Ruth at the Intersection of stories

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * June 22nd 2021 * Storytelling and the rise of Kings lesson #4

1: Intertextuality

David M. Gunn and Donna Nolan Fewell, Narrative in the Hebrew Bible, 107:

Meaning sometimes emerges through association – and association is often in the eye of the beholder. Like a needle returning to pick up thread, a plot can loop around and reconnect, stitching intricate patterns of meaning. The reader, attentive to similar colors and textures, may be able to see the larger pattern.

2: A tale of devastation

Ruth 1:1-5

(1) In the days when the chieftains ruled, there was a famine in the land; and a man of Bethlehem in Judah, with his wife and two sons, went to reside in the country of Moab. (2) The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name was Naomi, and his two sons were named Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. They came to the country of Moab and remained there. (3) Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons. (4) They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth, and they lived there about ten years. (5) Then those two—Mahlon and Chilion—also died; so the woman was left without her two sons and without her husband.

רות אי:אי-הי

(א) וַיְהִי בִּימֵי שְׁפִּט הַשִּׁפְּטִים וַיְהָי רָעָב בָּאָרֵץ
וַיֵּלֶּךְ אִישׁ מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יְהוּדָה לָגוּר בִּשְׂדֵי מוֹאָב
וְיֵּלֶךְ אִישׁ מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יְהוּדָה לָגוּר בִּשְׁדֵי מוֹאָב
וְשֵׁם אִשְׁתּוֹ נְעֲמִי וְשֵׁם שְׁנִי־בָנְיו ו מַחְלוֹן וְכִלְיוֹן
אָפְרָתִים מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יְהוּדָה וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׁדִי־מוֹאָב
וַיְּהְיוּ־שָׁם (ג) וַיִּמָת אֱלִימֶלֶךְ אִישׁ נָעֲמִי וַתִּשָׁאֵר וְיִבְיּהוֹ (ג) וַיִּמָת אֱלִימֶלֶךְ אִישׁ נָעֲמִי וַתִּשָׁאֵר הִיּת וֹיְשְׁבוּ שְׁם הִישׁנִית רוּת וַיִּשְׁבוּ שָׁם הִיאַב הְשֹׁנִית רוְת וַיִּשְׁבוּ שָׁם בְּלְיוֹן וַתִּשָּׁאֵר שְׁנִים (ה) וַיָּמְוֹתוּ גַם־שְׁנִיהָם מַחְלוֹן וְתִּשָּׁאֵר הְּאִשָּׁה מִשְׁנֵי יְלָדֶיהָ וּמִאִישָׁה. וְבִּלְּתוֹ בִּלְיִוֹן וַתִּשָּאֵב הִּתְּבֹּוֹ מִיְם מִּשְׁנִים הְשְׁנִים, מִמְלוֹן

Ruth 1:19-21

(19) and the two went on until they reached Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole city buzzed with excitement over them. The women said, "Can this be Naomi?" (20) "Do not call me Naomi," she replied. "Call me Mara, for Shaddai has made my lot very bitter. (21) I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. How can you call me Naomi, when the LORD has dealt harshly with me, when Shaddai has brought misfortune upon me!"

רות א':י"ט-כ"א

(יט) וַתֵּלַכְנָה שְׁתֵּיהֶם עַד־בּּאָנָה בֵּית לֶחֶם וַיְהִיּ כְּבֹאָנָה בֵּית לֶּחֶם וַתִּהֹם כָּל־הָעִיר עֲלֵיהֶוֹ וַתֹּאמַרְנָה הֲלָאת נָעֲמִיּ (כ) וַתֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶוֹ אַל־ תִּקְרָאנָה לִי נָעֲמִי קְרָאוֹ לִי מָנָדֹא כִּי־הַמַר שַׁהַי לִי מְאֹד. (כא) אֲנִי מְלֵאָה הָלַכְתִּי וְרִיקָם הֲשִׁיבַנִי יְהוֹה לָמָה תִקְרֶאנָה לִי נָעֲמִי וִיהוָה עָנָה בִּי וְשַׁדִּי הַרָע לִיּי

3. Precedents in Judges

Judges 1:1-3

(1) After the death of Joshua, the Israelites inquired of the LORD, "Which of us shall be the first to go up against the Canaanites and attack them?" (2) The LORD replied, "Let [the tribe of] Judah go up. I now deliver the land into their hands." (3) Judah then said to their brother-tribe Simeon, "Come up with us to our allotted territory and let us attack the Canaanites, and then we will go with you to your allotted territory." So Simeon joined them.

