

of Benjamin, saying: Go and lie in wait in the vineyards; ²¹ and regard, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come forth to dance with dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and seize for yourselves each one his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and get you to the land of Benjamin. ²² And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come to us to complain, that we will say unto them: Be favourable unto them for our sakes, because we reserved not to each man his wife in the war: if ye give them not unto them at this time, ye will be guilty.

²³ And the children of Benjamin did so, and carried off wives, according to their number, of those who danced, whom they caught: then they went and returned unto their inheritance, and built the cities and dwelt in them.

²⁴ And the children of Israel departed from thence at that time, each one to his own tribe and to his family, and they went out from thence each man to his own inheritance.

²⁵ In those days *there was* no king in Israel: each one did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

THE BOOK OF RUTH.

CHAPTER I.

AND it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled *Israel*, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah departed to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. ² And the name of the man *was* Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Beth-lehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and lived there.

³ Now Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, with her two sons. ⁴ And they took themselves wives from Moab; the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the other, Ruth: and they abode there about ten years.

⁵ And both of them, Mahlon and Chilion died: and the woman was bereaved of her two sons as well as her husband.

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how JEHOVAH had visited His people in giving them bread. ⁷ Therefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on their journey to return into the land of Judah. ⁸ And Naomi said unto her two daughters-in-law: Depart ye, return each one to her mother's house: may JEHOVAH deal graciously with you, according as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. ⁹ May JEHOVAH grant unto you that ye may find rest each one in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

¹⁰ And they said unto her: Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

¹¹ But Naomi answered: Turn back, my daughters: wherefore would ye go with me? yet *are* there sons in my womb, that they might be your husbands? ¹² Return, my daughters, depart; for I am too old to have a husband. For should I say, I have hope, should I have a husband to-night, and might also bear sons; ¹³ would ye wait for them until they were grown up? would ye wait from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for I have much bitterness for your sakes, that the hand of JEHOVAH is gone out against me. ¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law [¹⁵ and returned to her own people]; but Ruth clave unto her.

¹⁵ Then she said: Behold, thy sister-in-law has gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister-in-law.

¹⁶ And Ruth said: Entreat me not to leave thee, or to turn back from following thee; for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *are* my people, and thy God my God: ¹⁷ where thou diest I will die, and there will I be buried: JEHOVAH do so to me, and more also, if *even* death separate between thee and me.

¹⁸ When she saw that she was determined *in* herself to go with her, then she desisted from entreating her. ¹⁹ So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem. And *so* it was, when they came

to Beth-lehem, that all the city was in excitement respecting them, and they said: *Is this Naomi?*

²⁰ But she replied unto them: Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the ALMIGHTY hath dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went out full, and JEHOVAH hath returned me empty: wherefore call ye me Naomi, now that JEHOVAH hath testified against me, and the ALMIGHTY hath afflicted me?

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, who returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-lehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

CHAPTER II.

NOW Naomi had a kinsman by her husband, an exalted man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech: and his name was Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi: Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after *him* in whose eyes I shall find favour. And she said unto her: Go, my daughter.

³ So she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her ^ahap happened on the part of the field *belonging* to Boaz, who *was* of the family of Elimelech.

⁴ And, lo, Boaz came from Beth-lehem, and said unto the reapers: JEHOVAH *be* with you: and they replied to him: JEHOVAH bless thee.

⁵ Then Boaz said unto his servant who was set over the reapers: Whose damsel *is* this? ⁶ And the servant who was appointed over the reapers, answered and said: *It is* the Moabitish damsel who returned with Naomi out of the country of Moab. ⁷ For she said: Let me, I pray you, glean and gather up after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and has continued from morning even until now, *except* that she tarried a little while in the house.

⁸ Then said Boaz unto Ruth: ^b Understandest thou not, my daughter? Go not forth to glean in any other field, neither pass over from hence, but keep close with my maidens: ⁹ thine eyes *be* on the field which they reap, and walk thou behind them: have I not commanded *the* young men to let thee alone? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink from *that* which the young men have drawn.

¹⁰ Then she fell upon her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him: Wherefore have I found favour in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take notice of me, for I *am* a stranger?

