

# THE BOOK OF RUTH

ADVENT  
WORSHIP  
SERIES









## From Hopeless Withoutness to Eternal Withness

1:1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem (“house of bread”) in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. <sup>3</sup> But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died...and both Mahlon and Chilion died...



## From Hopeless Withoutness to Eternal Withness

<sup>16</sup> But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”



**‘Whither thou goest’  
Sandy Freckleton Gagan**



## From Hopeless Withoutness to Eternal Withness

<sup>19</sup> So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem...<sup>21</sup> (Naomi said) “I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty.”







<sup>2:1</sup> Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.

<sup>2</sup> And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

<sup>3</sup> So (Ruth) set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech (Naomi's family). <sup>4</sup> And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." <sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" <sup>6</sup> And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab." <sup>7</sup> She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."



<sup>8</sup> Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one...Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn.” <sup>10</sup> Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?” <sup>11</sup> But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. <sup>12</sup> The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” <sup>13</sup> Then she said, “I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.”



<sup>14</sup> And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. <sup>15</sup> When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. <sup>16</sup> And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”



<sup>17</sup> So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. <sup>18</sup> And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. <sup>19</sup> And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, “The man’s name with whom I worked today is Boaz.” <sup>20</sup> ...Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers....It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted.”







2:1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a **worthy** man of the clan of **Elimelech**, whose name was Boaz.

Hope Foreshadowed:  
"Worthy" = Doubled up  
words for Valiant;  
Weighty; Strong

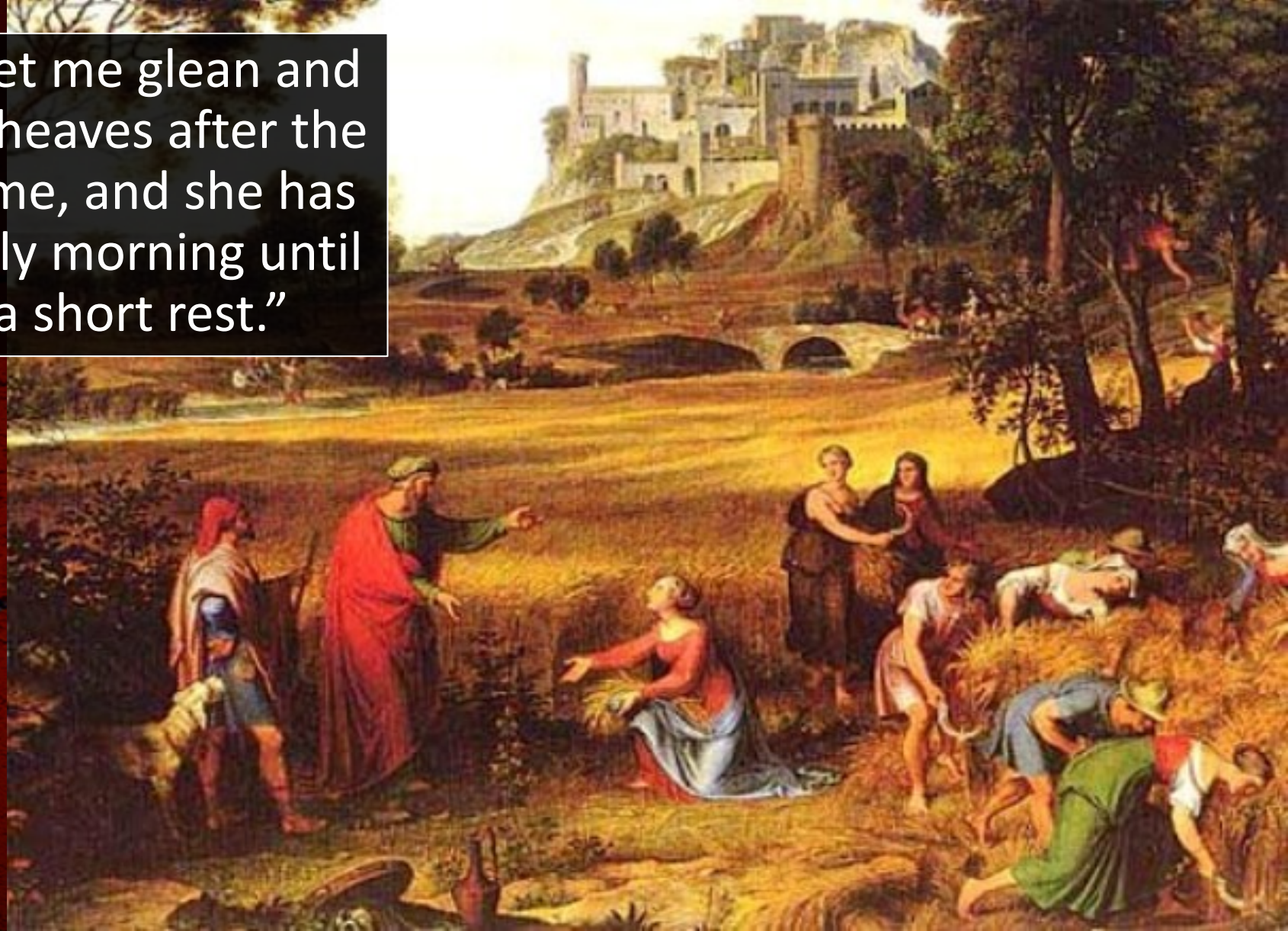
<sup>2</sup> And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Best Case Scenario: Get enough food for dinner and not get assaulted

