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of
THE HOLY BIBLE
THE OLD TESTAMENT**

THE BOOK OF RUTH

TRANSLATED FROM THE LATIN
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THE BOOK OF RUTH

Ruth 1

1:1 In the daies of o iuge, whanne iugis weren souereynes, hungur was maad in the lond; and a man of Bethleem of Juda yede to be a pylgrym in the cuntrei of Moab, with his wijf and twey fre sones.

1:2 He was clepid Elymelech, and his wijf Noemy, and the twey sones, the oon was clepid Maalon, and the tother Chelion, Efrateis of Bethleem of Juda; and thei entriden in to the cuntrey of Moab, and dwelliden there.

1:3 And Elymelech, the hosebonde of Noemy, diede, and sche lefte with the sones;

1:4 and thei token wyues of Moab, of whiche wyues oon was clepid Orpha, the tother Ruth. And the sones dwelliden there ten yeer,

1:5 and bothe dieden, that is, Maalon and Chelion; and the womman lefte, and was maad bare of twey fre sones, and hosebonde.

1:6 And sche roos to go with euer eithir wijf of hir sones in to hir cuntrey fro the cuntrey of Moab; for sche hadde herd, that the Lord hadde biholde his puple, and hadde youe metis to hem.

1:7 Therfor sche yede out of the place of hir pilgrymage with euer either wijf of hir sones; and now sche was set in the weie of turnyng ayen in to the lond of Juda,

1:8 and sche seide to hem, Go ye in to the hows of youre modir; the Lord do mercy with you, as ye diden with the deed men, and with me;

1:9 the Lord yyue to you to fynde reste in the hows of hosebondis, whiche ye schulen take. And sche kiste hem. Whiche bigunnen to wepe with vois reisid,

1:10 and to seie, We schulen go with thee to thi puple.

1:11 To whiche sche answeride, My douytris, turne ye ayen, whi comen ye with me? Y haue no more

sones in my wombe, that ye moun hope hosebondis of me; my douytris of Moab, turne ye ayen, and go; 1:12 for now Y am maad eeld, and Y am not able to boond of mariage; yhe, thou Y myyte conseyue in this nytt,

1:13 and bere sones, if ye wolen abide til thei wexen, and fillen the yeris of mariage, ye schulen sunner be eld wymmen than ye schulen be weddid; I biseche, nyle ye, my douytris, for youre angwische oppressith me more, and the hond of the Lord yede out ayens me.

1:14 Therfor, whanne the vois was reisid, eft thei bigunnen to wepe. Orpha kisside the modir of hir hosebonde, and turnede ayen, and Ruth cleuyde to the modir of hir hosebonde.

1:15 To whom Noemy seide, Lo! thi kyneswomman turnede ayen to hir puple, and to hir goddis; go thou with hir.

1:16 And sche answeride, Be thou not aduersarye to me, that Y forsake thee, and go awei; whidur euer thou schalt go, Y schal go, and where thou schalt dwelle, and Y schal dwelle togidere; thi puple is my puple, and thi God is my God;

1:17 what lond schal resseyue thee diyng, Y schal die ther ynne, and there Y schal take place of biryng; God do to me these thingis, and adde these thingis, if deeth aloone schal not departe me and thee.

1:18 Therfor Noemy siy, that Ruth hadde demyde with stidefast soule to go with hir, and sche nolde be ayens hir, nether counseile ferthere turnyng ayen to her cuntrei men.

1:19 And thei yeden forth togidere, and camen in to Bethleem; and whanne thei entriden in to the citee, swift fame roos anentis alle men, and wymmen seiden, This is thilke Noemy.

1:20 To whiche sche seide, Clepe ye not me Noemy,

that is, fair, but clepe ye me Mara, that is, bittere; for Almyyti God hath fillid me greetli with bitternesse.

1:21 Y yede out ful, and the Lord ledde me ayen voide; whi therfor clepen ye me Noemy, whom the Lord hath maad low, and Almyyti God hath turmentid?

