I Left Here Full and Have Returned Empty: Loss and Recovery in the Book of Ruth Class 3

1. Ruth chapter 3

- 1. Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, "Daughter, I am seeking a resting place for you that will be good for you.
- 2. Now there is our kinsman Boaz, whose girls you were with. He will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor tonight.
- 3. So bathe, anoint yourself, dress up, and go down to the threshing floor. But do not disclose yourself to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.
- 4. When he lies down, note the place where he lies down, and go over and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what you are to do."
- 5. She replied, "I will do everything you tell me."
- 6. She went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her.
- 7. Boaz ate and drank, and his heart was happy. went to lie downHe went to lie down beside the grainpile. Then she went over stealthily and uncovered his feet and lay down.
- 8. In the middle of the night, the man gave a start and pulled back—there was a woman lying at his feet!
- 9. "Who are you?" he asked. And she replied, "I am your handmaid Ruth. Spread your cloak over your handmaid, for you are a redeeming kinsman."
- 10. He said, "Blessed are you before God, daughter! Your latest act of kindness is greater than the first, in that you have not turned to younger men, whether poor or rich.
- 11. And now, daughter, have no fear. I will do in your behalf whatever you ask, for all the elders of my town^{-c} know what a fine woman you are.
- 12. And now while it is true I am a redeeming kinsman, there is another redeemer closer than I.

 12. Stay for the night. Then in the marning, if he
- 13. Stay for the night. Then in the morning, if he will act as a redeemer, good! let him redeem. But

- א) וַתִּאמֶר לָה נָצֶמִי חֲמוֹתָה בִּתִּי הַלְּא אֲבַקּשׁ־לָדְ מָנְוֹחַ אַשֵּׁר יִיטַב־לַךְּ:
- (ב) וְעַהָּה הָלָא בּעַזֹ מְדַעְהָּנוּ אֲשֶׁר הָיָית אֶת־נַעֲרוֹתָיו הנה־הוּא זָרֵה אֵת־גָּרן הִשְּׁעֹרִים הַלֵּיִלָה:
- (ג) וְרָתַּצְתָּוּ וָסַּׁכְתְּ וְשַׂמְתְּ שמלתך שִּׁמְלֹתֵיָךְ עָלֵיֵךְ וירדתי וְיָרָדְתְּ הַגָּרֶן אַל־תִּוָדְעִי לָאִישׁ עַד כַּלֹתְוֹ לֶאֵכְל וִלִשְׁתִּוֹת:
- (ד) וִיהִי בְשָׁכְבוֹ וְיָדַעַּתְּ אֶת־הַמָּקוֹם אֲעֶׁר יִשְׁכַּב־שְׁם וּבָאת וְגִלִּית מַרְגְּלֹתָיו ושכבתי וְשָׁכֵבְתְּ וְהוּאֹ יַגִּיד לֶּךְ אָת אֲשֵׁר תַּעַשִּׂין:
 - (ה) וַתִּאמֶר אָלֵיהָ כֵּל אֲשֶׁר־תֹאמְרִי אָלַי אֲעֲשֵׂה:
 - (ו) וַתַּרֶד הַגְּרֶן וַתַּעשׁ כְּכָל אֲשֶׁר־צְוַחָּה חֲמוֹתָה:
- (ז) וַיּאכַל בְּעַז וַיִּשְׁתְּ וַיִּיטַב לְבּוֹ וַיָּבֿא לְשְׁכֵּב בִּקְצֵּה הָעֵרַמֵּה וַתָּבָא בַלָּט וַתְּגַל מַרְגְלֹחָיו וַתִּשְׁכָּב:
- (ח) וַיְהִי^ר בַּחֲצִי הַלַּיְלָה וַיֶּחֲרָד הָאָישׁ וַיִּלֶבֵת וְהַנָּה אִשְּׁה שֹׁכֶבֶת מַרְגִּלֹתָיו:
 - (ט) וַיָּאמֶר מִי־אָתְּ וַתְּאמֶר אָנֹכִי רָוּת אֲמֶתֶּך וּפָּרַשְׂתָּ כְנָפֶּׂךּ עַל־אֲמֵתְדְּׁ כִּי גֹאֵל אֲתָּה:
 - (י) וַיּאמֶר בְּרוּכָּה אַמְּ לִיקֹנָלְ בִּמִּי הֵיטַבְהְּ חַסְדֵּךְ הָאַחַרָוֹן מִן־הָרִאשֶׁוֹן לְבִלְתִּי־לֶּכֶת אַחֲרֵי הַבַּחוּרִים אָם־דֵּל וָאָם־עַיִּשִיר:
 - (יא) וְעַהָּה בָּתִּי אַל־תִּירְאִּי כָּל אֲשֶׁר־תֹּאמְרָי אֶצֶשֶׂה־לֶּךְ כִּי יוֹדֵעַ כָּל־שַׁעַר עַמִּי כִּי אַשֶּׁת חַיִל אָתְ: (יב) וְעַהָּהֹ כִּי אָמְנָּם כִּי אם גֹאַל אָנְכִי וְגָם יֵשׁ גֹאַל קרוֹב ממֵנִי:

if he does not want to act as redeemer for you, I will do so myself, as God lives! Lie down until morning."

- 14. So she lay at his feet until dawn. She rose before one person could distinguish another, for he thought, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."
- 15. And he said, "Hold out the shawl you are wearing." She held it while he measured out six measures of barley, and he placed it upon her.
- 16. When she got back to the town, she came to her mother-in-law, who asked, "How is it with you, daughter?" She told her all that the man had done for her;
- 17. [Ruth] said, "He gave me these six measures of barley, saying to me, 'Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.""
- 18. Naomi said, "Stay here, daughter, till you learn how the matter turns out. For the man will not rest, but will settle the matter today."

- (יג) לֵינִיו הַלַּיִּלָה וְהָיָה בַבּלֶּקר אָם־יִגְאָלֵה טוֹב יִגְאָׁל וְאִם־לֹּא יַחְפָּץ לְגָאֱלֵה וּגְאַלְתִּיךּ אָנָכִי חַי־יִקֹּוֶק שִׁכְבָי עַד־הַבִּּלֵּר:
- (יד) וַתִּשְׁכָּב מרגלתו מַרְגְּלוֹתָיוֹ עַד־הַבּׁקֶר וַהָּקָם בטרום בָּטֶרֶם יַכִּיר אָישׁ אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ וַיֹּאמֶר אַל־ יִוְדַּע כִּי־בָאָה הָאִשָּׁה הַגְּרָן:
- (טו) וַיֹּאמֶר ״הָבִי הַמִּטְפַּחַת אֲשֶׁר־עָלֵיֶהְ וְאָחֲזִי־בָּה וַתְּאֹחֶז בָּה וַיָּמֶד שֵׁשׁ־שְׂעֹרִים וַיָּשֶׁת עָלֶּיהָ וַיְּכָא הָעִיר: (טז) וַתָּבוֹא אֶל־חֲמוֹתָה וַתְּאמֶר מִי־אַתְּ בִּתִּי וַתַּגָּד־לְּה אָת כַּל־אֵשֵׁר עַשַּׁה־לָה הָאִישׁ:
- (יז) וַהֹּאמֶר שֵׁשֹּ־הַשְּׂעֹרָים הָאֵלֶּה נָתַן לֵי כִּי אָמַר אֵלַי אַל־תַּבְוֹאִי רַיַקִם אֵל־חַמוֹתֵדְּ:
- (יח) וַתַּאמֶר שְׁבִי בִּתִּי עַד אֲשֶׁר תַּדְעִּיו אַידְ יִפְּל דָּבֶּר כִּי לָא יִשְׁקֹטֹ הָאִִּישׁ כִּי־אִם־כִּלָּה הַדָּבָר הַיְּוֹם:

2. Devarim 23:4-5

No Ammonite or Moavite shall be admitted into the congregation of God; no descendants of such, even in the tenth generation, shall ever be admitted into the congregation of God,

because they did not meet you with food and water on your journey after you left Egypt, and because they hired Bilaam son of Beor, from Pethor of Aram-naharaim, to curse you.

