<u>Drisha Institute - From Revelation to Realization - Part 3</u>

A Tale of Two Cities and Two Books: Sefer Shoftim and Megillat Rut

I. The Setting of Megillat Rut:

1. Megillat Rut, 1:

<u>rich.</u>

(1) It was in the days that the judges judged that there was a famine in the land and a man of Bethlehem in Judah with his wife and two sons went to live in the fields of Moav.

<u>1. רות פרק א</u>

(א) <u>ויִהִּי בִּימִי שְׁפֹּט הַשּׁפְּטִים</u> וַיְהִי רָעָב בָּאָרֶץ וַיֵּלֶךְ אִישׁ מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יְהוּדָה לָגוּר בִּשְׂדֵי מוֹאָב הוא וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּשְׁנֵי בָנָיו:

II. Megillat Rut and life in Beit Lechem:

Examples of מגילת רות in חסד:	
2. Megillat Rut, 2 (11) Boaz said in reply, <u>"I have been told of all that you did for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband</u> , how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth and came to a people you had not known before.	2. רות פרק ב (יא) וַיַּען בּעַז וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ הָגֵּד הָגַּד לִי כֹּל אָשֶׁר־עְשִׁית אֶת־חֲמוֹתֵרְ אִחֲרִי מוֹת אִישַׁרְ וַתַּעַזְבִי אָבִירְ וְאָמֶרְ וְאֶרֶץ מוֹלַדְתֵּךְ וַתֵּלְכִי אֶל־עַם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדַעַתְּ תְּמוֹל שִׁלְשׁוֹם:
3. Megillat Rut, 2 (15) When she got up again to glean, Boaz gave orders to his workers, "You are not only to let her glean among the sheaves, without interference, (16) but you must also pull some [stalks] out of the heaps and leave them for her to glean, and not scold her."	3. רות פרק ב (טו) וַתָּקם לְלַקֵּט וַיְצַו בּעז אָת־נְעָרִיו לַאמר גּם בֵּין הָעֲמָרִים תָּלַקֵּט וְלֹא תַכְלִימוּהָ: (טז) וְגַם של־תָשלּוּ לָהּ מִן־הַצְּבָתִים וַעֲזַבְתֶּם וְלִקְּטָה וְלֹא תִגְעֲרוּ־בָהּ:
4. Megillat Rut, 3 (1) Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, "Daughter, I must seek a home for you, where you may be happy.	<u>4. רות פרק ג</u> (א) וַתּאמֶר לָהּ נִעֲמִי חֲמוֹתָהּ בָּתִּי הֲלֹא אָבַקֶּשׁ־לָדְ מָנוֹחַ אֲשֶׁר יִיטַב־לָדְ:
5. Megillat Rut, 3 (10) He exclaimed, "Be blessed of the LORD, daughter! Your latest deed of loyalty is greater than the first, in that you have not turned to younger men, whether poor or	<u>5. רות פרק ג</u> (י) וַיֹּאמֶר בְּרוּכָה אַתְּ לַה' בִּתִּי הֵיטַבְתְּ חַסְדֵּךְ הָאַחֲרוֹן מִן־הָרָאשׁוֹן לְבַלְתִּי־לֶכֶת אַחֲרִי הַבַּחוּרִים אָם־דַּל וְאָם־עָשִׁיר:

6. Megillat Rut, 4

(9) And 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 Mahlon. (10) I am also acquiring Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, 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."

6. רו<u>ת פרק ד</u>

(ט) וַיֹּאמֶר בּעַז לַזְקֵנִים וְכל־הָעָם עֵדִים אַתֶּם הַיּוֹם כִּי קָנִיתִי אֶת־כּל־אֲשֶׁר לֶאֱלִימֶלֶךְ וְאֵת כּל־אֲשֶׁר לְכִלְיוֹן וּמַחְלוֹן מִיַּד נעֲמִי: (י) וְגַם אָת־רוּת הַמֹּאִבִיָּה אִשֶּׁת מַחְלוֹן קָנִיתִי לִי לָאשָׁה לְהָקִים שֵׁם־הַמֵּת עַל־נַחְלָתוֹ וְלֹא־יִכְּרַת שַׁם־הַמֵּת מַעם אָחָיו וּמִשֵּׁער מְקוֹמוֹ עֵדִים אַתֶּם הַיּוֹם:

Where are the villains?