1:22 Therfor Noemy cam with Ruth of Moab, the wijf of hir sone, fro the lond of hir pilgrimage, and turnede ayen in to Bethleem, whanne barli was ropun first.

Ruth 2

2:1 Forsothe a myyti man and a man of grete richessis, Booz bi name, was kynysman of Elymelech.

2:2 And Ruth of Moab seide to hir modir in lawe, If thou comaundist, Y schal go in to the feeld, and Y schal gaderere eeris of corn that fleen the hondis of reperis, where euer Y schal fynde grace of an hosebonde man merciful in me. To whom sche answeride, Go, my douyter.

2:3 Therfor sche yede, and gaderide eeris of corn after the backis of reperis. Forsothe it bifelde, that thilke feeld hadde a lord, Booz bi name, that was of the kynrede of Elymelech.

2:4 And lo! he cam fro Bethleem. And he seide to the reperis, The Lord be with you. Whiche answeriden to hym, The Lord blesse thee.

2:5 And Booz seide to the yong man that was souereyn to the reperis, Who is this damysel?

2:6 Whiche answeride, This is the womman of Moab, that cam with Noemy fro the cuntrey of Moab; and sche preiede,

2:7 that sche schulde gedere eeris of corn leeuynge bihynde, and sue the steppis of reperis; and fro the morewtid til now sche stondith in the feeld, and sotheli nethir at a moment sche turnede ayen hoom.

2:8 And Booz seide to Ruth, Douytir, here thou; go thou not in to anothis feelde to gaderere, nether go awei fro this place, but be thou ioyned to my dameselis,

2:9 and sue thou where thei repen; for Y comaundide to my children, that no man be diseseful to thee; but also if thou thirstist, go to the fardels, and drynke wattris, of whiche my children drynken.

2:10 And sche felde on hir face, and worschipe on

the erthe; and seide to hym, Wherof is this to me, that Y schulde fynde grace bifor thin iyen, that thou woldist knowe me a straunge womman?

2:11 To whom he answeride, Alle thingis ben teld to me, whiche thou didist to thi modir in lawe after the deeth of thin hosebonde, and that thou hast forsake thi fadir and modir, and the lond in which thou were borun, and hast come to a puple, whom thou knowist not bifore.

2:12 The Lord yelde to thee for thi werk, and resseyue thou ful mede of the Lord God of Israel, to whom thou camest, and vndir whose wengis thou fleddist.

2:13 And sche seide, My lord, Y haue founde grace bifor thin iyen, which hast coumfortid me, and hast spoke to the herte of thin handmaide, which am not lijk oon of thi damesels.

2:14 And Booz seide to hir, Whanne the our of etyng is, come thou hidur, and ete breed, and wete thi mussel in vynegre. Therfor sche sat at the side of reperis; and he dresside to hir potage, and sche eet, and was fillid; and sche took the relifs.

2:15 And sche roos fro thennus to gaderere eeris of corn bi custom. Forsothe Booz comaundide to hise children, and seide, Also if sche wole repe with you,

2:16 forbede ye not hir, and also of youre handfuls caste ye forth of purpos, and suffre ye to abide, that sche gaderere with out schame; and no man repreue hir gaderynge.

2:17 Therfor sche gaderide in the feeld til to euentid; and sche beet with a yerde, and schook out tho thingis that sche hadde gaderid; and sche foond of barly as the mesure of ephi, that is, thre buschels.

2:18 Which sche bar, and turnede ayen in to the citee, and schewide to hir modir in lawe; fethermore sche brouyte forth, and yaf to hir the relifs of hir mete, with which mete sche was fillid.

2:19 And the modir in lawe seide to hir, Where gaderidist thou to dai, and where didist thou werk? Blessid be he, that hadde mercy on thee. And sche telde to hir, at whom sche wrouyte; and sche seide the name of the man, that he was clepid Booz.

