

3[1] And Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek for you rest, that it may be good for you? [2] And now, is not Boaz, who you are with his young women, our relative? Behold, he is winnowing the barley at the threshing floor tonight. [3] So, wash and anoint and put your garment on you and go down to the threshing floor. Do not be known to the man until he finishes eating and drinking. [4] And it shall be, in his lying down, so know the place where he lies there. And come in and uncover his feet and lie down. And he will tell you what you should do.” [5] And she said to her, “All that you have said, I will do.”

[6] So, she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law commanded her. [7] And Boaz ate and drank and his heart was good. And he went in to lie down at the edge of the heap. And she came in the secret and uncovered his feet and laid down. [8] And it was at midnight, and the man was startled and turned and behold, a woman lying at his feet.

[9] And he said, “Who are you?” And she said, “I am Ruth, your maidservant, so spread out your wing over your maidservant, for you are a redeemer.” [10] And he said, “Blessed are you of Yehvah, my daughter. Your lovingkindness is better at the latter than at the beginning, to not go after the young men, whether poor or rich. [11] And now, my daughter, do not fear. All that you say, I will do for you. For everyone at the gate of my people know that you are a virtuous¹ woman. [12] And now, that is indeed true. I am a redeemer. And also, there is a redeemer closer than I. [13] Lodge tonight, and if he redeems you, good. He will redeem. And if he does not want to redeem you, so I will redeem you. Yehvah lives.² Lie down until the morning.”

[14] And she lay down at his feet until the morning. And she arose before each recognized his neighbor. And he said, “Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” [15] And he said, “Give the cloak that is upon you and hold onto her.” And she held onto her, and he measured six barley and put upon her. And he went³ into the city.

[16] And she came in to her mother-in-law, and she said, “Who are you,⁴ my daughter?” And she told her all that the man did to her. [17] And she said, “These six of barley he gave to me, for he said, ‘Do not go empty to your mother-in-law.’” [18] And she said, “Sit, my daughter, until you know how the matter falls. For the man will not be quiet until the matter is finished today.”

1 **חַיִּיל** (chayil) “virtuous” - same word for the “virtuous” woman of Proverbs 31:10, and for the men of “valor” e.g. Judges 20:46. Basic idea of the word is strength.

2 **חַיִּי־יְהוָה** (chay-yehvâh) “Yehvah lives” - see footnote for Judges 8:19.

3 **יָבֹא** (yâvo') “he went” ASV, CJB, DARBY, ERV, NET, NIV, WEB; “he goeth” YLT; “she went” Green, NKJV, KJV, NAS, etc. - this is a masculine verb, “he went.”

4 **מִי־אַתָּה** (miy-'at) “Who are you” Green, CJB; “Who art thou” KJV; “Who [art] thou” YLT; “Is that you” NKJV; “How did it go” NAS.