7. Megillat Rut, 1:

- (2) The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name was Naomi, and his two sons were named <u>Mahlon and Chilion</u>
- Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. They came to the country of Moab and remained there.

8. Megillat Rut, 1:

(14) They broke into weeping again, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law farewell. But Ruth clung to her.

9. Megillat Rut, 4:

(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."

ת. רות פרק א<u>.7</u>

ב) וְשֵׁם הָאִישׁ אֱלִימֶלֶךְ וְשֵׁם אִשְׁתּוֹ נְעֲמִי וְשֵׁם שְׁנֵי־בָנָיו<u> מַחְלוֹן וְכַלְיוֹן</u> אֶפְרָתִים מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יִהוּדָה וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׂדֵי־מוֹאָב וַיִּהִיוּ־שָׁם:

8. רות פרק א

(יד) ותשנה קולן ותבכינה עוד <u>ותשק ערפה</u> <u>לחמותה</u> ורות דבקה בה:

<u>9. רות פרק ד</u>

(ו) <u>ויאמר הגאל לא אוכל <לגאול> לגאל לי פן אשחית את נחלתי</u> גאל לך אתה את גאלתי כי לא אוכל לגאל:

III. Sefer Shoftim:

10. Shoftim 19

- (1) In those days there was no king in Israel and a man from Mt Ephraim took a woman as a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah...
- (11)... And the youth said to his master, let us turn to the Jebusite city and stay there. (12) His master replied: we will not turn to a non-Jewish city, let us continue to the Jewish city of Givah...
- (15) They turned to stay in Givah and went to the town square but no one invited them into their house to stay (16) An old man came from the field who was also from Mt. Efraim and now lives in Givah...
- (21) He brought them to his home, fed their donkeys, they washed their feet, ate and drank (22) They were enjoying themselves when the wicked people of the city surrounded the house and pounded on the door and told the old man to hand over the man who was staying in his house so they could rape him (23) The owner of the house turned to them and said: my brothers, he is my guest, do not do this evil thing (24) take my daughter and my guest's concubine and do with them what is good in your eyes but to this man, do not do this evil deed (25) The mob did not want to listen to him, so the man threw his concubine out the door and they raped her all night until morning...
- (29) The man returns home, takes his concubine and chops her into 12 pieces and sends the pieces throughout the territory of Israel (30) Everyone who saw this said such a thing has never happened since Bnei Israel left Egypt until today, let us put our minds together and decide what to do...