Judges 17:7-8

(7) There was a young man from Bethlehem of Judah, from the clan seat of Judah; he was a Levite and had resided there as a sojourner. (8) This man had left the town of Bethlehem of Judah to take up residence wherever he could find a place. On his way, he came to the house of Micah in the hill country of Ephraim.

Judges 18:1

(1) In those days there was no king in Israel, and in those days the tribe of Dan was seeking a territory in which to settle; for to that day no territory had fallen to their lot among the tribes of Israel.

Judges 8:5-6

(5) He said to the people of Succoth, "Please give some loaves of bread to the men who are following me, for they are famished, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian." (6) But the officials of Succoth replied, "Are Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hands, that we should give bread to your troops?"

Judges 18:18-19

(18) while those men entered Micah's house and took the sculptured image, the molten image, the ephod, and the household gods. The priest said to them, "What are you doing?" (19) But they said to him, "Be quiet; put your hand on your mouth! Come with us and be our father and priest. Would you rather be priest to one man's household or be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?"

שופטים א':א'-ג'

(א) וַיְהִי אַחֲרִי מְוֹת יְהוֹשֻׂעַ וַיִּשְׁאֵלוּ בְּנִי יִשְּׂרָאֵל בַּיהוֶה לֵאמֹר מִי יַעֲלֶה־לְּנִוּ אֶל־הַכְּנַעֲנֶי בַּתְּחִלָּה לְהִלָּחֶם בִּוֹּ (ב) וַיִּאמֶר יְהוֶה יְהוּדָה יִעֲלֶה הִנֵּה נָתַתִּי אֶת־הָאָרֶץ בְּיִדְוֹּ (ג) וַיִּאמֶר יְהוּדָה לְשִׁמְעוֹן אָחִיו עֲלֵה אִתִּי בְגוֹרָלָי וְנְלָּחֲמָה ֹ בִּכְּנַעֲנִי וְהָלַכְתִי גִם־אֲנֵי אִתְּךָ בְּגוֹרָלֶךְ וַיִּלֶךְ אִתּוֹ שׁמִטוֹוּ

שופטים י"ז:ז"-חי

(ז) וַיְהִי־נַעַר מִבֵּית לֶּהֶם יְהוּדָה מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת יְהוּדָה וְהוּא לֵוֹי וְהוּא גֵר־שָׁם: (ח) וַיֵּלֶךְ הָאִישׁ מֵהָעִיר מִבֵּית לֶּהֶם יְהוּדָה לָגוּר בַּאֲשֶׁר יִמְצָא וַיָּבֹא הַר־אֶפְרַיֵם עַד־בֵּית מִיכָה לַעֲשׁוֹת דּרִרוֹ:

שופטים י"ח:א'

(א) בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם אֵין מֶלֶךְ בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וּבַיָּמִים הָהֵם שֵׁבֶט הַדְּנִי מְבַקֶּשׁ־לֹּן נְחֲלָה ׁלָשֶׁבֶת כִּי לְֹא־נָפְלָה לוֹ עַד־הַיּוֹם הַהָּוֹא בְּתוֹךְ־שִׁבְעֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנַחֲלֵה. (ס)

שופטים ח':ה'-ו<u>'</u>

(ה) וַיּאמֶר לְאַנְשֵׁי סָכּוֹת תְּנוּ־נָא ֹכִּכְּרְוֹת לֶּחֶם לָעָם אֲשֶׁר בְּרַגְלָי כִּי־עֲיִפִּים הֵם וְאָנֹכִי רֹדֵף אַחֲרֵי זֶבַח וְצַלְמָנָּע מַלְכֵי מִדְיֵןּ (ו) וַיּאמֶר שָׁרֵי סָכּוֹת הֲבָף זֶבַח וְצַלְמָנָע עַתָּה בְּיָדֶךְ כִּי־נִתֵּן לֵצִבַאֵּךְ,לַחֵם.

