

## ***Megillat Ruth* – Content Questions**

The following questions are based on the text of each *perek*. The text can be read in either Hebrew or English.

### **Perek 1**

1. During which period did the story take place?

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2. What happened in the land at the story's beginning?

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3. Where did the family leave from? Where did they go?

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4. What were the names of the man, his wife, and their two sons?

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5. Whom did the sons marry? (names and nationality)

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6. What happened to the father and the two sons?

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7. What happened that made Naomi decide to return to Eretz Canaan?

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8. What did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law to do?

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9. Why did Naomi bless her daughters-in-law?

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10. How did the two daughters-in-law respond at first? (What did they do? What did they say?)

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11. Paraphrase what Naomi said to them in response:

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12. Which one of the daughters-in-law went back to her original home?

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13. Paraphrase what Ruth said to Naomi when Naomi urged her to follow her sister-in-law:

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14. How did the people of Beit Lechem react when Naomi returned? (How did they feel? What did they say?)

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15. What name did Naomi tell the townspeople to call her? What reason did she give for this?

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16. What time of year was it when Naomi and Ruth arrived in Beit Lechem?

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## Perek 2

1. Who is the “relative” of Naomi mentioned in *pasuk* 1, and how is he related to her?

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2. Who initiated the idea of going to gather (“glean”) in the fields to get grain?

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3. Read the following section from *Vayikra* 19 (9-10) and then answer the questions.

וּבְקִצְרְכֶם אֶת קְצִיר אֲרֻצְכֶם לֹא תִכְלֶה פֶּאֶת שְׂדֶךְ לִקְצֹר וּלְקַט קְצִירְךָ לֹא תִלְקֹט:

**When you reap the harvest of your land, you should not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest.**

וְכִרְמְךָ לֹא תַעֲוִיל וּפְרֹט כִּרְמְךָ לֹא תִלְקֹט לְעֹנִי וְלְגֵר תַּעֲזֹב אֹתָם אֲנִי ה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:

**You should not pick your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you should leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am ‘your God.**

Rashi, quoting the Talmud:

שְׂדֶךְ - You should not wholly reap the corner of your field.

This means that one must leave פאה (an uncut portion) at the extremity of one's field (cf. *Sifra*, *Kedoshim*, Chapter 1:9; Mishna *Peah* 1:2; *Shabbat* 23a).

**קְצִירְךָ - Neither should you collect the gleanings of your harvest.**

Gleanings are ears that drop from the hand of the harvester during the reaping—one or two at a time, but three do not come under the category of לקט (Mishna *Peah* 6:5; *Sanhedrin* 99a).

a. At what point in the agricultural cycle do you have to leave grain for the poor?

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b. According to the Talmud (quoted by Rashi), how much of the dropped produce from the harvest do you have to leave for the poor to pick up?

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- c. What words do we find at the end of *pasuk* 10 that emphasize that these are commandments and not just “nice things to do?”

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4. How does *pasuk* 3 describe how Ruth ended up in Boaz’s field?

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5. How does Boaz address his workers when he comes to the field?

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6. What does Boaz ask his field manager? How does the field manager identify Ruth?

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7. How does the field manager describe Ruth’s work ethic?

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8. Briefly summarize what Boaz tells Ruth to do:

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9. What does he tell her that will (hopefully) make her feel safe there?

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10. What does Ruth **do** in response to Boaz’s words? What does she **ask** him?

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11. What are the 3 things that Boaz mentions that Ruth did for Naomi?

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12. Summarize Boaz's blessing to her:

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13. In *pesukim* 14-16, what are 3 more kindnesses that Boaz did for Ruth?

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14. How much barley did Ruth bring home?

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15. Math problem: An *eipah* equals 10 *omer*. One *omer* is considered enough for one person for one day. (This is based on *Shemot* 16). Based on this, how many days' worth of grain did Ruth collect in one day?

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16. What was Naomi's reaction when she saw Ruth coming with the grain and the leftover food?

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17. What was Naomi's reaction when Ruth told her she had been in Boaz's field?

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18. What were Naomi's instructions to Ruth regarding the rest of the harvest period?

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19. What was Ruth's "response" to Naomi's instruction?

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20. For how long did Ruth glean in Boaz's field?

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**Perek 3**

1. What do you think Naomi's "motive" was for the instructions she gave to Ruth?

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2. What will Boaz be doing that night?

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3. In your own words, summarize Naomi's instructions to Ruth in *pesukim* 3-4:

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4. What was Ruth's response to Naomi?

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5. What did Ruth do once Boaz had lain down and gone to sleep?

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6. How did Boaz know that someone was next to him? How did he react?

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7. In your own words, what was Ruth's response to Boaz when he asked, "Who is it?"

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8. What was Ruth's latest "kindness" that she did, according to Boaz?

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9. What did Boaz assure Ruth?

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10. According to Boaz, what was Ruth's reputation?

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11. In your own words, summarize Boaz's proposal:

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12. When did Ruth go home? Why at that time?

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13. Before she left, what did she and Boaz hold on to? And what did Boaz give her?

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14. When Ruth returned, what did Naomi ask her? How did Naomi respond to Ruth's answer?

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**Perek 4**

1. Where was Boaz sitting?

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2. What was the Redeemer's name?

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3. How many other men did Boaz invite to join them?

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4. Summarize in your own words what Boaz proposed to the "Redeemer":

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5. Why did this "redeemer" have more "rights" to the land than Boaz did?

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6. What was the redeemer's first response to Boaz?

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7. What was the caveat (the "but wait, there's more...") that Boaz added to the deal?

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8. What was the redeemer's new response, and what was the reason he gave for it?

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9. What ritual did Boaz and the redeemer do to "seal the agreement?"

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10. In front of whom did Boaz make his declaration?

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11. Summarize in your own words the declaration that Boaz made:

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12. How did the people and the elders respond, and to which 3 other women did they compare Ruth?

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13. Summarize what the women said to Naomi when Ruth had her son:

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14. List the line of King David's ancestors from **Yehudah to Boaz**:

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15. List the line of King David beginning with **Boaz and Ruth**:

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