<u>10. שופטים פרק יט</u>

- (א) <u>וְיָהִי בּיָמִים הָהֵם וּמֶלֶּדְ אִין בְּיִשְׂרָאַל</u> וַיְהִי אִישׁ לֵוִי גָּר בְּיַרְכְּתֵי הֵר אֶפְרַיִם וַיִּקַּח לוֹ אִשָּׁה פִילֵגִשׁ מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יִהוּדָה:
- (יא)...וַיּאמֶר הַנַּעַר אֶל אֲדֹנָיו לְכָה נָא וְנָסוּרָה אֶל עִיר הַיְבוּסִי הַזֹּאת וְנָלִין בָּה: (יב) וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲדֹנָיו לֹא נָסוּר אֶל עִיר נָכְרִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא מִבְּנֵי יִשְׁרָאֵל הֵנָּה וְעַבַּרְנוּ עַד גִּבְעַה...
 - (טו) וַיָּסֶרוּ שָׁם לָבוֹא לָלוּן בַּגִּבְעָה וַיָּבֹא וַיֵּשֶׁב בִּרְחוֹב הָעִיר וְאֵין אִישׁ מְאַפֵּף אוֹתָם הַבּּיְתָה לָלוּן: (טז) וְהִנֵּה אִישׁ זָקֵן בָּא מִן מַעֲשֵׂהוּ מִן הַשָּׂדָה בָּעֶרֶב וְהָאִישׁ מִהַר אֶפְרַיִם וְהוּא גָר בַּגִּבְעָה וְאַנְשֵׁי הַמָּקוֹם בְּנֵי יְמִינִי...
- (כא) וַיִּבִיאָהוּ לָבֵיתוֹ ויבול וַיַּבַל לַחַמוֹרִים (כא וַיִּרְחַצוּ רַגְּלֵיהֶם וַיֹּאכָלוּ וַיִּשְׁתוּ: (כב) הֶמֶה מֵיטִיבִים אֶת לָבַּם וְהָנֵה אַנְשֵׁי הַעִיר אַנְשֵׁי בְנֵי בְּלַיַעל נַסַבּוּ אָת הַבַּיִת מִתְדַפָּקִים על הַדַּלֶת וַיֹּאמָרוּ אֵל הַאִּישׁ בַּעל הַבַּיִת הַזַּקון לֵאמר הוצא את האיש אשר בא אל ביתך ונדענו: (כג) וַיַּצָא אַלֶּיהֶם הַאִישׁ בַּעל הַבַּיִת וַיִּאמֶר אלהם אל אחי אל תרעו נא אחרי אשר בא הַאִישׁ הַזָּה אֵל בִּיתִי אַל תַעשוּ אֵת הַנְּבַלַה הַזאת:(כד) הְנֶה בְתִי הַבְּתוּלֵה וּפִילַגְשֶׁהוּ אוציאַה נַא אותַם וענו אותַם וַעשוּ לַהֶם הַטוב בעיניכם ולַאִיש הַזֶּה לֹא תַעשוּ דְבַר הַנְבַלַה הַזֹּאת:(כה) ולא אַבוּ הַאַנַשִּים לִשְּמע לוֹ וַיַּחַזֶּק הַאִּישׁ בִּפִּילַגִּשׁוֹ וַיֹּצֵא אֲלֵיהֶם הַחוּץ וַיֵּדעו אותַה וַיִּתעללו בַה כַּל הַלַּיַלַה עד הַבּקֵר וַיִשַלְחוּהַ בעלות כַּעלות הַשַּחַר...
- (כט) וַיָּבֹא אֶל בֵּיתוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת הַמַּאֲכֶלֶת וַיַּחֲזֵק בְּפִילַגְשׁוֹ וַיְנַתְּהֶהָ לַעֲצָמֶיהָ לִשְׁנִים עָשָׂר נְתָחִים וַיְשַׁלְּחֶהָ בְּכֹל גְבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל:(ל) וְהָיָה כָל הָרֹאֶה וְאָמֵר לֹא נִהְיְתָה וְלֹא נִרְאֲתָה כָּזֹאת לְמִיּוֹם עֲלוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֵּה שִׁימוּ לַכֵּם עלֵיהַ עצוּ וְדַבֵּרוּ:

IV. Making a choice:

11. Dr. Yael Ziegler, "Ruth: From Alienation to Monarchy" (p. 57)

...The story of Ruth is a story of loyalty, generosity, union, serenity, marriage, blessings, and life. The narrative of Judges is one of division, selfishness, war, destruction, curses, and death... These two books remain separate because they are, in essence, two

opposing models of society. In the society depicted in Judges, there is no leadership and social interactions begin to unravel: people are miserly and self-absorbed and do not recognize one another. This society invariably leads to chaos and disorder, culminating in a civil war... In the society depicted in Ruth, Boaz assumes leadership and begins to build positive social interactions: peace and harmony reign alongside kindness, serenity, and compassion. This situation



foreshadows and anticipates monarchy and societal unity, and constitutes the very purpose of the book of Ruth.

Ending of Sefer Shoftim:	Ending of Megillat Rut:
<u>12. שופטים פרק כא:</u> (כה) <u>בימים ההם אין מלך בישראל א</u> יש הישר בעיניו יעשה:	<u>13. רות פרק ד:</u> (כא) ושלמון הוליד את בעז ובעז הוליד את עובד: (כב) ועבד הוליד את ישי <u>וישי הוליד את</u> דוד:
12. Sefer Shoftim, 21: (25) In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did as they pleased.	13. Megillat Rut, 4: (21) Aminadav's son was Boaz, and Boaz's son was Oved (22) and Oved's son was Ishai, and Ishai's son was David.