שופטים י"ח:ר"ח-ר"ט

(יח) וְאֵלֶּה בָּאוּ בֵּית מִיכָּה וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־פֶּסֶל הָאֵפּוֹד וְאֶת־הַמְּסֵכֶה וַיִּאְמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם הַכּּהֵּוֹ וְאֶת־הַמַּסֵּכֶה וַיֹּאְמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם הַכּּהֵּוֹ וְאֶת־הַמַּסֵּכֶה וַיֹּאְמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם הַכִּהֹ הַכְּיִם וְאֶת־הַמָּסְ נִיט) וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ הַחֲרֵשׁ שִׂים־יִּדְךְ, עַלְּהַ וְלֵּהְ עִפְּנוּ וְהְיֵה־לָנִוּ לְאָב וּלְכֹהֵן הְטִוֹב וּ עַל־פִּיּהְ וְלֵהְ כֹהֵוֹ לְשֵׁבֶט הֵיוֹתְךְ כֹהֵוֹ לְשֵׁבֶט וֹיִתְרְ כֹהֵוֹ לְשֵׁבֶט וּלְמִשְׁפָּחָה בִּיִשְׂרָאֵלי

4: Older precedents

Genesis 13:1-13

(1) From Egypt, Abram went up into the Negeb, with his wife and all that he possessed, together with Lot....(4) the site of the altar that he had built there at first; and there Abram invoked the LORD by name... (6) so that the land could not support them staying together; for their possessions were so great that they could not remain together. (7) And there was quarreling between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and those of Lot's cattle.—The Canaanites and Perizzites were then dwelling in the land.—(8) Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, between my herdsmen and yours, for we are kinsmen. (9) Is not the whole land before you? Let us separate: if you go north, I will go south; and if you go south, I will go north." (10) Lot looked about him and saw how well watered was the whole plain of the Jordan, all of it—this was before the LORD had destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—all the way to Zoar, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (11) So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they parted from each other; (12) Abram remained in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the Plain, pitching his tents near Sodom. (13) Now the inhabitants of Sodom were very wicked sinners against the LORD.

בראשית י"ג:א'-י"ג

(א) וַיַּעַל אַבָרַם מִמִּצְרַיִם הוּא וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְכַל־ אַשר־לָוָ וְלִוֹט עִמּוָ הַנֵּגְכָּה...(ד) אֵל־מִקוֹם הַמָּזְבֵּרָת אֲשֶׁר־עֲשָׂה שָׁם כָּרִאשׁנֵה וַיִּקְרָא שָׁם אַבָרָם בָּשֵׁם יִהוָה:...(ו) וִלֹא־נָשַׂא אֹתָם הָאָרֵץ לַשֶׁבֶת יַחָדַוִ כֵּי־הַיָה רְכוּשַׁם רַבׁ וְלֹא יַכְלוּ לָשֶׁבֶת יַחִדָּוּ (ז) וַיִּהִי־רִיב בֵּין רֹעֵי מִקּנְה־ אַבָּרָם וּבֵיָן רֹעֵי מִקּנֵה־לוֹט וְהַכִּנַעֵנִי וְהַפְּרִוֹּי אָן ישֶׁב בַּאַרֵץ: (ח) וַיּאמֶר אַבְרַם אֵל־לוֹט אַל־נַא תהי מריבה ביני וביניה ובין רעי ובין רעיה ַכֶּי־אֲנָשִׁים אַחָים אֲנָחִנוּ: (ט) הַלָּא כָל־הָאָרֶץ לְפַנִיה הָפַּרֶד נָא מֵעַלָיִ אִם־הַשִּׂמְאל וְאֵימִנָה וּאָם־הַיַּמִין וָאַשָּׁמָאֵילַהּ (י) וַיִּשַּׂא־לִוֹט אָת־ עֵינָיו וַיַּרָא'אַת־כַּל־כִּכַּר הַיַּרְדֵּן כִּי כָלָה מַשְׁקֵה ּלְפָנֵי ו שַׁחֵת יִהנָה אֵת־סִדם וְאֵת־עַמֹרֶה כָּגַן־ יָהוָה בּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִּם בּאֲכָה צְעַר. (יא) וַיִּבְחַר־ לְוֹ לֹוֹט אֻת כָּל־כִּכַּר הַיַּרְהֵוֹ וַיִּסַע לוֹט מִקָּדִם וַיָּפַּרְדוֹּ אָיָשׁ מֵעֵל אַחֵיוּ (יב) אַבְרָם יַשְׁב בָּאֵרִץ־כָּנָעַן וִלוֹט יָשַׁבֹרבּעָרִי הַכְּכָּר וַיֵּאֵהַל עַד־ סְרֹם: (יג) וְאַנְשֵׁיִ סְרֹם רָעִים וְחַטָּאִים לַיהוָה מאד:

Deuteronomy 23:4-5

(4) No Ammonite or Moabite shall be admitted into the congregation of the LORD; none of their descendants, even in the tenth generation, shall ever be admitted into the congregation of the LORD, (5) because they did not meet you with food and water on your journey after you left Egypt, and because they hired Balaam son of Beor, from Pethor of Aram-naharaim, to curse you.—

דברים כ"ג:ד'-ה'

(ד) לְא־יָבֹּא עַמּוֹנֵי וּמוֹאָבִי בִּקְהַל יְהֹוֶה גָּם דּוֹר עֲשִׂירִי לֹא־יָבֹא לָהֶם בִּקְהַל יְהֹוֶה עַד־ עוֹלֶם: (ה) עַל־דְּבַּר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־קִדְּמִוּ אֶתְכֶם שָּׁכַר עָלֶּיךָ אֶת־בִּלְעָם בָּן־בְּעוֹר מִפְּתוּר אֲרֵם נַהֲרַיִם לְקַלְלֶךָּ:

5: The turning point

Ruth 1:8-18

- (8) But Naomi said to her two daughters-inlaw, "Turn back, each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me! (9) May the LORD grant that each of you find security in the house of a husband!" And she kissed them farewell. They broke into weeping (10) and said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." (11) But Naomi replied, "Turn back, my daughters! Why should you go with me? Have I any more sons in my body who might be husbands for you? (12) Turn back, my daughters, for I am too old to be married. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I were married tonight and I also bore sons, (13) should you wait for them to grow up? Should you on their account debar yourselves from marriage? Oh no, my daughters! My lot is far more bitter than yours, for the hand of the LORD has struck out against me." (14) They broke into weeping again, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law farewell. But Ruth clung to her. (15) So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has returned to her people and her gods. Go follow your sister-in-law."
- (16) But Ruth replied, "Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. (17) Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus and more may the LORD do to me if anything but death parts me from you."
- (18) When [Naomi] saw how determined she was to go with her, she ceased to argue with her;

