

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 that the LORD¹ had visited his people in giving them bread.

7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

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.

9 The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you 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 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

12 Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

13 Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.

14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

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

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

God had blessed His people in Judah by giving them good crops, so she left with her daughters-in-law to return to Judah, her homeland.

Naomi departs for Judah with her two widowed daughters-in-law

7 Therefore, she left the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law. And they started on the road toward the land of Judah.

8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return, each of you, to your mother's house. God will deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

9 "May God grant that each of you may find happiness in the house of a new husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

10 And they said to her, "We will return with you to your people."

11 And Naomi said, "Go back, my daughters. Why would you go with me? Are there any more sons in my womb so that they may be your husbands?"

12 "Go your way, my daughters, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope that I might find a husband tonight and bear sons,

13 "would you wait for them until they were grown? Do you really want to remain unmarried for all those years? No, my daughters. It grieves me much for your sakes that the *hand* [power] of Yahweh has gone against me."⁴

14 And they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to Naomi.

Ruth, Naomi's daughter-in-law, stays with Naomi

15 And Naomi said to Ruth, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; follow her home."

16 But Ruth said, "Do not ask me to leave you or to stop following you. For where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people will be my people, and your God my God.

17 "Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried; may Yahweh punish me, if anything but death parts you and me."

<p>18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.</p> <p>19 So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?</p> <p>20 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty LORD hath dealt very bitterly with me.</p> <p>21 I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty LORD hath afflicted me?</p> <p>22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the county of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.</p>	<p>18 When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped arguing with her.</p> <p>Ruth and Naomi arrive in Bethlehem</p> <p>19 So the two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass when they had come to Bethlehem, that the whole city noticed them, and people asked, "Is this Naomi?"</p> <p>20 And she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi (pleasant); call me Mara (bitter), for the Almighty Yahweh has dealt very bitterly with me.</p> <p>21 "I went out full, and Yahweh has brought me home again empty. Why then do you call me Naomi, seeing that Yahweh has testified against me? The Almighty Yahweh has afflicted me."⁵</p> <p>22 So Naomi returned with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, from the country of Moab. And they arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.</p>
<p>2:1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz</p> <p>2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.</p> <p>3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.</p> <p>4 And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.</p> <p>5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?</p> <p>6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:</p> <p>7 And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until</p>	<p>Ruth is led to glean in a field belonging to Boaz, a relative of Naomi's dead husband</p> <p>2:1 And Naomi had a relative of her husband, a wealthy, important man of the family of Elimelech, and his name was Boaz.</p> <p>2 And Ruth said to Naomi, "I will go to the field and glean ears of grain, and perhaps will find favor in someone's sight." And Naomi said to her, "Go, my daughter."</p> <p>3 And Ruth went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she was blessed by deciding to glean in a part of the field which, although she did not know it, belonged to Boaz, who was a close relative of Elimelech.</p> <p>Boaz takes an interest in Ruth</p> <p>4 And behold, Boaz came from the town of Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "God be with you." And they answered him, "May God bless you."</p> <p>5 Then Boaz said to his servant in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"</p> <p>6 And the servant answered, "She is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.</p> <p>7 "And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves (bundles) of grain behind the reapers.' So she came, and has continued working</p>

now, that she tarried a little in the house.

8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearst thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:
9 Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.

14 And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

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.

17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.

18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and

from the morning until now, when she stopped to rest in the shelter by the field."

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field; rather stay and work with the women here.

9 "Keep your eyes only on the field that my workers reap, and go after them. I have ordered the young men not to touch you. And when you are thirsty, drink from one of the water jars which my reapers have filled."

10 Then she bowed herself to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, so that you are so kind to me, seeing that I am a stranger?"

11 And Boaz answered her, "I have been made fully aware of all you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land where you were born, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

12 "God will reward your work, and good will come to you from the God under whose *wings* [blessing] you have come to trust."

13 Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord. For you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am a foreigner and not like one of your women servants."

14 And Boaz said to her, "At mealtime come here, and eat some bread, and dip your morsel in the vinegar."⁶ So she sat beside the reapers, and Boaz handed her lightly roasted grain, and she ate until she was full, and then stood up to work.

15 And when she had risen to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, "Let her glean even among the bundles of grain, and do not forbid her.
16 "And let some stalks of grain fall on purpose for her, and leave them so that she may glean them, and do not tell her not to."

Ruth goes home to Naomi and shares grain with her

17 So Ruth gleaned in the field until the evening and threshed what she had gleaned, and she had as much grain as she could carry.