V. Lot's choice: Coming full circle:

14. Breishit 13

(7) And there was quarreling between the herders of Abram's cattle and those of Lot's cattle.—The Canaanites and Perizzites were then dwelling in the land.— (8) Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, between my herders and yours, for we are kin. (9) Is not the whole land before you? Let us separate, if you go north, I will go south; and if you go south, I will go north." (10) Lot looked about him and saw how well watered was the whole plain of the Jordan, all of it—this was before ¬' had

<u>14. בראשית יג:</u>

(ז) וְיְהִי־רִיב בָּין רֹעֵי מִקְנֶה־אַבְּלָם וּבֶּין רֹעֵי מִקְנֵה־לָוֹט וְהְכְּנַעֲנִי וְהַפְּרִזִּי אָז ישָׁב בָּאָרֶץ: (ח) וּיִאמֶר אַבְּלָם אֶל־לוֹט אַל־נָא תְהְי מְרִיבָּה בֵּינֵי וּבֵינֶּךָ וּבֵין רֹעֵיךָ כְּי־אֲנְשִׁים אַחְים אַנְחְנוּ: (ט) הַלָּא כל־הָאֶרֶץ לְפָנֶיֹדְ הִפְּּנֶדֹ נָא מֵעְלֶי אִם־הַשְּׁמָאל וְאֵימִנָה וְאִם־הַיָּמִין וְאַשְּמְאִילָה: (י) וִיִּשָּא־לֵוֹט אָת־עִינִיו וַיִּרְאַ אָת־כּל־כִּבְּר הַיִּרְדֵּן כִּי כַלְּהּ מִשְׁקָה לִפְנֵיו שַׁחֲת ה' אֶת־סְדֹם וְאָת־עִמֹרָה כְּגוְ־ה' כְּאָרֶץ מִצְרִים ה' אֶת־סְדֹם וְאָת־עִמֹרָה כְּגוְ־ה' כְּאָרֶץ מִצְרִים בּאְכָה צִעַר: (יא) וַיִּבְחַר־לַוֹ לוֹט אֻתְ כּל־כִּבְּרַ destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—all the way to Zoar, like the garden of ה', like the land of Egypt. (11) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they parted from each other; (12) Abram remained in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the Plain, pitching his tents near Sodom. (13) Now the inhabitants of Sodom were very wicked sinners against ה'.

(יב) אַבְרָם יָשְׁב בְּאֶרֶץ־כְּנְעַן וְלוֹט יָשַׁבְּ בְּעְרֵי הַכִּכָּר וַיָּאֵהָל עד־סְדָם: (יג) וְאַנְשֵׁי סְדֹם רְעִים וַחַשָּאִים לַה' מָאָד:

15. Breishit 19

(1) The two messengers arrived in Sodom in the evening, as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to greet them and, bowing low with his face to the ground, (2) he said, "Please, my lords, turn aside to your servant's house to spend the night, and bathe your feet; then you may be on your way early." But they said, "No, we will spend the night in the square." (3) But he urged them strongly, so they turned his way and entered his house. He prepared a feast for them and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. (4) They had not yet lain down, when the town council [and] the militia of Sodom, young and old, the whole assembly without exception—gathered about the house. (5) And they shouted to Lot and said to him, "Where are the ones who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may be intimate with them." (6) So Lot went out to them to the entrance, shut the door behind him, (7) and said, "I beg you, my friends, do not commit such a wrong. (8) Look, I have two daughters who have not known a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you please, but do not do anything to these men since they have come under the shelter of my roof."

(14) So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Up, get out of this

<u>15. בראשית יט:</u>

(א) וַיַבֿאו שָנֵי הַמֶּלָאַכִים סִדמָה בַערב וְלָוֹט (א) ישב בשער־סדם ויראֹ־לוט ויקם לקראתם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַפַּיִם אָרְצָה: (ב) וַיִּאֹמֵר הְנָה ַנַא־אַדושם סורוֹ נַּא אֱל־בֵּית עבַדְּכֶם וְלִינוּ ורחצו רַגלַיכָם והִשְּבַּמְתֵם וַהַלַּכְתֵּם לְדַרְכָּכֶם וַיאמרו לא כִּי בָרחוב נַלִּין: (ג) וַיִּפַצַר־בָּם מִאֹד ויסרו אליו ויבאו אל־ביתו ויעש להם משתה וּמַצות אָפָה וַיּאכֵלוּ: (ד) טֵּרֵם יִשְׁכָּבוּ וְאַנְשֵׁי ֹהַעִיר אַנְשָּׁי סִדם נַסָבוּ על־הַבַּיִת מנַער ועד־זַקו כֹּל־הַעם מִקּצָה: (ה) וַיִּקְרְאַוּ אֱל־לוֹט ַוַיאמרו לו אַיָּה הַאַנַשִּים אַשֶּר־בַּאוּ אֵלֵיךָ הלילה הוציאם אלינו ונדעה אתם: (ו) ויצא אַלֶּהֶם לִוֹט הַפַּתְחָה וְהַדְּלֶת סָגַר אַחַרֵיו: (זֹ) ַנִיאמֶר אַל־נַא אַחַי תַּרָעוֹ: (ח) הְנַה־נַא לִי שִתִּי בַנות אַשֶּׁר לָא־יַדעו איש אוציאַה־נַא אַתהֶן בַּנות אַשֶּׁר אליכם ועשו להן כטוב בעיניכם ר״ק לאנשים ָהַאֵל אַל־תַעשוּ דַבָּר כִּי־על־כֵּן בַּאוּ בִּצֵל קרַתִי:

