and asked who she might be
Ruth gave her name, his maidservant she.

"Take me your maidservant under your
wing,
As kinsman-redeemer you can do this
kind thing."

Boaz said, "May you the LORD bless,
for showing, daughter, to me this kind-
ness!"
You did not after young men go
Rich or poor – you could have done so.

Now, my daughter, please do not fear.
I will do all you request as a relative near.
For a virtuous woman are you,
All my town's people know that is true.

A kinsman-redeemer, a close-relative me,
Yet one kinsman-redeemer is closer, you
see.

He can your kinsman-redeemer be
If he chooses not, than will I certainly.

Lie down until morning and then I will go
And find if this man chooses to do so."
'Til early at morn Ruth lay at his feet
Then left for home and did no one meet.

With a large barley gift from Boaz, Ruth
arrived at her dwelling,
Naomi saw her with the grain and heard
all Ruth's telling.
"Sit still, my daughter," Naomi did say,
"Boaz will not rest 'til he concludes all this
day."

Chapter 4

Boaz went up and sat down at the gate
For the close-relative to walk up he would
patiently wait.
The kinsman soon came, of whom Ruth
he had related.
He bid him to sit, with ten elders to hear
all to be stated.

"You are" Boaz said "Naomi's close-
relative,
And she land has to redeem, if you will
your assent give.
If you will redeem it then redeem it at this
time.
If not, let me know, as I am the next
kinsman in line."

The kinsman said, "Yes, I'll redeem it,
redeem it I do,"
Then Boaz said, "When you redeem it,
you must marry Ruth too,
To keep ongoing the name of the dead
And leave the inheritance in his name
instead."

The kinsman now said, "Then redeeming
it will not work for me
Without my own inheritance being ruined
eventually.
You redeem it yourself – my sandal have
you got.
Redeeming it for myself I simply cannot."

Boaz called all to witness and see
His redeeming that was about to be.
"You are witnesses this very hour
All of Elimelech's Chilion's and Mahlons I
do acquire.

Moreover Ruth the Moabitess,
The widow of Mahlon, as wife
To perpetuate his inheritance & name
Through a future child's life.

The people and elders did confirm what
they witness.
They blessed Ruth that the LORD would
with many children bless.
Boaz they also blessed, that he would
prosper and in Bethlehem be known
By the many children the LORD would
give him from this woman.

Then Boaz took Ruth, and she became his
wife,
And the LORD gave her conception,
another human life.
And when her time of carrying was done,
It was known that the LORD had given
them a son.

Naomi was told of this wonderful son who
was begotten,
And she understood that she was not by
the LORD forgotten.
The LORD behind the scenes and in many
ways had used His many tools
To accomplish His plans and bless His
people – so know that the LORD always
rules.

The LORD is always in control,
Though we may be unaware.
And the LORD may work over many years
And allow troubles hard to bear.
But the LORD is always in control!
We can trust His loving care!