רות אי:חי-יייח

- (ח) וַתֹּאמֶר נָעֲמִי רְשִׁתֵּי כַלֹּתֵיהָ לֵכְנָה שֹׁבְנָה אִשָּׁה לְבֵית אִפָּאָה (יעשה) [יְעַשׂ] יָהֹוָה עִמַּכֶם הֶסֶׁד כַּאֲשֵׁר עֲשִׂיתֵם עִם־ הַמֶּתִים וִעְמַּדִי (ט) יִתָּן יִהֹוַה ֹלְכֵּם וּמְצֵאן מְנוּחַה אִשַּׁה בֵּית אִישַׁה וַתִּשַׁק לַהֵּן וַתִּשָׂמָנָה קוֹלָן וַתִּבְכֵּינָה: (י) וַתֹּאמַרְנָה־לָּה ֹבִי־אָתַּךְ נַשׁוָב לְעַמֵּךְ: (יא) וַתֹּאמֵר נַעַמִי שֹבִנָה בִנֹתַי לָפָה תֵלַכְנַה עִמְי הַעוֹד־לִי בָנִים בַּמֶעַי וְהַיִּוּ לָכֶם לַאֲנָשִׁים: (יב) שֹבְנָה בְנֹתַי בֶּבָן בִּי זָקַנָתִי מִהְיוֹת לְאִישׁ בִּי אָמַרְתִּי'יֶשׁ־לְיִ תִקְוָה גַּם הָיֵיתִי הַלַּיִּלָה' לְאָישׁ וְגָם יָלַדְתִּי בַנֵים: (יג) הַלָהֵן ו תִשַּׂבַּרְנַה עָד אֲשֵׁר יִגִדָּלוּ הַלָּהֵן ֹתֵעַגֵּנָה לְבַלְתִּי הֵיוֹת לְאִישׁ אֵל בִּנֹתַיֹּ כֵּי־מַר־לִי מְאֹד ֹמְכֶּם כֵּי־יָצְאָה בִי יַד־יִהֹוֶה. (יד) וַתִּשֵּׂנָה קוֹלָן וַתִּבְכֶּינָה עוֹד וַתִּשַּׁק עַרְפָּה` לַחֲמוֹתָהֹ וְרַוָּת דָּבָקָה בֶּהּ: (טו) וַתֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה` שַבַה יִבְמִתֵּרְ אֵל־עַמַה וָאֵל־אֵלֹהֵיהַ שׁוָבִי
 - (טז) וַתֹּאמֶר רוּת אַל־תִּפְגְּעִי־בִּי לְעָזְבֵךְ לָשׁוּב מֵאַחֲרָיֶךְ כִּי אֶל־אֲשֶׁר תִּלְכִי אֵלֵּךְ וּבַאֲשֶׁר תִּלִינִי אָלִין עַמֵּךְ עַמִּי וֵאלֹהַיָּךְ אֱלֹהָי: (יז) בַּאֲשֶׁר תִּמוּתִי אָמוּת וְשָׁם אֶלְהָי: כֹּה יִעֲשֶׂה יְהֹוָה לִי וְכֹּה יוֹסִיף כִּי המות יתריד ביני ורייר.
- (יח) וַתֵּלֶרא כֵּי־מִתְאַפֶּעֶצֶת הִיא לְלֶלֶכֶת אִתְּהְ וַתָּחְדַּל לְדַבֵּר אֵלֶיהָּ

6. The way up

Ruth 2:8-12

- (8) Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen to me, daughter. Don't go to glean in another field. Don't go elsewhere, but stay here close to my girls. (9) Keep your eyes on the field they are reaping, and follow them. I have ordered the men not to molest you. And when you are thirsty, go to the jars and drink some of [the water] that the men have drawn."
- (10) She prostrated herself with her face to the ground, and said to him, "Why are you so kind as to single me out, when I am a foreigner?"
- (11) Boaz said in reply, "I have been told of all that you did for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband, how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth and came to a people you had not known before. (12) May the LORD reward your deeds. May you have a full recompense from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have sought refuge!"

Ruth 4:9-12

- (9) And Boaz said to the elders and to the rest of the people, "You are witnesses today that I am acquiring from Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. (10) I am also acquiring Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, as my wife, so as to perpetuate the name of the deceased upon his estate, that the name of the deceased may not disappear from among his kinsmen and from the gate of his home town. You are witnesses today."
- (11) All the people at the gate and the elders answered, "We are. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built up the House of Israel! Prosper in Ephrathah and perpetuate your name in Bethlehem! (12) And may your house be like the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah—through the offspring which the LORD will give you by this young woman."

רות בי:ח'-י"ב

- (ח) וַיּאמֶר בּעִז אֶל־רוּת הֲלוָא שָׁמַעַהְּ בִּתִּי אַל־תִּלְלְלִט בְּשָׂדָה אַחֵר וְגַם לֹא תַעֲבוּרִי מִזֶּה וְלַה תִּלְלִלְט בְּשָׂדָה אַחֵר וְגַם לֹא תַעֲבוּרִי מִזֶּה וְלָה תִּדְבָּקִין עִם־נַעֲרֹתִי. (ט) צִינַיִּה בַּשְּׂדָה אֲשֶׁר־יִּקְצֹרוּ וְהָלַלְא צִנֵּיתִי אֶת־הַנְּעָרִים לְבָּלְתִּי נָגְעֵךְ וְצָמִת וְהָלַכְהְּ (אֶל־הַכֵּלְים וְשָׁתִיֹּת מִימרניו הניטריו.
- (י) וַתִּפּלֹעַל־פָּנֶּיהָ וַתִּשְׁתַּחוּ אָרֶצָה וַתְּאמֶר אֵלְיוּ מַדּּוּעַ מָצָאתִי חֵן בִּעִינֵיֹךְ לְהַכִּירֵנִי וְאָנֹכִי נָכִרִיָּהּ
- (יא) וַיָּעַן בּצַּז' וַיִּאמֶר לָה הָגֵּד הָגַּד לְּי כִּל אֲשֶׁר־ עָשִׁית'שֶׁת־חֲמוֹתֵּךְ אַחֲרֵי מְוֹת אִישֵׁךְ וַתִּעְזְבִי אָבְיךְ וְאִמֵּדְ וְאֶלֶרץ' מְוֹלַדְתֵּךְ וַתֵּלְכִי אֶל־עַם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־ יָדַעַתְּ תְּמִוֹל שִׁלְשׁוֹם. (יב) יְשַׁלֵם יְהֹוָה פָּצְלֵךְ וּתְהִי מַשְּׂכָּרְתֵּךְ שְׁלֵמָה מֵעִם יְהֹוָה אֱלֹתֵי יִשְּׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר־בָּאת לַחֲסוֹת תַּחַת־כְּנָפֵיוּ