(יד) וַיַּצֵּא לׄוֹט וַיִּדַבְּרוּ אֶל־חֲתָנָיוּ וּ לֹקְחֵי בְּנֹתָּיוּ וַיֹּאמֶר קְּוּמוּ צְאוֹּ מִן־הַמֶּקוֹם הַזֶּה כְּי־מֵשְׁחִית ה' אֶת־הָעְיר וַיָּהִי כִמְצַחַק בָּעִינִי חְתַנְיוּ: (טו) וּכְמוֹ הַשְּׁחֵר עָלָה וַיָּאִיצוּ הַמַּלְאָכִים בְּלֵוֹט הַנִּמְצָאֹת פֶּן־תִּפְּכָה בַּעֲון הָעְיר: (טוֹ) וּבְיֵד שְׁתִּי בְנֹתָיו בְּחָמְלָת ה' עָלֶיו וַיּצִאְהוּ וּבְיֵד שְׁתִּי בְנֹתָיו בְּחֶמְלָת ה' עָלֶיו וַיּצִאְּהוּ place, for ¬' is about to destroy the city."

But he seemed to his sons-in-law as one
who jests. (15) As dawn broke, the
messengers urged Lot on, saying, "Up, take
your wife and your two remaining
daughters, lest you be swept away because
of the iniquity of the city." (16) Still he
delayed. So the agents seized his hand, and
the hands of his wife and his two
daughters—in G-d's mercy on him—and
brought him out and left him outside the
city.

16. Megillat Rut, 1

(16) But Ruth replied, "Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. (17) Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus and more may the LORD do to me-if anything but death parts me from you."

<u>16. רות, א</u>

(טז) וַתַּאמֶר רוּת אֶל־תּפְגְּעִי־בְּי לְעזְבֶךְ לָשְׁוּב מִאְחַרָיִךְ <u>פִּי אֲל־אֲשֶׁר תַּלְכִי אֵלַךְ וּבַאֲשֶׁר תִּלִינִיּ</u> אָלִין עַמֵּרְ עַמִּי וָאלֹקִירָ אֵלְקִי: (יז) בַּאֲשֶׁר תָּמוּתִי אָמוּת וְשָׁם אָקָבֶר כֹּה יַעֲשֶׁה ה' לִי וְכַה יוֹלִיף כִּי הַמָּׁוֶת יַפְרָיד בִּינִי וּבִינֶךְ:

17. Dr. Yael Ziegler, "Ruth: From Alienation to Monarchy" (p. 70-73)

In addition to the far-reaching ramifications that Ruth's choice has for her own definition and that of her descendents, <u>Ruth's choice represents a historic correction</u>, <u>or tikkun</u>, <u>of</u> Lot's fateful separation from Abraham...

Lot's decision to separate from Abraham is described using the verb to separate (P-R-D): "And each man separated (*vayiparedu*) from his brother" (Gen. 13:11). Ruth's speech of loyalty to Naomi concludes with the same word used to describe Lot and Abraham's separation. However, Ruth's usage of the verb "to separate" (P-R-D) is part of an oath in which she swears that only death will separate her from Naomi, from the path of Abraham that she has so courageously chosen: "I swear by God that only death will separate (*yaphrid*) between me and you" (1:17). In fact, Ruth's speech refusing to abandon Naomi despite her urgings should rightly have been uttered by Lot in response to Avraham's suggestion that they separate. By pronouncing the speech which Lot failed to deliver, Ruth brings the narrative of Lot and Abraham's separation full circle...