¹¹ Then Boaz answered and said unto her: It has been fully declared unto me, all that thou hast done unto *thy* mother-in-law since the death of thine husband: and *that* thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people whom thou knewest not heretofore. ¹² JEHOVAH recompense thy work, and an abundant reward be given thee from JEHOVAH the God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

¹³ Then she said: Let me find favour in thine eyes, my lord; because thou hast comforted me, and because thou hast spoken to the heart of thine handmaid. ^aO that I might be like one of thine own handmaidens!

¹⁴ And Boaz said unto her: At meal-time draw near hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel into the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and went away. ¹⁵ And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded *his* young men, saying: Let her glean even between the sheaves, and reproach her not: ¹⁶ but even let fall *some* of the handfuls for her, and leave them *there*, that she may glean *them*, and rebuke her not. ¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until the evening, and beat out *that which* she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley. ¹⁸ And she took it up, and went into the city: and ^bshe showed unto *her* mother-in-law *what* she had gleaned: ^cthen she brought forth, and gave unto her *of* that she had reserved after she was herself satisfied.

¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her: Where hast thou gleaned this day? and where hast thou laboured? Blessed be he who took notice of thee. Then she told her mother-in-law *with* *whom* she had laboured, and said: The name of the man with whom I laboured this day *is* Boaz.

²⁰ And Naomi replied unto her daughter-in-law: Blessed *be* he of JEHOVAH, who hath not ^dabated His kindness to *the* living or to *the* dead. And Naomi said unto her: The man is near of kin to us, he ^ewho hath right to redeem. ²¹ And Ruth the Moabitess said: He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep close to my servants until they have finished *all* my harvest. ²² Then Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter-in-law: *It*

^a I follow Houbigant by reading לִי , implying her wish, instead of לָהּ .

^b תָּרַח אֶת הַמֹּתָהּ 2 MSS. c. d. e.

^c This would infer, I think, that she brought some of the parched corn given to her by Boaz.

^d Left off.

^e Bagster's M. Bible.

is well, my daughter, that thou go forth with his maidens, that they meet thee not in another field.

²³ So she kept close by the maidens of Boaz to glean until the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and abode with her mother-in-law.

CHAPTER III.

THEN Naomi her mother-in-law said unto her: My daughter, ought I not to seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? ² And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley this night in the ^a threshing-floor. ³ Therefore wash thyself, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and go down to the threshing-floor: do not make thyself known to the man until he shall have finished eating and drinking. ⁴ And it shall be, when he reclineth, that thou shalt take notice of the place where he reclineth, and thou shalt go in, and lift up the clothes over his feet and lay down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.

⁵ And she answered her: All that thou tellest me that will I do. ⁶ And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all which her mother-in-law commanded her; ⁷ for when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was refreshed, and he went to recline at the end of the heap of corn, that she came softly, and lifted up the clothes from his feet, and laid her down.

⁸ And so it was, at midnight, that the man was restless, and turned about; and, lo, a woman lay at his feet. ⁹ Then he said: Who art thou? And she answered: I am Ruth thine handmaid: ^b spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid, because thou art my kinsman. ¹⁰ And he answered: Blessed be thou of JEHOVAH, my daughter: better is thy latter kindness than the preceding, in that thou goest not after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, fear not; all that thou requireth of me I will perform unto thee: surely all of the gate of my people know that thou art a virtuous woman. ¹² And now it is true that I am a near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I. ¹³ Lodge this night, and it shall be in the morning, if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well: let him do the kinsman's part; but if he is not willing to perform the part of a kinsman unto thee, then will I do the

^a A round level plot of ground in the open air. See Parkhurst.

^b Geddes renders, Take me under thy protection.

part of a kinsman unto thee, as JEHOVAH liveth: lie down until the morning. ¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until the morning: then she rose up before one could discern another. And he said: Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor. ¹⁵ Also he said: Bring the veil which was upon thee, and hold it; and when she held it, then he measured six measures of barley, and placed it upon her; and she came into the city. ¹⁶ And when she came unto her mother-in-law, then she said: Who art thou? my daughter? Then she related to her all that the man had done unto her: ¹⁷ also she said: These six measures of barley gave he unto me; for he said to me: Go not away empty unto thy mother-in-law. ¹⁸ Then she replied: Sit still, my daughter, until thou knowest how this matter will be decided: for the man will not rest until he have completed the matter this day.