18 And she gathered it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned.

<p>she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.</p> <p>19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz.</p> <p>20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who 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.</p> <p>21 And Ruth the Moabitess said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.</p> <p>22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.</p> <p>23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.</p>	<p>And Ruth gave to Naomi all the grain she had saved for her.</p> <p>19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? Where did you work? May the person be blessed who was kind to you." And Ruth told her mother-in-law, "The name of the owner of the field where I gleaned today is Boaz."</p> <p>20 And Naomi said to her daughter in law, "God bless him who has not decreased his kindness to the living and the dead! Boaz is one of our close relatives."</p> <p>21 And Ruth said, "He said to me also, 'Stay close behind my harvesters, until they have finished with my harvests.'"</p> <p>22 And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter in law, "It would be wise, my daughter, for you to glean only beside women in his field. You might be molested by the reapers in another field."</p> <p>23 So Ruth kept close to the women, gleaning behind the reapers of Boaz until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest. And she dwelt with her mother-in-law.</p>
<p>3:1 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?</p> <p>2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley tonight in the threshingfloor.</p> <p>3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.</p> <p>4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.</p> <p>5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.</p> <p>6 & And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her.</p>	<p>Naomi tells Ruth to go to the threshing floor, where Ruth will find Boaz</p> <p>3:1 Then Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, said to her, "My daughter, I want you to have a home with a husband so that it may be well with you.</p> <p>2 "Is not Boaz, with whose female servants you gleaned, one of our close relatives? Behold, he will be threshing barley tonight on the threshing floor.</p> <p>3 "Wash, anoint yourself, put on your best clothing and go to the threshing floor. But do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.</p> <p>4 "And when he lies down, note the place where he lies. Then go there, uncover his feet,⁷ and lie down.⁸ And he will tell you what you shall do."</p> <p>5 And Ruth said to Naomi, "All that you told me to do, I will do."</p> <p>6 So Ruth went to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.</p> <p>Boaz comforts Ruth after finding her lying on the threshing floor below his feet</p>

7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down.

8 And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.

9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

12 And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

13 Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning.

14 And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another.

And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.

15 Also he said, Bring the vail that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city.

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.

17 And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.

18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

7 And when Boaz had finished eating and drinking, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. And she came quietly, and uncovered his feet,⁹ and lay down below them.

8 And it came to pass at midnight, that Boaz was startled and turned over; and behold, a woman lay at his feet.

9 And he asked, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth your handmaid; therefore, spread your robe over me."¹⁰ For you are a close relative."

10 And Boaz said, "May God bless you, my daughter, for you have shown more kindness now than at the beginning. And you have not gone after young men, rich or poor.

11 "And now, my daughter, do not be afraid. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all the people in my city know that you are a virtuous woman."¹¹

12 "And although it is true that I am a close relative to your dead husband, there is a relative closer than me.

13 "Be patient tonight. In the morning, if he will fulfill the duty of your dead husband's closest relative to you, then let him do so."¹² But if he refuses, then I will do the duty of the closest relative to you, as God lives. Lie down until morning."

14 And Ruth lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before it was light enough to distinguish who anyone was. And Boaz said to her, "Do not let anyone know that you came onto the threshing floor."

15 Also, he said, "Take off your shawl, and hold it out." And when she did so, he gave her as much barley as her shawl would hold and laid her shawl on her shoulder; and she went into the city.

16 And when Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, "What happened, my daughter?" And Ruth told Naomi all that Boaz had done for her.

17 And Ruth showed Naomi the grain that Boaz had given her. And Ruth told Naomi, "He said to me, 'Do not go to your mother-in-law without anything to share with her.' And he gave me this grain for you."

18 Then Naomi said, "Be patient, my daughter, until you know how things will work out, for Boaz will not rest until he settles the matter today."

4:1 Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.

2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down.

3 And he said unto the kinsman, 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.

5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.

6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it.

7 Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel.

8 Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought

Boaz goes to the city gate to meet a man who is the closest male relative to Ruth

4:1 Then Boaz went to the gate of the city, and sat down there and behold, the close relative Boaz had spoken of came by. Boaz said to him, "Come sit down with me." And the man turned aside and sat down.

2 And Boaz took ten of the elders of the city, and said, "Please sit down with us to witness a matter." And they sat down.

3 And Boaz said to the close relative of Ruth's dead husband, "The widow Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling a parcel of land, which belonged to our mutual relative Elimelech.

4 "Buy it in the presence of the inhabitants of this city and the elders of our people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me so that I may know. For there is no one to redeem it besides you and me, and I am after you." And the relative said, "I will redeem it."

5 Then Boaz said, "The day when you buy this field from Naomi, you must buy it also from Ruth the Moabite, the widow of her deceased husband, and marry her and have a son. The son will be considered the son of Ruth's deceased husband to give him a son to inherit his property, and so his name will live on in Israel."

The near relative of Naomi's dead husband gives up his right to redeem Ruth, to Boaz

6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I jeopardize my inheritance; I renounce my right to redeem it, so it is yours to redeem."

7 Now this was the manner in former times¹³ in Israel concerning a formal agreement between two people: to confirm the agreement, a person plucked off a sandal and gave it to the other party in front of witnesses.