Ruth is not the only one who is faced with the choice of remaining in Moab or returning to the path of Abraham. This is the very choice facing the people during the period of the <u>Judges</u>. Will they continue on the path of Moab, a path that will surely lead to their

destruction or will they return to the ways of Abraham?

VI. A Closer Look at Beit Lechem: Real hesed, fake hesed, or somewhere in between?

18. Megillat Rut, 2:

(19) her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be he who took such generous notice of you!" So she told her mother-in-law whom she had worked with, saying, "The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz." (20) Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not failed in His kindness to the living or to the dead! For," Naomi explained to her daughter-in-law, "the man is related to us; he is one of our redeeming kinsmen." (21) Ruth the Moabite said, "He even told me, 'Stay close by my workers until all my harvest is finished." (22) And Naomi answered her daughter-in-law Ruth, "It is best, daughter, that you go out with his girls, and not be annoyed in some other field." (23) So she stayed close to the maidservants of Boaz, and gleaned until the barley harvest and the wheat harvest were finished. Then she stayed at home with her mother-in-law.

18. רות פרק ב:

(יט) וַתּאמֶר לָה חֲמוֹתָה אֵיפֹּה לִקְּטְתְּ הַיּוֹם וְאָנָה עָשִּׁית יְהִי מַכִּירֵךְ בָּרָוּךְ וַתַּגָּד לַחַמְוֹתָּהְ אֶת אֲשָׁר־עִשְׁתָה עִמֹּוֹ וַתֹּאמֶר שְׁם הָאִישׁ אִשָּׁר עְשְּׂיתִי עִמֶּוֹ הַיָּוֹם בְּעִז: (כ) וַתֹּאמֶר נְעְמִי לְכַלָּתָה בָּרָוּךָ הוּא לַה׳ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָזָב חַסְדֹּוֹ אָת־הַחַיִּים וְאָת־הַמֵּתִים וַתְּאמֶר לָה נָעמִי אָת־הַחַיִּים וְאָת־הַמֵּתִים וַתְּאמֶר לָה נָעמִי קָרוֹב לְנוֹ הָאִישׁ מְגֹּאִלְנוּ הָוֹא: (כֹא) וַתְּאמֶר רְנִת הַמּוֹאֲבְיָּה גַּם וּ כִּי־אָמֵר אֵלִי עִם־הַנְּעַרְים אֲשֶׁר־לִי (כֹב) וַתִּאמֶר נָעֲמִי אֶל־רָוּת כַּלָּתְה טָוֹב בְּתִּי כְּי תְצְאִי עִם־נַעְרוֹת בְּעָלִי הְחַמִּים וַתְּשָׁב בְּשְׁדְה אַחְר: (כֹג) וַתִּדְבָּלְים וּקְצֵיר הְחָטִים וַתְּשָׁב אַת־חְמוֹתְה:

19. Megillat Rut, 3:

(1) Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, "Daughter, I must seek a home for you, where you may be happy. (2) Now there is our kinsman Boaz, whose girls you were close to. 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

19. מגילת רות: פרק ג:

(א) ותַּאמֶר לָה נֵעְמֵי חֲמוֹתָהּ בַּתִּי הַלָּא אָבַקֶּשׁ־לֶּךְ מָנָוֹח אִשֶּׁר יִיטִבֹ־לְּךֵ: (ב) וְעַתָּּה הַלָּא בַּעֵז מְדַעְתָּנוּ אֲשֶׁר הְיִיעב בְּנְעַרוֹתְיוּ הַנֵּה־הוּא זֹרֶה אֶת־נָּרֶן הַשְּׁעֹרִים הַלְּיִלָּה: (ג) וְרָחֲצְתִּ ו וָסִׁכְתִּ וְשְּׁמִתְּ (שמלתר) [שִׁמְלֹתְירִ] עָלְיִרְ (וירדתי) [וְיִרְדְתִּ] הַגָּרָן אַל־תִּנְּדְעִי לָאִישׁ עָלְיִרְ (וירדתי) [וְיַרְדְתִּ] הַגָּרָן אַל־תִּנְדְעִי לָאִישׁ עָלְיִרְ (וִירדתי) [וְיַבְּדְתִּ] הַבְּעֹרְ לָאִישׁ וְיַלְּעַתְּ אֶתְרַהַמְקוֹם אְשֶׁרְ יִשְׁכַּבְתִּן וְהוּאֹ יַנִּידְ וְגַלְית מִרְגִּלֹתְיו (ושכבתי) [וְשָׁכַבְתַּ] וְהוּאֹ יַנִּידְ לָרְ אָת אִשֶּׁר תִּעִשְׂיוּ: (ה) וַתְּאמֶר אֵלֶיהָ כֶּל אֲשֶׁר־תֹּאמְרִי [אֵלֶין אְעֵשְׂה: will tell you what you are to do." (5) She replied, "I will do everything you tell me."



