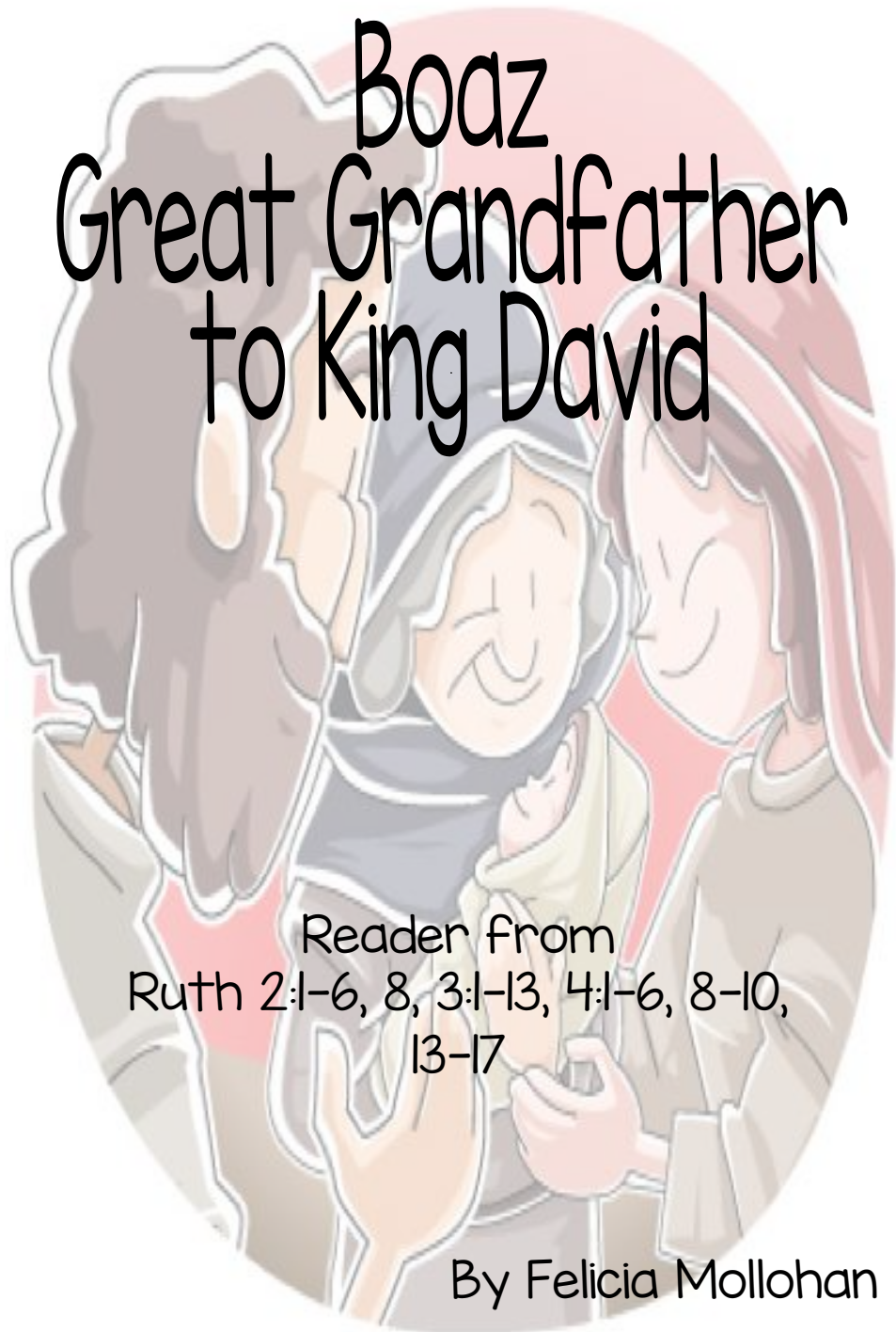


Boaz Great Grandfather to King David



Reader from
Ruth 2:1-6, 8, 3:1-13, 4:1-6, 8-10,
13-17

By Felicia Mollohan

Now Na-o-mi had a
kins-man of her
hus-band, a man of great
wealth, of the fam-i-ly
of E-lim-e-lech, whose
name was Bo-az. And
Ruth the Mo-ab-i-tess
said to Na-o-mi, "Please
let me go to the field and
glean a-mong the ears of
grain af-ter one in whose
sight I may find fa-vor."
And she said to her, "Go,
my daugh-ter."

² So she de-part-ed and
went and gleaned in the
field af-ter the reap-ers;
and she hap-pened to
come to the por-tion of
the field be-long-ing to
Bo-az, who was of the
fam-i-ly of E-lim-e-lech.