רות ד':ט'-י"ב

- (ט) וַיּאמֶר בּעז לַזְּקֵנִים וְכָל־הָעָם עַדְים אַתֶּם היּוֹם כִּי קָנִיּתִי אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לֵאֱלִימֶלֶךְ וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לֵאֱלִימֶלֶךְ וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לְכִלְיוֹן וּמַחְלוֹן מִיָּד נְעֲמִיי (י) וְגָם אָת־רְוּת אֲשֶׁר לְכִלְיוֹן וּמַחְלוֹן קָנְיִתִי לִי לְאִשָּׁה לְהָקִים שׁם־הַמֵּת מֵעָם שׁם־הַמֵּת מֵעִם שׁם־הַמֵּת מֵעִם אחיו וּמִשִּׁים מביח אחיו וּמִשִּׁים מביח אחיו וּמִשִּׁים מביח.
- (יא) וַיּאמְרוּ כָּל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר־בַּשַּׁעַר וְהַוְּקֵנִים עִדִים יִתּוֹ יְהוָה אֶת־הָאשָׁה הַבָּאָה אֶל־בִּיתָּךְ כְּרָחֵל וּוּכְלֵאָה אֲשֶׁר בָּנוּ שְׁתִּיהֶם אֶת־בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל וַצְשֵׂה־חַיִּל בְּאֶפְרָתָה וּקְרָא־שֵׁם בְּבֵית לֵחֶם. (יב) וִיהִי בֵיתְךְ בְּאֶפְרָתָה וּקְרָא־שֵׁם בְּבֵית לֵחֶם. (יב) מִן־הַנָּרַע אֲשֶׂר יִתֵּן יְהוָה לְךְ מִן־הַנְּעַרָה הַוֹּאִת.

7. A history of namelessness

Judges 13:2

(2) There was a certain man from Zorah, of the stock of Dan, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren and had borne no children.

Judges 17:1-2

(1) There was a man in the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Micah. (2) He said to his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, so that you uttered an imprecation which you repeated in my hearing—I have that silver; I took it." "Blessed of the LORD be my son," said his mother.

Judges 19:1

(1) In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a Levite residing at the other end of the hill country of Ephraim took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.

Ruth 2:6

(6) The servant in charge of the reapers replied, "She is a Moabite girl who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

שופטים י"ג:ב'

(ב) וַיְהִי אִישׁ אֶחָדְ מִצְּרְעָה מִמִּשְׁפַּחַת הַדָּנִי וּשְׁמִוֹ מָנֵוֹחַ וְאִשְׁתּוֹ עֲקָרָה וְלֹא ילדה:

שופטים י"ז:א'-ב'

(א) וְיְהִי־אָישׁ מֵהַר־אֶפְּרָיִם וּשְׁמִּוֹ מִיכֵיְהוּיּ (ב) וַיֹּאמֶר לְאִמֹוֹ אֶלֶף ּוּמֵאָה הַכֶּטֶף אֲשֶׁר לֻקַּח־לָּךְ ואתי [וְאַתְּ] אָלִית וְגַם אָמַרְתְּ בְּאָזְנַי הִנְּה־הַכֶּטֶף אִתִּי אֲנִי לְקַחְתִּיִו וַתִּאמֶר אִמּוֹ בָּרוִךְ בְּנִי לַיהוֵהּיּ