20. Midrash Rut Rabbah, 5:6 Rabbi Yitzhak bar Maryon said: The verse comes to teach you that if a person performs a mitzva he should perform it wholeheartedly, as had Reuben known that the Holy One blessed be He was dictating in his regard: "Reuben heard and he rescued him from their hands" (Genesis 37:21), he would have taken him to his father on his shoulder. Had Aaron known that the Holy One blessed be He was dictating in his regard: "Behold, he is emerging to meet you" (Exodus 4:14), he would have emerged to meet [Moses] with drums and dancing. Had Boaz known that the Holy One blessed be He was dictating in his regard: "He handed her roasted grain, and she ate, was sated, and there was some left over," he would have fed her fattened calves. Rabbi Kohen and Rabbi Yehoshua of Sikhnin in the name of Rabbi Levi: In the past, a person would perform a mitzva and the prophet would write it. Now, when a person performs a mitzva, who writes it? Elijah writes it, and the messianic king, and the Holy One blessed be He affixes a seal for them. That is what is written: "Then those who feared the Lord spoke one with another, [and the Lord heeded, and heard, and a book of remembrance was written before Him]" (Malachi 3:16).

<u>20. רות רבה ה:ו</u> אמר רבי יצחק בו

אַמַר רַבִּי יִצְחַק בַּר מַרִיוֹן בַּא הַכַּתוּב לְלַמֵּדְרָ שָאָם אַדַם עוֹשֶה מִצְוַה יַעשֶׁנַה בְּלֶבָב שַׁלֶם, שַאַלּוּ הַיַה רָאוּבֶן יוֹדֶע שֶהַקּדוֹשׁ בַּרוּךְ הוּא ַמַכְתִּיב עלַיו (בראשית לז, כא): וַיִּשְׁמַע רְאוּבֶן וַיַּצִילֶהוּ מִיַּדַם, בְּכָתֵפוּ הַיַה מוֹלִיכוּ אֱצֵל אֲבִיוּ. וְאָלוּ הַיַה יוֹדֵע אַהַרוֹ שֶהַקּדוֹשׁ בַּרוּךָ הוּא מַכְתִּיב עלַיו (שמות ד, יד): הָנֶה הוּא יצֵא לַקַרַאתֶרָ בַּתְפִּים וּבַמְחוֹלוֹת הַיַה יוֹצֵא לַקַרַאתוֹ. וְאָלוּ הַיַה יוֹדֵע בעז שֶהַקדוש בַּרוּך הוא מַכִתִּיב עלַיו: וַיִּצְבַּט לַה קַלִּי וַתּאכַל וַתִּשְבַּע וַתֹּתַר, עגַלות מִפְטַמוֹת הַיַה מַאַכִּילַה. ַרַבִּי כֹּהֶן וַרַבִּי יָהוֹשָׁע דְּסְכָנַין בַּשֶׁם רַבִּי לֵוִי לְשֵעבַר הַיַה אַדַם עוֹשֵה מִצְוַה וְהַנַּבִיא כותבה, ועכשיו כּשֵאדַם עושה מצוה מי כּוֹתָבַה, אֵלִיַהוּ כּוֹתָבַה וּמֵלֶךְ הַמַּשִיחַ וְהַקְּדוֹשׁ בַּרוּךָ הוּא חוֹתֶם על יָדֵיהֶם, הַדַא הוּא דְכְתִיב מלאכי ג, טז): אַז נִדְבָּרוּ יַרְאֵי ה' אִישׁ אֵל (מלאכי ג, טז): ַרעהוּ וגו'.