Now be-hold, Bo-az came³
from Beth-le-hem and
said to the reap-ers,
"May the Lord be with
you." And they said to
him, "May the Lord bless
you."

⁴ Then Bo-az said to his ser-vant who was in charge of the reap-ers, "Whose young wo-man is this?" The ser-vant in charge of the reap-ers re-plied, "She is the young Mo-a-bite wo-man who re-turned with Na-o-mi from the land of Mo-ab.

Then Bo-az said to Ruth,⁵
"List-en care-ful-ly, my daugh-ter. Do not go to glean in a-noth-er field; fur-ther-more, do not go on from this one, but stay here with my maids.

6 Then Na-o-mi her
mo-ther-in-law said to
her, "My daugh-ter, shall I
not seek se-cur-i-ty for
you, that it may be well
with you? Now is not
Bo-az our kins-man, with
whose maids you were?

Be-hold, he win-nows
bar-ley at the thresh-ing
floor to-night.

7 Wash your-self
there-fore, and a-noint
your-self and put on your
best clothes, and go down
to the thresh-ing floor;
but do not make
your-self known to the
man un-til he has
fin-ished eat-ing and
drink-ing.

8 It shall be when he lies
down, that you shall
no-tice the place where
he lies, and you shall go
and un-cov-er his feet
and lie down; then he will
tell you what you shall
do." She said to her, "All
that you say I will do."

9 So she went down to the
thresh-ing floor and did
ac-cord-ing to all that
her mo-ther-in-law had
com-mand-ed her. When
Bo-az had eat-en and
drunk and his heart was
mer-ry, he went to lie
down at the end of the
heap of grain; and she
came se-cret-ly, and
un-cov-ered his feet and
lay down.

¹⁰ It hap-pened in the mid-dle of the night that the man was start-led and bent for-ward; and be-hold, a wo-man was ly-ing at his feet. He said, "Who are you?" And she an-swered, "I am Ruth your maid. So spread your cov-er-ing o-ver your maid, for you are a close rel-a-tive."

Then he said, "May you be^{ll} blessed of the Lord, my daugh-ter. You have shown your last kind-ness to be bet-ter than the first by not go-ing af-ter young men, wheth-er poor or rich.

¹² Now, my daugh-ter, do not fear. I will do for you what-ev-er you ask, for all my peo-ple in the ci-ty know that you are a wo-man of ex-cell-ence.

Now it is true I am a close rel-a-tive; how-ev-er, there is a rel-a-tive clos-er than I.

¹³ Re-main this night, and when morn-ing comes, if he will re-deem you, good; let him re-deem you. But if he does not wish to re-deem you, then I will re-deem you, as the Lord lives. Lie down un-til morn-ing.”

¹⁴ Now Bo-az went up to the gate and sat down there, and be-hold, the close rel-a-tive of whom Bo-az spoke was pass-ing by, so he said, "Turn a-side, friend, sit down here." And he turned a-side and sat down.

¹⁵ He took ten men of the el-ders of the ci-ty and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. Then he said to the clos-est rel-a-tive, "Na-o-mi, who has come back from the land of Mo-ab, has to sell the piece of land which be-longed to our bro-ther E-lim-e-lech.

¹⁶ So I thought to in-form
you, say-ing, 'Buy *it*
be-fore those who are
sit-ting *here*, and be-fore
the el-ders of my peo-ple.

If you will re-deem *it*,
re-deem *it*; but if not, tell
me that I may know; for
there is no one but you to
re-deem *it*, and I am
af-ter you.'"

And he said, "I will ¹⁷
re-deem *it*." Then Bo-az
said, "On the day you buy
the field from the hand
of Na-o-mi, you must
al-so ac-quire Ruth the
Mo-ab-i-tess, the wid-ow
of the de-ceased, in
or-der to raise up the
name of the de-ceased
on his in-her-i-tance."

¹⁸ The clos-est rel-a-tive
said, "I can-not re-deem
it for my-self, be-cause
I would jeop-ar-dize my
own in-her-i-tance.

Re-deem *it* for your-self;
you may have my right
of re-demp-tion, for I
can-not re-deem *it*."

So Bo-az took Ruth, and ¹⁹
she be-came his wife. And
the Lord en-a-bled her to
con-ceive, and she gave
birth to a son.

²⁰ Then Na-o-mi took the child and laid him in her lap, and be-came his nurse.

The neigh-bor wo-men gave him a name, say-ing, "A son has been born to Na-o-mi!" So they named him O-bed. He is the fath-er of Jes-se, the fath-er of Da-vid.