לְא־יָבָא עַמּוֹנְי וּמּוֹאָבָי בָּקְהַל ה,גַּם דְּוֹר עֲשִׂירִי לֹא־יָבָא לָהָם בִּקְהַל ה עַד־עוֹלֶם: (ה) עַל־דְּבֵּר אֲשֶּׁר לֹא־קִדְּמָוּ אֶתְכֶם בַּלֶּחֶם וּבַפַּיִם בַּדֶּרֶךְ בְּצֵאתְכֶם מִמִּצְרֵיִם וַאֲשֶׁר שָׁכַׁר עָלֶיךְ אֶת־בִּלְעָם בָּן־בְּעוֹר מִפְּתְוֹר אֲרָם נַהְרִיִם לְקִלְלֶּלֶּךָ:

3. Talmud Bayli Yevamot 76b

Doeg the Edomite then said to [King Saul], 'Instead of inquiring whether he is fit to be king or not, inquire rather whether he is permitted to enter the assembly or not'! 'What is the reason'? 'Because he is descended from Ruth the Moavitess'. Avner said 'We learned: An Ammonite, but not an Ammonitess; A Moavite, but not a Moavitess! . . .

[Doeg asked] 'Does then Egyptian exclude the Egyptian woman'? 'Here it is different, since the reason for the Scriptural text is explicitly stated:

א"ל דואג האדומי עד שאתה משאיל עליו אם הגון הוא למלכות אם לאו שאל עליו אם ראוי לבא בקהל אם לאו מ"ט דקאתי מרות המואביה א"ל אבנר תנינא עמוני ולא עמונית מואבי ולא מואבית . . . מצרי ולא מצרית שאני הכא דמפרש טעמא דקרא (דברים כג, ה) עַל דְּבַר אַשֶּׁר לֹא קִדְמוּ אֶתְכֶם בַּלֶּחֶם וּבַמַּיִם

Because they did not come out to greet you with bread and with water; it is customary for a man to meet [wayfarers]; It is not, however, customary for a woman to meet [them]'.

[Doeg replied] 'The men should have met the men and the women the women!'

[Avner] remained silent, Thereupon. the King said. 'Ask about whose son the lad *elem* is'. Elsewhere he calls him youth; and here he calls him, lad! It is this that he implied, 'You have overlooked a halachah,' go and inquire at the academy!' On inquiry, he was told: An Ammonite, but not an Ammonitess; A Moavite, but not a Moavitess.

ַּדְּרָק.דרכו של איש לקדם ולא דרכה של אשה לקדם היה להם לקדם אנשים לקראת אשה לקדם ונשים לקראת נשים ונשים ונשים לקראת נשים אישתיק מיד ויאמר המלך שאל אתה בן מי זה העלם התם קרי ליה נער הכא קרי ליה עלם הכי קא אמר ליה הלכה נתעלמה ממך צא ושאל בבית המדרש שאל אמרו ליה עמוני ולא עמונית מואבי ולא מואבית

4. Ruth Chapter 4

- (א) וּבַּעז עָלָה הַשַּער וַיִּשֶׁב שָׁם וְהָנֵּה הַגּאֵל עֹבֵר אֲלְמֹגֵי דְּבֶּר־בַּעז עָלָה הַשַּער טִּיָרָה שְׁבָּה־פָּה פְּלֹנִי אַלְמֹגֵי אֲלָמֹגֵי דְּבֶּר־בַּעז וַיָּאמֶר סִוּרָה שְׁבָה־פָּה פְּלֹנִי אַלְמֹגֵי וַיָּאמֶר (בִיִּשֵׁב: (ב) וַיִּאֵּרָה אֲנָשִׁים מִזִּקְנָי הָאָיר וַיִּאמֶר שְׁבוּ־בּוּ: (ג) וַיּאמֶר לַגֹּאֵל חֶלְקַתּ הַשְּׁבָּה הַשְּׁבָּה אֲשֶׁר לְאָחִינוּ לָאֱלִימֶלֶךְ מְבֶרָה נָעֲמִי הַשָּׁבָה מְשֵּׁרָה מוֹאָב:
- (ד) וַאֲנִּי אָמַרְתִּי אֶגְלֶה אָזְנְךְּ לֵאמֹר קְנֵה נָגֶד הַיּשְׁבִים וְנָגֶד זְקְנֵי עַמִּי אִם־תִּגְאַל גְּאָׁל וְאִם־לֹּא יִגְאַל הַגִּידָה לִּי ואדע וְאַדְעָה כִּי אֵין זוּלֶתְךּ לְגְאוֹל וְאַנֹכִי אַתַרִיךְ וַיִּאמֶר אַנֹכִי אָגָאַל:
- (ה) וַיָּאמֶר בּׁעַז בְּיוֹם־קְנוֹתְךָּ הַשָּׂדָה מִיַּד נָעֲמֵי וּמֵאֵת (ה) וַיָּאמֶר בּׁעַז בְּיוֹם־קְנוֹתְךָ הַשָּׂדָה מְיַּדְ נְעֲמֵי וּמֵאֵת רְוּת הַמּוֹאֲבָיָה אֲשֶׁת־הַמֵּת קניתי קָנִיתָה לְהָקִים שׁם־המת על־נחלתוֹ:
- (ו) וַיָּאמֶר הַגּאֵל לָא אוּכַל לגאול־לְגְאָל־לִי פֶּן־אַשְׁחַית אֶת־נַחַלָתֵי גְּאַל־לְךָּ אַתָּהֹ אֶת־גְּאֵלְתִׁי כִּי לא־אוּכַל לְגָאָל:
- (ז) וְזֹאת ゚לְפָנִּים בְּיִשְׂרָאֵׁל עַל־הַגְּאוּלֶה וְעַל־הַתְּמוּרָה לְקַיֵּם כָּל־דָּבֶּר שָׁלַף אָישׁ נַעֲלוֹ וְנָתַן לְרַעֲהוּ וְזָאת הַתְּעוּדָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:

- 1. Meanwhile, Boaz had gone to the gate and sat down there. And now the redeemer whom Boaz had mentioned passed by. He called, "Come over and sit down here, So-and-so!" And he came over and sat down.
- 2. Then [Boaz] took ten elders of the town and said, "Be seated here"; and they sat down.
- 3. He said to the redeemer, "Naomi, now returned from the country of Moav, must sell the piece of land which belonged to our kinsman Elimelech.
- 4. I thought I should disclose the matter to you and say: Acquire it in the presence of those seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you are willing to redeem it, redeem! But if you will not redeem, tell me, that I may know. For there is no one to redeem but you, and I come after you." "I am willing to redeem it," he replied.
- 5. Boaz said, "When you acquire the property from Naomi and from Ruth the Moavite, you must also acquire the wife of the deceased, be so as to perpetuate the name of the deceased upon his estate."
- 6. The redeemer replied, "Then I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own estate. You take over my right of redemption, for I am unable to exercise it."
- 7. Now this was formerly done in Israel in cases of redemption or exchange: to validate any transaction, one man would take off his sandal and

(ח) וַיְּאמֶר הַגֹּאֵל לְלַעִז קְנֵה־לֶךְ וַיִּשְׁלֹף נַעֲלֹו:
 (ט) וַיֹּאמֶר בּצֹז לַזְּקֵנִים וְכָל־הָעָם עֵדִים אַתָּם הַיּוֹם כִּי קְנִיתִי אֶת־כָּל־צְּשֶׁר לֶאֱלִימֶׁלֶךְ וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לְכָלְיֻוֹן וּמַחְלֵוֹן מִיָּד נָעֲמִי: (י) וְגַם אֶת־רַוּת הַמֹּאֲבִיָּה אֵשֶׁת מַחְלוֹן קָנִיתִי לִי לְאשָׁה לְהָקִים שֵׁם־הַמֵּת עַל־נַחֲלָתוֹ וְלֹא־יִכָּרָת שֵׁם־הַמֵּת מֵעִם אָחָיו וּמִשַּער מְלוֹן עָדִים אַתָּם הַיִּוֹם:

(יא) וַיּאמְרוּ כָּל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר־בַּשַּׁעַר וְהַזְּקַנִים עַדֵים
יִתֵּו יְקֹנָק אֶת־הָאשָׁה הַבָּאָה אֶל־בֵּיתֶּךְ כְּרָחֻלוּ וּכְלֵאָה
אֲשֶׁר בָּנְוּ שְׁתִּיהֶם אֶת־בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵׁל וַעֲשֵׁה־חַיִּל
בְּאֶפְרָּתָה וּקְרָא־שֵׁם בְּבֵית לָחֶם: (יב) וִיהָי בִיתְדְּ כְּבֵית בָּּנְץ אֲשֶׁר־יָלְדָה תָמֶר לִיהוּדֶה מִן־הַנָּרַע אֲשֶׁר יִתַּן יְקֹנָל לְּדְּ מִן־הַנַּעֲרָה הַזְּאת: (יג) וַיִּלֵּח בְּעַז אֶת־רוּת וַתְּהִי־לָוֹ לְאִשָּׁה וַיָּבָא אֵלֵיהָ וַיִּמֵּן יְקֹנִק לָהְּ הָרַיִוֹן וַתְּלִד בֵּן:

(יד) וַתֹּאמַרְנָה הַנָּשִׁים אֶל־נָצֵמִיׁ בְּרַוּךְ יְקּנְׁק אֲשֶׁר לְּא הִשְׁבִּית לֶךְ גֹאֵל הַיָּוֹם וְיִפָּרָא שְׁמִוֹ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: (טו) וְהָיָה לָךְ לְמִשִׁיב נְּפָשׁ וּלְכַלְבֵּל אֶת־שִׁיבָתֵּךְ כִּי כַלְּתַּךְ אֲשֶׁר־אֲהַבַּלֶּהְ יְלָדַׁתּוּ אֲשֶׁר־הִיא טְוֹבָה לָּךְ מִשְׁבְאָה בָּנִים: (טז) וַתִּלֹּח נָצֶמִי אֶת־הַיֶּלֶד וַתְּשְׁתַהוּ בְחֵילָה וַתְּהִי־לָוֹ לְאֹמֶנֶת: (יז) וַתִּקְרָאנָה לְוֹ הַשְּׁכֵנְוֹת שַׁם לֵאמֹר יִלַּד־בָּן לְנָצֵמֵי וַתִּקְרָאנָה שְׁמוֹ עוֹבַד הָוּא אַבִי־יִשִׁי אָבֵי דָוִד: פּ

(יח) וְאֵלֶּהֹ תּוֹלְדָוֹת פָּׁרֶץ פֶּרֶץ הוֹלִיד אֶת־חֶצְרְוֹן: (יט) וְחֶצְרוֹן הוֹלִיד אֶת־רָּם וַרָם הוֹלִיד אֶת־עַמִּינַדְב: (כ) וְעַמִּינָדָב הוֹלִיד אֶת־נַחְשׁוֹן וְנַחְשׁוֹן הוֹלִיד

אֶת־שַּׁלְמָה:(כא) וְשַּׁלְמוֹן הוֹלִיד אֶת־בּּׁעַז וּבֻעַז הוֹלִיד אֶת־עוֹבָד:(כב) וְעֹבֵד הוֹלִיד אֶת־יִשֶּׁי וְיִשַּׁי הוֹלִיד אֶת־דָּוָד: hand it to the other. Such was the practice in Israel. 8. So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Acquire for yourself," he drew off his sandal.

- 9. Boaz said to the elders and to the rest of the people, "You are witnesses today that I am acquiring from Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Machlon.
- 10. I am also acquiring Ruth the Moavite, the wife of Machlon, as my wife, so as to perpetuate the name of the deceased upon his estate, that the name of the deceased may not disappear from among his kinsmen and from the gate of his home town. You are witnesses today."
- 11. All the people at the gate and the elders answered, "We are. May God make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built up the House of Israel! Prosper in Ephrathah and perpetuate your name in Bethlehem!
- 12. And may your house be like the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Yehudah—through the offspring which the God will give you by this young woman."
- 13. Boaz married Ruth; she became his wife, and he cohabited with her. God let her conceive, and she bore a son.
- 14. And the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be God, who has not withheld a redeemer from you today! May his name be perpetuated in Israel!
- 15. He will renew your life and sustain your old age; for he is born of your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons."
- 16. Naomi took the child and held it to her bosom. She became his caregiver.
- 17. The neighbors gave him a name, saying, "A son is born to Naomi!" They named him Oved; he was the father of Jesse, father of David.
- 18. This is the line of Perez: Perez begat Hezron,
- 19. Hezron begot Ram, Ram begat Amminaday,
- 20. Amminadav begat Nachshon, Nachshon begat Salmon 21. Salmon begat Boaz, Boaz begat Oved,
- 22. Oved begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.