CHAPTER IV.

THEN Boaz went up to the gate, and seated himself there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spoke passed by; so he said: Ho, such a one! turn back; sit down here. So he turned back, and sat down. ² Then he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said: Sit ye here: and they sat down.

³ Then he spake unto the kinsman: Naomi, who is come back out of the country of Moab, selleth a portion of land, which was our brother Elimelech's: ⁴ so I said: I would reveal it to thine ear, saying, Buy it in the presence of the inhabitants, and in the presence of the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem, redeem; but if thou wilt not redeem, declare unto me, that I may know: for there is no one to redeem except thyself, and myself after thee. Then he said: I will redeem it. ⁵ But Boaz said: In the day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must also buy it of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance. ⁶ Then said the kinsman: I cannot redeem for myself, lest I destroy my own inheritance: redeem thou thyself my right of redemption; for I cannot redeem it.

⁷ Now this was the custom in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning exchange, to confirm all matters: a man drew off his sandal, and gave it to his neighbour; and this was the testimony in Israel.

⁸ So the kinsman said to Boaz: Buy it for thyself. Therefore he drew off his sandal. ⁹ And Boaz spake unto the

^a L. his neighbour. ^b מִן מ. MSS. vv. • I.

elders, and all the people: Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all which belonged to Elimelech, and all which belonged to Chilion and Mahlon, of the hand of Naomi. ¹⁰ Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to myself for a wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his abode: ye are witnesses this day. ¹¹ Then all the people who were in the gate, and the elders, said: Witnesses are we. JEHOVAH grant to the woman who is come into thine house to be like Rachel and like Leah, who together built the house of Israel: and do thou prosperously in Ephratah, and may thy name be renowned in Bethlehem: ¹² also may thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the offspring which JEHOVAH will give thee of this young woman.

¹³ Then Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, JEHOVAH gave her conception, and she bare a son.

¹⁴ And the women said unto Naomi: Blessed be JEHOVAH, who hath not caused to cease unto thee a kinsman this day, and may his name be renowned in Israel: ¹⁵ and may he be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and to nourish thy grey hairs: because thy daughter-in-law, who loveth thee, who is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.

¹⁶ And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse to him.

¹⁷ And the women her neighbours gave him a name, saying: There is a son born to Naomi! and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ Now these are the generations of Pharez:

Pharez begat Hezron,
¹⁹ And Hezron begat Ram,
 And Ram begat Amminadab,
²⁰ And Amminadab begat Nahshon,
 And Nahshon begat Salmon,
²¹ And Salmon begat Boaz,
 And Boaz begat Obed,
²² And Obed begat Jesse,
 And Jesse begat David.

THE

FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL,

OTHERWISE CALLED,

THE FIRST BOOK OF THE KINGS.

CHAPTER I.

NOW there was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite.

² And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other was Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. ³ Now this man went up from year to year out of his city to worship and to sacrifice unto JEHOVAH God of hosts in Shiloh.

Then the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there the priests of JEHOVAH.

⁴ And when the day arrived that Elkanah offered, then he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to each of her sons and her daughters, presents: ⁵ but unto

Hannah he gave a double present, because he loved Hannah: but JEHOVAH had closed her womb.

⁶ Now her adversary also irritated her exceedingly, so as to greatly disturb her, because JEHOVAH had closed her womb.

⁷ And thus [^a Peninnah] acted year by year, from the time she went up to the house of JEHOVAH, thus provoking her; therefore she wept, and would not eat.

⁸ Then Elkanah her husband said unto her: Hannah, wherefore weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

⁹ And Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk.

Now Eli the priest sat upon a raised seat by a door-post of the temple of JEHOVAH.

¹⁰ And she was bitter of soul, and

^a Or, was.

^c תעשה פנינה.

^b Or, throne.
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