Desperate  
Weak  
Vulnerable  
Little Hope  
...Yet Bold



<sup>7</sup> She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."



**"Landscape with Ruth and Boaz"  
Joseph Anton Koch, 1768**





RUTH



...and (Ruth) **happened** to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech (Naomi's family). <sup>4</sup> And **behold**, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." <sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, **"Whose young woman is this?"**

## Divine Orchestra

### Boaz:

Wealthy Businessman  
Godly Leader  
Observant...



## Provided and Protected

<sup>8</sup> Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one...Have I not charged the young men not to touch you?”

## Humble Gratitude

<sup>10</sup> Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?”

## Humble Servant

<sup>12</sup> The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, **under whose wings** you have come to take refuge!”



## Beyond Satisfied

<sup>14</sup> And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she **sat beside the reapers**, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was **satisfied**, and she had some **left over**.

## Blessed to be a Blessing

<sup>17b</sup> Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. <sup>18</sup> And she took it up and went into the city.



## **Desperate and Vulnerable**

Have you been there?  
And you give it one last  
shot in the hopes that  
you'll find life?

We are in exactly the  
same desperate need  
as Ruth and Naomi.

## **Fully Satisfied**

John 6:35  
Jesus said to them, "I  
am the bread of life;  
whoever comes to me  
shall not hunger, and  
whoever believes in me  
shall never thirst."

## **...to give to others...**

We haven't been  
satisfied just for our  
own sake, but so that  
we can share the Bread  
we've been given with  
others, giving God all  
the Glory:  
"under whose wings..."



# We are invited to Bethlehem...to see the Divine Orchestra

Luke 2:15

...the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."







<sup>3:1</sup> Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? <sup>2</sup> Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup> Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.”



<sup>6</sup> So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. <sup>7</sup> And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. <sup>8</sup> At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! <sup>9</sup> He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer." <sup>10</sup> And he said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.



RUTH



<sup>11</sup> And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. <sup>12</sup> And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. <sup>13</sup> Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.”

<sup>14</sup> So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, “Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” <sup>15</sup> And he said, “Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out.” So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city.







<sup>3</sup> Wash therefore and anoint yourself...Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.”

**Humble**

She lowered herself, putting herself at the mercy of Boaz

**Bold**

She was confident and gave it all her might.

**“Worthy”**

3:11 for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.



Matthew 2:1-2

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

**Humble**

Luke 2:7

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Bold**

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**Worthy**

Isaiah 9:6

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.



<sup>9b</sup> “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.”

## Psalm 91

<sup>1</sup> He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

<sup>3</sup> For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

<sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.



This is a Love Story that we desperately want to be true, and be ours.



## Humble

Matthew 23:37

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

## Bold

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

## Worthy

Galatians 4:5  
that we might receive adoption as sons.

Revelation 19:7  
Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;



John 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Luke 22:19-20

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

