

Ruth 3:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also he said, Bring the vail that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city.

Analysis

Provision: '**Also he said, Bring the vail that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her**'. Boaz sends Ruth home with generous gift of grain—approximately an ephah (22 liters), enough for extended provision. This wasn't wages but gift expressing covenant commitment and caring for both Ruth and Naomi. The generous amount demonstrated Boaz's wealth and generosity while providing tangible evidence to Naomi that negotiations had gone well. His provision before formal redemption demonstrates grace—giving before obligation is legally established.

Historical Context

Six measures of barley (likely six seahs, about 60 liters total—nearly 100 pounds) was enormous load for a woman to carry but demonstrated Boaz's extraordinary generosity. The gift served multiple purposes: providing food, showing Naomi the encounter went well, and demonstrating Boaz's serious intent and ability to provide abundantly. Ancient betrothal customs often involved gifts from prospective groom to bride's family. Boaz's generous gift foreshadowed the abundant provision marriage to him would bring—not mere subsistence but overflow.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Boaz's generous gift before legal obligation teach about grace giving beyond duty?
2. How does his provision for both Ruth and Naomi model Christian concern for extended covenant family?

Interlinear Text

Also he said	Bring	the veil	H834	H5921	it And when she held	H0
H559	H3051	H4304			H270	
it And when she held	H0	it he measured	six	measures of barley	and laid	H7896
H270		H4058	H8337	H8184		
5921	935		5892			
בָּהּ	וְתֵצֵא	עַל־יְה	בְּהִנְדִּיקָה	שְׁשׁ	שְׁעָרִים	וְשָׁתָת
			וְתֵצֵא	וְתֵצֵא		
			בְּהִנְדִּיקָה	בְּהִנְדִּיקָה		
			וְתֵצֵא	וְתֵצֵא		
			בְּהִנְדִּיקָה	בְּהִנְדִּיקָה		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 32:8 (Parallel theme): But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.

Galatians 6:10 (Parallel theme): As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