8 Therefore, the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So the relative took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz.

9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day, that I have bought all

all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my 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 place: ye are witnesses this day.

11 And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:

12 And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman.

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

14 And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.

15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which 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 unto it.

17 And the women her neighbours gave it 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,

that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, who are dead, from the hand of Naomi.

10 "Moreover, I have purchased Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Naomi's dead son, to be my wife to give her dead husband an heir so that his name will live on in Israel."

11 And all the people and the elders at the gate said, "We are witnesses. God make the woman who has come into your house like Rachel and like Leah; these two wives of Jacob populated the nation of Israel. May you do as worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:

12 "And may your descendants who God will give you of this young woman be like the descendants of Pharez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."¹⁴

Boaz marries Ruth, and she bares him a son

13 So Boaz loved Ruth, and she became his wife; and when he lay with her, God gave her conception, and she bore a son.

14 And the women said to Naomi, "Praise God, who has not left you this day without a close relative to take care of you. May the name of this boy be famous in Israel.

15 "The child will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

The child brings joy to Naomi and becomes the grandfather of David, who becomes king of Israel

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

17 And the neighbor women gave it a name, saying, "A son is born to Naomi." And they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

18 Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez fathered Hezron.

19 And Hezron fathered Ram, and Ram fathered Amminadab.

20 And Amminadab fathered Nahshon, and Nahshon fathered Salmon.

21 And Salmon fathered Boaz, and Boaz fathered Obed.

22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.	22 And Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David, who became King David of Israel.
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¹ 1:6 The word “LORD” appears in this verse in this book in the 1769 KJV for the first time. Whenever “LORD” appears in small caps in the left column, it is a variant form of the “LORD God,” also known as “Yahweh,” or “Jehovah,” the tribal Deity of the Israelites, when they were Hebrews before becoming Jews. This limited, false concept of Deity was a figment of the mortal mind of the Israelites and was interested in promoting only the welfare of the Israelites against the welfare of other ethnic groups. The wonderful CS weekly Bible lessons have routinely mistranslated the word “LORD” as “Lord,” thus dissociating this word from its original meaning as “Yahweh” or “Jehovah.”

² 1:1 The judges (or chiefs) were charismatic rulers who predated the institution of the monarchy in Israel.

³ 1:3 Bible scholars have suggested three possible meanings of the name “Ruth:” she who knows, vision of beauty, or friend and companion.

⁴ 1:13 Naomi is expressing the belief that Yahweh has afflicted her.

⁵ 1:20-21 In these verses, Naomi is again expressing the belief that Yahweh has afflicted her.

⁶ 2:14 The vinegar could have been very weak, but the fermentation process made it safer to drink than water usually would have been.

⁷ 3:4 Certain words for feet in Hebrew are euphemisms for male body parts. The Hebrew word for feet here is not one of those words.

⁸ 3:4 Some Christian Scientists speculate that Boaz and Ruth engaged in sex. However, if that had been the case, Boaz would not have given another relative of Ruth first choice to marry her because, having had sex with a man who was not her husband, Ruth would have been unacceptable, damaged goods to the other relative. The ideal in the Hebrew religion was for a young man to marry a virgin. The Israelites had a double standard. It was all right for a man to be permissive with an unmarried woman. But permissiveness was not tolerated in women.

⁹ 3:7 The Hebrew word for feet here means physical feet. It is not a euphemism for male body parts.

¹⁰ 3:9 For an Israelite to spread his robe over a woman meant that he was giving her his protection.

¹¹ 3:11 According to Boaz’s comment, the people of the city thought of Ruth as “a virtuous woman,” more than as a Moabitess. According to Deuteronomy 23:3, Moabites were not permitted to enter the congregation of Yahweh, the Deity of Israel, even to their tenth generation. (The Rabbis held that this prohibition applied only to Moabite men.) Because the Book of Ruth is supposedly written in the classical Hebrew of the time of the Judges, some current Bible scholars hold that it was written about that time. The author of the Book of Ruth apparently thought that the Deity of Israel was the Deity of the whole earth and welcomed anyone including Moabites (at least female ones) into the congregation of the Deity of Israel if they were spiritual enough to worship Yahweh, the Deity of Israel. Ruth enthusiastically embraced the Hebrew religion and the worship of its Deity.

¹² 3:13 In ancient Israel, the brother of a deceased husband who died childless had the right to marry, and the responsibility to marry, the deceased man’s widow and to have a child in the deceased man’s name who would be his legacy. See Deuteronomy 25:5-10. The law of levirate marriage also was a blessing to the widow. Because a widow in ancient Israel had few means of making a living, starvation was a real threat. If a brother of the deceased man married her, she would be taken care of and would not starve to death.

¹³ 4:7 The reference to “former times” in this verse implies that the story was written after the times in which it was supposedly set.

¹⁴ 4:12 See Genesis 38:29.