2:20 To whom Noemy answeride, Blessid be he of the Lord, for he kepte also to deed men the same grace, which he yaf to the quike. And eft sche seide, He is oure kynysman.

2:21 And Ruth seide, Also he comaundide this to

me, that so longe Y schulde be ioyned to hise reperis, til alle the cornes weren repid.

2:22 To whom hir modir in lawe seide, My douyter, it is betere that thou go out to repe with hise damysels, lest in another feeld ony man ayenstonde thee.

2:23 Therfor sche was ioyned to the damesels of Booz; and so longe sche rap with hem, til bothe barli and wheete weren closid in the bernys.

Ruth 3

3:1 Forsothe afir that Ruth turnede ayen to hir modir in lawe, Ruth herde of hir, My douytir, Y schal seke reste to thee, and Y schal purueye that it be wel to thee.

3:2 This Booz, to whose damesels thou were ioyned in the feeld, is oure kynesman, and in this niyt he wyndewith the corn floor of barli.

3:3 Therfor be thou waischun, and anyntid, and be thou clothid with onestere clothis, and go down in to the corn floor; the man, that is, Booz, se not thee, til he haue endid the mete and drynke.

3:4 Forsothe whanne he goth to slepe, marke thou the place in which he slepith; and thou schalt come and vnhile the cloth, with which he is hilid, fro the part of the feet, and thou schalt caste thee down, and thou schalt ly there. Forsothe he schal seie to thee, what thou owist to do.

3:5 Which answeride, What euer thing thou comaundist, Y schal do.

3:6 And sche yede down in to the corn floor, and dide alle thingis whiche hir modir in lawe comaundide to hir.

3:7 And whanne Booz hadde ete and drunke, and was maad gladere, and hadde go to slepe bisidis the heep of handfuls, sche cam, and hidde hir silf; and whanne the cloth was vnhalid fro hise feet, sche castide down hir silf.

3:8 And lo! now at mydnyyt the man dredde, and was troblid; and he siy a womman lyggynge at hise feet;

3:9 and he seide to hir, Who art thou? Sche answeride, Y am Ruth, thin handmayde; stretche forth thi cloth on thi seruauntesse, for thou art nyy of kyn.

3:10 And he seide, Douytir, thou art blessid of the

Lord, and thou hast ouercome the formere mercy with the lattere; for thou suedist not yonge men, pore ethir riche.

3:11 Therfor nyle thou drede, but what euer thing thou schalt seie to me, Y schal do to thee; for al the puple that dwellith with ynne the yatis of my cytee woot, that thou art a womman of vertu.

3:12 And Y forsake not, that Y am of nyy kyn, but another man is neer than Y;

3:13 reste thou in this nyyt, and whanne the morewtid is maad, if he wole holde thee bi riyt of nyy kyn, the thing is wel doon; forsothe if he nyle, Y schal take thee with outen ony doute, the Lord lyueth, that is, bi the Lord lyuynge; slepe thou til the morewtid.

3:14 Therefore sche slepte at hise feet til to the goyng away of nyyt, and so sche roos bifor that men knewen hem silf togidere. And Booz seide to hir, Be thou war lest ony man knowe, that thou camest hidir.

3:15 And eft he seide, Stretche forth thi mentil with which thou art hilid, and holde thou with euer either hond. And while sche stretchide forth and helde, he mete sixe buyschels of barly, and puttide on hir; and sche bar, and entride in to the citee,

3:16 and cam to hir modir in lawe. Which seide to Ruth, What hast thou do, douyter? And Ruth telde to hir alle thingis, whyche the man hadde do to hir.

3:17 And Ruth seide, Lo! he yaf to me sixe buyschels of barly; and he seide, Y nyle that thou turne ayen voide to thi modir in lawe.

3:18 And Noemy seide, Abide, douytir, til we sien what issu the thing schal haue; for the man schal not cesse, no but he fille tho thingis whiche he spak.

