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## Hems In The Bible

- Hebrew *shuwlf*; Greek *kraspedon*: hem, border, fringe, bottom edge of a skirt or train
- "To cut off the hem" was to strip someone of their authority, standing in society, etc.
- A husband could divorce his wife by cutting off the hem of her robe.
- An official would authenticate his name on a clay tablet by pressing the hem on the clay.



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# Hems In The Bible

- David cut off Saul's hem: [1 Samuel 24](#)
- Judah's ID cord: [Genesis 38](#)
- The Levites garment: [Numbers 15:38-39](#); [Deut. 22:12](#); [Exodus 28:33-34](#)
- In God's covenant with Israel, God says to Israel "I will spread my skirt over you." [Ezekiel 16:8](#); [39:25-26](#)



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# Hems In The Bible

- Jesus' coat was seamless and that's why the soldiers at the cross didn't want to divide it, but cast lots for it.
- The Temple veil was torn which symbolized the end of man as the High Priest - Jesus' hem was not torn because He is our High Priest forever.



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# Book of Ruth

Three Laws To Learn

- The Law of Gleaning [Chapter 2](#)
- The Law of Levirate Marriage [Chapter 3](#)
- The Law of Redemption [Chapter 4](#)

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# Law Of Levirate Marriage

- The word *levir* is Latin for "a husband's brother".
- The Levirate marriage is the situation where there's a widow with no children.
- She could go to the next of kin and put a claim on him to take her as his wife and raise up children for the family.
- Called "the Levirate marriage"



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# Law Of Levirate Marriage

- He had to meet three conditions to make it work:
  1. He had to be the nearest kin
  2. He had to be able to perform
  3. He had to be willing to do it (and it's not required)

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# Ruth 3:1

One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for?"

- "home [rest]" = Hebrew word is *manoach*
- Means having rest or security through a marriage

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# Naomi's Dilemma

• She is faced with three issues:

1. How could the name of her husband, Elimelech be carried on within the tribes of Israel?
2. What steps can she take to protect her inheritance which Elimelech had left to Naomi?
3. How could she provide 'rest' and security for her daughter-in-law that has been so faithful to her?

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# Naomi's Dilemma

• A marriage between Ruth and Boaz would solve all three problems

- This would mean Naomi would give up her own claim to Boaz as the close relative and give it to Ruth.

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# Ruth 3:2

*"Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor."*

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**The Threshing Floor**

- The Threshing Floors were pretty important places.
  - David purchased the Threshing Floor of Arunah as the site for the Temple
- The Threshing Floors were not just the workplace, but they were the place for celebration
- They would work all afternoon and a night have a party
- The owners & senior staff members would sleep there to protect the grain.

Isaiah 41:14-16

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Isaiah 41:14-16

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**Ruth 3:3**

*Wash and perfume yourself and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking."*

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## Ruth 3:4-5

*"When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."*

*"I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered.*

- "Uncover his feet and lie down" = Massively misunderstood phrase
- She's taking the position of a servant:
  - The servant would lie at the master's feet diagonally. It's a very humble position and sends the signal that she has a request.

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## Ruth 3:7

*When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down.*

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## Ruth 3:9

*"Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant, Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer."*

- "[handmaid]" - This time she used the word *amah*
- She is basically putting herself up as eligible for marriage

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# Ruth 3:9

"Who are you?" he asked.  
 "I am your servant Ruth," she said.  
 "Spread the corner of your garment over me  
 since you are a kinsman-redeemer."

- Hebrew word is *amah* meaning wing, edge, border, skirt, etc.
- This is talking about the corner of the garment he's wearing and it's the symbol of a man who spreads this over his wife as well as himself. - Deut. 22:30; 27:20
- When Ruth says this she is making a claim for him to marry her since he is obligated the Law of Levirate Marriage
- [Look Deeper](#): No matter how much Boaz loved Ruth, he had to wait for HER move!

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# Ruth 3:9

"Who are you?" he asked.  
 "I am your servant Ruth," she said.  
 "Spread the corner of your garment over me,  
 since you are a kinsman-redeemer."

- Hebrew word is *Goel* and by using this she is putting her own happiness aside fulfill the obligation of an heir for Naomi
- With this request, Ruth kinda goes off-script.
- Q: Why is that important?
  - It shows Ruth's absolute devotion to Naomi
  - Naomi's desires was for Ruth to have a husband
  - Ruth's desire is for Naomi to have an heir

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# Ruth 3:9

- Q: Why is that important?
  - It shows Ruth's absolute devotion to Naomi
  - Naomi's desires was for Ruth to have a husband
  - Ruth's desire is for Naomi to have an heir
  - By using the Goel tradition she's putting Naomi's happiness first and foremost
  - This all becomes a PROPERTY issue! Boaz is not just getting a bride, but he will redeem the land for Naomi!

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## Ruth 3:12

*"Although it is true that I am near of kin,  
there is a kinsman-redeemer  
nearer than I."*

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## Ruth 3:13

*"Stay here for the night, and in the  
morning if he wants to redeem, go; let  
him redeem. But if he is not willing, as  
surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie  
here until morning."*

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## Ruth 3:15

*He also said, "Bring me the shawl you  
are wearing and hold it out."  
When she did so, he poured into it  
six measures of barley and put it on her.  
Then he went back into town.*

• Lot of debate over what a "measure" actually is but they are missing the point!

- This is a code

- To Ruth this means nothing because she's from Moab, but to a family member and fellow Jew like Naomi, it would signal something

- He's giving the 'six measures' to Naomi, not Ruth

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## Ruth 3:16-17

*When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, "How did it go, my daughter?" Then she told her everything Boaz had done for you and added, "He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, "Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed."*

- Is this because Naomi is hungry?
- Verse 17 accomplishes two things:
  - 1.) This provides a transition of Ruth as she start to exit from the story and from her on she has a secondary role.
  - 2.) It puts Boaz and Naomi on center stage since they are the main players from this point forward

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## Ruth 3:18

*Then Naomi said, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. **For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.**"*

- Is this because Naomi is hungry?
- 3-D Bible: a How long did it take God to create the world?
  - Six days.....and who created it?
  - "and on the seventh day He rested" Genesis 1 and Exodus 20:11
- When Boaz gives six measures to Naomi, she understands that he won't rest until all this is taken care of.

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## Ruth 3: The Wrap-up

- This situation by the end of Chapter 3 is that Naomi's prayer in 1:8-9 is about to be answered.
  - Ruth will find **manoch** or rest in marriage.
- The Famine will not be a factor anymore since Boaz's gift gives her peace that she will have plenty to eat.
- Ruth will no longer identify herself with the "lower" status but with her own name.
  - Up until now she always referred to herself as "Ruth, the Moabitess"...now she is Ruth

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# Bible Bootcamp

*Taking Your Bible Seriously!*

## Next Week

- Review:

- The Law of Redemption Leviticus 25:23-28; 47-55

- Read **Ruth Chapter 4: The Finale'**

- Get ready for a few surprises!

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