

# Ruth 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.

## Analysis

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The chapter concludes: **'So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law'**. Ruth followed Naomi's counsel, remaining in Boaz's fields throughout both harvests—about seven weeks. The phrase 'dwelt with her mother in law' emphasizes Ruth's covenant loyalty continuing beyond the hopeful beginning. She didn't abandon Naomi once provision was secured but remained committed. This period of sustained provision while living together allowed relationship development with Boaz while demonstrating Ruth's faithful character through consistent choices.

## Historical Context

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The mention of both barley and wheat harvests spanning seven weeks creates temporal framework for the narrative. During this time, Ruth and Boaz would have had regular contact, allowing mutual observation of character. Ancient courtship, particularly for widows, involved careful assessment of character and family compatibility. The narrative's pace—extended time for relationship development before marriage—demonstrates biblical wisdom that genuine love requires time to observe consistent character, not merely initial attraction. Ruth's continued dwelling with Naomi showed her loyalty wasn't temporary emotion but sustained commitment.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the extended time period illustrate wisdom in letting relationships develop naturally through consistent character demonstration?
2. What does Ruth's continued dwelling with Naomi teach about maintaining commitments even when circumstances improve?

## Interlinear Text

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וַתִּדְבַּר ק	בְּנָעִר וְ	בַּ עַז	לְלֶקֶט	עַד	כָּל וְ	וּקְצֵ יֵר
So she kept fast	by the maidens	of Boaz	to glean	H5704	unto the end	harvest
H1692	H5291	H1162	H3950		H3615	H7105
הַשְּׂעִר יֵם	וּקְצֵ יֵר	הַחֵטָּ יֵם	וַתִּשָּׁב	אֶת	חֲמוּתָהּ:	
of barley	harvest	and of wheat	and dwelt	H854	with her mother in law	
H8184	H7105	H2406	H3427		H2545	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 13:20** (Parallel theme): He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

**Proverbs 13:1** (Parallel theme): A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

**Deuteronomy 16:9** (Parallel theme): Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from such time as thou beginnest to put the sickle to the corn.