Ruth 4

4:1 Therfor Booz stiede to the yate, and sat there; and whanne he hadde seyn the kynesman passe forth, of whom the word was had, Booz seide to hym, Bowe thou a lital, and sitte here; and he clepide hym bi his name. And he turnede, and sat.

4:2 Forsothe Booz took ten men of the eldere men of the citee, and seide to hem, Sitte ye here.

4:3 And while thei saten, Booz spak to the kynesman, Noemy, that turnede ayen fro the cuntrey of Moab, seelde the part of the feeld of oure brother Elymelech,

4:4 which thing Y wolde that thou here; and Y wolde seie to thee bifor alle men syttinge and grettere in birthe of my puple. If thou wolt haue in possessioun the feeld bi ryt of nyy kyn, bye thou, and haue thou in possessioun; sotheli if it displesith thee, schewe thou this same thing to me, that Y wyte what Y owe to do; for noon is niy in kyn, outakun thee which art the formere, and outakun me which am the secunde. And he answeride, Y schal bie the feeld.

4:5 To whom Booz seide, Whanne thou hast bouyte the feeld of the hond of the womman, thou owist to take also Ruth of Moab, that was the wijf of the deed man, that thou reise the name of thi kynesman in his eritage.

4:6 Which answeride, Y forsake the ryyt of nyy kyn; for Y owe not to do awei the eritage of my meynee; vse thou my priuelegie, which priuelegie Y knowleche me to wante gladli.

4:7 Forsothe this was the custom bi eld tyme in Israel among kynesmen, that if a man yaf his riyt to anothir man, that the grauntyng were stidefast, the man vnlaase his scho, and yaf to his kynesman; this was the witnessyng of the yift in Israel.

4:8 Therfor Booz seide to his kynesman, Take the scho fro thee; which scho he vnlaside anoon fro his foot.

4:9 And Booz seide to the grettere men in birthe and to al the puple, Ye ben witnessis to dai, that Y haue take in possessioun alle thingis that weren of Elymelech, and of Chelion, and of Maalon, bi the yifte of Noemy;

4:10 and that Y haue take in to wedlok Ruth of Moab, the wijf of Maalon, that Y reise the name of the deed man in his erytage; lest his name be doon away fro his meynee and britheren and puple. Ye, he seide, ben witnessis of this thing.

4:11 Al the puple, that was in the yate, answeride, and the grettere men in birthe answeriden, We ben witnessis; the Lord make this womman, that entrih in to thin hows, as Rachel and Lia, that bildiden the hows of Israel, that sche be ensaunple of vertu in Effrata, and haue a solempne name in Bethleem;

4:12 and thin hows be maad as the hows of Fares, whom Thamar childide to Judas, of the seed which the Lord schal yyue to thee of this damesel.

4:13 Therfor Booz took Ruth, and took hir to wijf; and he entride to hir, and the Lord yaf to hir, that sche conseyuede, and childide a sone.

4:14 And wymmen seiden to Noemy, Blessid be the Lord, which suffride not, that an eir failide to thi meynee, and his name were clepid in Israel;

4:15 and that thou haue a man, that schal coumforte thi soule, and nursche elde age. For a child is borun of thi douytir in lawe, which child schal loue thee, and he is myche betere to thee, than if thou haddist seune sones.

4:16 And Noemy puttide the child resseyued in hir bosum; and sche dide the office of a nurische, and of a berere.

4:17 Forsothe wymmen neiyboris thankiden hir, and seiden, A sone is borun to Noemy, and clepide his name Obeth. This is the fadir of Ysay, fadir of Dauid.

4:18 These ben the generaciouns of Fares; Fares gendride Esrom;

4:19 Esrom gendride Aram; Aram gendride Amynadab;

4:20 Amynadab gendride Naason; Naason gendride Salmon; Salmon gendride Booz;

4:21 Booz gendride Obeth;

4:22 Obeth gendride Isay; Isay gendride Dauid the kyng.