

Ruth 3:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor.

Analysis

Naomi identifies the kinsman: '**And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast?**' She confirms Boaz's kinsman status, making him potential go'el (redeemer). The phrase '**Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor**' provides timing and location. Winnowing occurred after harvest, using evening breezes to separate grain from chaff. Naomi's knowledge of Boaz's schedule shows careful observation and planning—she times Ruth's approach for appropriate moment when Boaz would be present but circumstances allowed private conversation about redemption.

Historical Context

Threshing floors were outdoor areas where harvested grain was separated from chaff. The process involved beating grain to release kernels, then tossing it into the air so wind carried away lighter chaff while heavier grain fell to the floor. This required evening breezes, making nights optimal for winnowing. Landowners often slept at threshing floors during harvest to prevent theft. Naomi's plan involved Ruth approaching Boaz in this semi-public setting where conversation was possible but propriety maintained through Boaz's servants nearby.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Naomi's careful planning illustrate wisdom in pursuing God's purposes through appropriate means?
2. What does this teach about timing and method in approaching important life decisions?

Interlinear Text

הָלָא	וְעַתָּה	ה	בְּעַתָּה	לֹא	בּוֹאֵז	מִדְּעַתָּה	נוֹ	אֶשְׁרָךְ	יְהִי	אֶתְּ
H6258	H3808				And now is not Boaz	of our kindred		H834	H1961	H854
			H1162			H4130				
נַעֲרוֹתַי	וְ	הָיָה	וְ	הָיָה	זֶה	הָ	אֶתְּ			
with whose maidens		H2009	H1931		thou wast Behold he winnoweth		H853			
H5291					H2219					
גֶּחַן	הַשְּׂעִירִים	לַלַּיְלָה:								
in the threshingfloor	barley	to night								
H1637	H8184	H3915								

Additional Cross-References

Ruth 2:8 (Parallel theme): Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:

Ruth 2:1 (Parallel theme): And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

