

**Living the Torah That We Learn: Ruth and Care for the Widow, Orphan, and Stranger**  
**TEBH, Shavuot 2021**  
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**Deuteronomy- Torah for the Widow, Orphan, and the Stranger:**

*Deuteronomy 10:17-19:*

<sup>17</sup> For the Eternal your God is God of gods and Ruler of rulers, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes, <sup>18</sup> Who defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger residing among you, giving them food and clothing. <sup>19</sup> And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were strangers in Egypt.

*Deuteronomy 24:14-15, 17-24:*

<sup>14</sup> Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a stranger residing in one of your towns. <sup>15</sup> Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise, they may cry to the Eternal against you, and you will be guilty of sin...

<sup>17</sup> Do not deprive the stranger or the orphan of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. <sup>18</sup> Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Eternal your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this.

<sup>19</sup> When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the stranger, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Eternal your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. <sup>20</sup> When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. <sup>21</sup> When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. <sup>22</sup> Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

**Ruth- Torah in Lived Reality:**

*Ruth 1:7-22:*

<sup>7</sup> So [Naomi] set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Eternal deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me." ...Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. <sup>10</sup> They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband...No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Eternal has turned against me." <sup>14</sup> Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup> So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!  
Where you go, I will go;  
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—  
there will I be buried.  
May the Eternal do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,  
if even death parts me from you!”

<sup>18</sup> When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. <sup>19</sup> So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” <sup>20</sup> She said to them,

“Call me no longer Naomi,  
call me Mara,  
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.  
<sup>21</sup> I went away full,  
but the Eternal has brought me back empty;  
why call me Naomi  
when the Eternal has dealt harshly with me,  
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

<sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

*Ruth 2: 1-13:*

<sup>1</sup>Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband’s side, a prominent rich man, of the family 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, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor.” She said to her, “Go, my daughter.” <sup>3</sup> So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. <sup>4</sup> Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem...<sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “To whom does this young woman belong?” <sup>6</sup> The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, “She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. <sup>7</sup> She said, ‘Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.’ So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. <sup>9</sup> Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." <sup>10</sup> Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when 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 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> May the Eternal reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Eternal, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!" <sup>13</sup> Then she said, "May I continue to find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants."

*Ruth 4:13-22:*

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Eternal made her conceive, and she bore a son. <sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Eternal, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! <sup>15</sup> He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him."<sup>16</sup>

...They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.