שופטים י"ט:אי

(א) וַיְהִי בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וּמֶלֶךְ אֵין בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִי וּ אִישׁ לֵוֹי גָּר בְּיַרְכְּתֵי הַר־אֶפְרַיִם וַיְקַח־לוֹ אִשָּׁוָה פִילֶגֶשׁ מִבֵּית לֶחֶם יְהוּדְהּיּ

<u>רות ב':ו'</u>

(ו) וַיַּעַן הַנָּעַר הַנִּצָּב עַל־הַקּוֹצְרָים וַיֹּאמֵר נַעֲרָה מִוֹאֲבִיָּה הִיֹא הַשָּׁבָה עִם־ נעמיִ משֹׁדִה מוֹאבּיּ

8. A new hope

I Samuel 1:1-8

- (1) There was a man from Ramathaim of the Zuphites, in the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham son of Elihu son of Tohu son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. (2) He had two wives, one named Hannah and the other Peninnah; Peninnah had children, but Hannah was childless.
- (3) This man used to go up from his town every year to worship and to offer sacrifice to the LORD of Hosts at Shiloh.—Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD there.
- (4) One such day, Elkanah offered a sacrifice. He used to give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; (5) but to Hannah he would give one portion only—though Hannah was his favorite—for the LORD had closed her womb. (6) Moreover, her rival, to make her miserable, would taunt her that the LORD had closed her womb. (7) This happened year after year: Every time she went up to the House of the LORD, the other would taunt her, so that she wept and would not eat.
- (8) Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why are you crying and why aren't you eating? Why are you so sad? Am I not more devoted to you than ten sons?"

שמואל א א':א'-ח'

- (א) וַיְהי^{*} אִּישׁ אֶחָד מִן־הָרָמָתַיֶם צוֹפִּים מֵהַר אֶפְרָיֵם וּשְׁמוֹ אֶ^{*}לְקָנָה בֶּן־יְרֹחָם בֶּן־אֱלִיהנָּא בֶּן־תֹּחוּ בֶן־צוּף אֶפְרָתִיּ (ב) וְלוֹ שְׁתֵּי נָשִׁים שֵׁם אַחַת חַנָּה וְשֵׁם הַשֵּׁנִית פְּנִנְּה וַיְהִי לִפְנִנְּה` ילדים וּלחנּה איז ילדים:
- (ג) וְעָלָה הָאִישׁ הַהוּא מֵעִירוֹ מִיָּמִים וּ יָמִימָה לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹתְ וְלִזְבֹּחֲ לַיהוָה צְּבָאוֹת בְּשִׁלֹה וְשָׁם שני בני־עלי חפני וּפנחס כֹהנים ליהוה:
- (ד) וַיְהִי הַיּוֹם וַיִּזְבַּח אֶלְקָנֶה וְנָתֵּן לִפְּנִנְּה אִשְׁתּוֹ וּלְכָל־בָּנֶיהָ וּבְנוֹתֶיהָ מָנְוֹת. (ה) וּלְחַנָּה יִתֵּן מָנָה אַחַת אַפָּיֶם כִּי אֶת־חַנָּה אָהֶב וִיהוָה סָגַר רַחְמָה. (ו) וְכֵעֲסַתָּה צֵרְתָה ֹנִם־כַּעַס בַּעֲבוּר הַרְּעִמָה כֵּי־סָגַר יְהוָה בְּעַד רַחְמָה. (ז) וְכֵן יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁנָה בְשָׁנָה מִהֵי עֲלֹתָה ֹבְּבֵית יְהוָה רִז מרטחוּה ומרכּה ולא תֹארל.
- (ח) וַיּאמֶר לָה אֶלְקָנֶה אִישָּׂהּ חַנָּה ֹלְמֶה תִבְכִּיּ וְלָמֶה ֹלֹא תִאכְלִי וְלָמֶה יֵרַע לְבָבֵרְ הֲלֹוּא אָנֹכִי טוֹב לָרְ מֵעֲשָּׂרָה בָּנִים