

¹حَدَثَ فِي أَيَّامِ حُكْمِ الْقَصَاةِ أَنَّهُ صَارَ جُوعٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ، فَذَهَبَ رَجُلٌ مِنْ بَيْتِ لَحْمِ يَهُودَا لِيَتَعَرَّبَ فِي بِلَادِ مُوَابَ هُوَ وَامْرَأَتُهُ وَابْنَاهُ. ²وَأَسْمُ الرَّجُلِ أَلِيمَالِكُ، وَأَسْمُ امْرَأَتِهِ نَعْمِي، وَأَسْمَا ابْنَيْهِ مَحْلُونُ وَكِلْيُونُ أَفْرَاثِيُونَ مِنْ بَيْتِ لَحْمِ يَهُودَا. فَاتَّوَا إِلَى بِلَادِ مُوَابَ وَكَانُوا هُنَاكَ. ³وَمَاتَ أَلِيمَالِكُ رَجُلٌ نَعْمِي، وَبَقِيَتْ هِيَ وَابْنَاهَا. ⁴فَأَخَذَا لَهُمَا امْرَأَتَيْنِ مُوَابِيَّيْنِ، أَسْمُ إِحْدَاهُمَا عُرْقَةُ وَأَسْمُ الْأُخْرَى رَاعُوثُ. وَأَقَامَا هُنَاكَ تَحَوَّ عَشْرَ سِنِينَ. ⁵ثُمَّ مَاتَا كِلَاهُمَا مَحْلُونُ وَكِلْيُونُ، فَتَرَكَبَتِ الْمَرْأَةُ مِنْ ابْنَيْهَا وَمِنْ رَجُلِهَا. ⁶فَقَامَتْ هِيَ وَكَنَّتَاهَا وَرَجَعَتْ مِنْ بِلَادِ مُوَابَ، لِأَنَّهَا سَمِعَتْ فِي بِلَادِ مُوَابَ أَنَّ الرَّبَّ قَدْ افْتَقَدَ شَعْبَهُ لِيُعْطِيَهُمْ خُبْرًا. وَخَرَجَتْ مِنَ الْمَكَانِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ فِيهِ وَكَنَّتَاهَا مَعَهَا، وَسِرْنَ فِي الطَّرِيقِ لِلرُّجُوعِ إِلَى أَرْضِ يَهُودَا. ⁸فَقَالَتْ نَعْمِي لِكَنَّتَيْهَا، إِذْهَبَا ارْجِعَا كُلُّ وَاحِدَةٍ إِلَى بَيْتِ أُمِّهَا. وَلْيَصْنَعْ الرَّبُّ مَعَكُمْ إِحْسَانًا كَمَا صَنَعْتُمَا بِالْمَوْتِ وَبِي. ⁹وَلْيُعْطِيَكُمَا الرَّبُّ أَنْ تَجِدَا رَاحَةً كُلُّ وَاحِدَةٍ فِي بَيْتِ رَجُلِهَا. فَقَبَّلَتْهُمَا، وَرَفَعْنَ أَصْوَاتَهُنَّ وَبَكَيْنَ. ¹⁰فَقَالَتَا لَهَا، إِنَّا نَرْجِعُ مَعَكَ إِلَى سَعْبِكَ. ¹¹فَقَالَتْ نَعْمِي، ارْجِعَا يَا بَنَيَّ. لِمَاذَا تَذْهَبَانِ مَعِي. هَلْ فِي أَحْسَانِي بُنُونٌ بَعْدُ حَتَّى يَكُونُوا لَكُمْ رَجَالًا. ¹²إِرْجِعَا يَا بَنَيَّ وَادْهَبَا لِأَنِّي قَدْ يَسُخْتُ عَنْ أَنْ أَكُونَ لِرَجُلٍ. وَإِنْ قُلْتُ لِي رَجَاءٌ أَيْضًا يَا بَنَيَّ أَصِيرُ هَذِهِ اللَّيْلَةَ لِرَجُلٍ وَالَّذِي بَيْنَ أَيْضًا، ¹³هَلْ تَصْبِرَانِ لَهُمْ حَتَّى يَكْتَبُوا. هَلْ تَنْحَجِرَانِ مِنْ أَجْلِهِمْ عَنْ أَنْ تَكُونَا لِرَجُلٍ. لَا يَا بَنَيَّ. فَإِنِّي مَعُومَةٌ جِدًّا مِنْ أَجْلِكُمَا لِأَنَّ يَدَ الرَّبِّ قَدْ خَرَجَتْ عَلَيَّ. ¹⁴ثُمَّ رَفَعْنَ أَصْوَاتَهُنَّ وَبَكَيْنَ أَيْضًا. فَقَبَّلَتْ عُرْقَةُ حِمَاتَهَا، وَأَمَّا رَاعُوثُ فَلَصِقَتْ بِهَا. ¹⁵فَقَالَتْ، هُوَذَا قَدْ رَجَعْتُ سِلْفُوكَ إِلَى سَعْبِهَا وَأَلْهَيْتَهَا. إِرْجِعِي أَنْتِ وَرَاءَ سِلْفُوكَ. ¹⁶فَقَالَتْ رَاعُوثُ، لَا تُلْحِجِي عَلَيَّ أَنْ أُتْرَكَ وَأُرْجِعَ عَلَيْكَ، لِأَنَّهُ حَيْثُمَا ذَهَبْتُ أَذْهَبُ وَحَيْثُمَا بَتُّ أَبِيتُ. سَعْبُكَ سَعْبِي وَالْإِلَهُ إِلَهِي. ¹⁷حَيْثُمَا مِتُّ أَمُوتُ وَهُنَاكَ أُنْدُونُ. هَكَذَا يَفْعَلُ الرَّبُّ بِي وَهَكَذَا تَبْرِدُ. إِنَّمَا الْمَوْتُ يَفْصِلُ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنَكَ. ¹⁸فَلَمَّا رَأَتْ أَنَّهَا مُسَدَّدَةٌ عَلَى الدَّهَابِ مَعَهَا كَفَتْ عَنْ الْكَلَامِ إِلَيْهَا. ¹⁹فَذَهَبَتَا كِلَاهُمَا حَتَّى دَخَلَتَا بَيْتَ لَحْمِ. وَكَانَ عِنْدَ دُخُولِهِمَا بَيْتَ لَحْمٍ أَنَّ الْمَدِينَةَ كُلَّهَا تَحَرَّكَتْ بِسَبَبِهِمَا، وَقَالُوا، أَهْذِهِ نَعْمِي. ²⁰فَقَالَتْ لَهُمْ، لَا تَدْعُونِي نَعْمِي بَلِ ادْعُونِي مَرَّةً، لِأَنَّ الْقَدِيرَ قَدْ أَمَرَنِي جِدًّا. ²¹إِنِّي ذَهَبْتُ مُمْتَلِئَةً وَأَرْجِعُ إِلَى الرَّبِّ قَارِعَةً. لِمَاذَا تَدْعُونِي

¹Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. ²And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. ³And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. ⁴And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. ⁵And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband. ⁶Then 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 LORD had visited his people in giving them bread. ⁷Wherefore 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. ⁸And 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. ⁹The 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. ¹⁰And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people. ¹¹And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go

نُعْمِي وَالرَّبُّ قَدْ أَدْلَيْتَنِي وَالْقَدِيرُ قَدْ كَسَّرَنِي. ²²فَرَجَعْتُ
نُعْمِي وَرَاعُوْتُ الْمُوَابِيَّةُ كُنْتُهَا مَعَهَا، الَّتِي رَجَعْتُ مِنْ يَلَدِ
مُوَابَ، وَدَخَلْنَا بَيْتَ لَحْمٍ فِي ابْنِ دَاوُدَ حَصَادِ الشَّعِيرِ.

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.¹⁸ When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.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?²⁰ And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.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 hath

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afflicted me?²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.