

URUTHE

UNawomi loRuthe

1 Ngezinsuku kubusa abahluli, kwaba lendlala elizweni, kwathi indoda yaseBhethilehema koJuda, kanye lomkayo lamadodana amabili, basuka bayahlala elizweni lamaMowabi okwesikhatshana. ²Ibizo lale indoda lalingu-Elimeki, elomkakhe linguNawomi, amadodana akhe amabili ayengoMaheloni loKhiliyoni. Babengama-Efratha aseBhethilehema, koJuda. Baya eMowabi bayahlala khona. ³U-Elimeki, umkaNawomi wafa, wasesala lamadodana akhe womabili. ⁴Athatha abafazi baseMowabi, omunye wayethiwa ngu-Opha omunye ethiwa nguRuthe. Sebehlale lapho okweminyaka elitshumi, ⁵bobabili uMaheloni loKhiliyoni labo bafa, uNawomi wasesala engaselawo amadodana akhe womabili kanye lomkakhe. ⁶Wathi esizwa eseMowabi ukuthi uJehova wayesesize abantu bakhe ngokubapha ukudla, uNawomi kanye labomalokazana bakhe balungisela ukubuyela kibo. ⁷Wasuka endaweni ayekade ehlala kuyo, labomalokazana bakhe bobabili, wangena indlela eyayizabasa emuva elizweni lamaJuda. ⁸UNawomi wasesithi kubomalokazana bakhe bobabili, “Buyelani emuva, ngulowo aye emzini kanina. Engani uJehova angalenzela umusa, onjengalowo eliwutshengise abenu asebedlule, kanye lami. ⁹Sengathi uJehova angenza ukuba ngulowo athole inhlalo nxa esendele kwenye indoda.” Wasebanga, basebekhala kakhulu ¹⁰bathi kuye, “Sizahamba lawe ebantwini bakini.” ¹¹Kodwa uNawomi wathi, “Buyelani ngekhaya madodakazi ami. Kambe lingabe lihambelani lami? Ngingazala amanye amadodana na, angaba ngomkenu?

¹²Buyelani ngekhaya, madodakazi ami. Sengigugile, angingeke ngibe ngisazuza enye indoda. Loba bekungabe kulethemba lokuthi ngende – loba bengingaba lendoda ngabona lobubusuku ngizale amadodana – ¹³lingawamelela aze akhule na? Lingahlala lingendanga lilindele wona na? Hatshi, madodakazi ami. Kubuhlungu kakhulu lokho kimi okwedlula kini, ngoba ingalo kaJehova isingihlanekela.”

¹⁴Bekuzwa lokho bakhala njalo. U-Opha wasesanga uninazala wamvalelisa, kodwa uRuthe wanamathela kuye.

¹⁵UNawomi wathi, “Khangela, unyanewenu usebuyela kwabakibo kanye labonkulunkulu bakhe. Phenduka ubuyele laye.”

¹⁶URuthe waphendula wathi, “Ungangifundekeli ukuba ngikutshiye loba ukuba ngikufulathele. Lapho oya khona ngizakuya khona, lalapho ozahlala khona ngizahlala khona. Abantu bakini bazakuba ngabakithi, loNkulunkulu wakho uzakuba nguNkulunkulu wami. ¹⁷Lapho ozafela khona ngizafela khona, njalo ngizangcwatshelwa khona. Sengathi uJehova angangihlanekela nxa ngingehlukana lawe ngenxa yolunye ulutho olungesikufa.” ¹⁸Kwathi uNawomi esebonile ukuthi uRuthe uzimisele ukuhamba laye waseyekela ukumcinezela.

¹⁹Basebehamba bobabili baze bayafika eBhethilehema. Bathi befika eBhethilehema, umuzi wonke waba lokuxokozela ngabo, kwathi abesifazana bababaza besithi, “Angabe enguNawomi lo na?”

²⁰Yena wathi kubo, “Lingangibizi ngokuthi nginguNawomi. Wothani nginguMara, ngoba uSomandla wenze impilo yami yaba munyu.

²¹Ngasuka lapha ngigcwele, kodwa uJehova usengibuyise ngingelalutho. Lingangibizelani ngokuthi nginguNawomi? UJehova ungehlisele uhlupho; uSomandla ungehlisele okubi.”

²²Ngakho uNawomi wabuyela ngokunjalo eBhethilehema evela eMowabi. Wafika ephelekezelwa nguRuthe, umalokazana wakhe umMowabi. Bafika ngesikhathi sokuqalisa ukuvuna ibhali.

URuthe ubona uBhowazi

2 UNawomi wayelesihlobo

sangakomkakhe, kusendo lwako-Elimeleki, indoda eyayinothile ibizo layo linguBhowazi.

²URuthe umMowabi wathi kuNawomi, “Yekela ngiye emasimini ngiyedobha inhlamvu zamabele asala emuva kulowo ozakuba lomusa kimi.” UNawomi wathi, “Kulungile, hamba ndodakazi yami.”

³Wasehamba wafika wadobha amabele asala ngemuva kwabavunayo. Kwenzakala, wasebenza ensimini eyayingekaBhowazi, owayengowosendo luka-Elimeleki.

⁴Kwasekufika uBhowazi evela eBhethilehema wabingelela abavuni wathi, “UJehova kabe lani!” Baphendula bathi, “UJehova akubusise!”

⁵UBhowazi wabuza okhangela abavunayo wathi, “Intombi le ngekabani?”

⁶Yena wathi, “NgumMowabi owabuya loNawomi. ⁷Uthe, ‘Ngicela ukudobha okusalayo phakathi kwezithungo ngemva kwabavunayo.’ Ulokhu efike emasimini ekuseni wasebenza njalo nje kuze kube khathesi, ngaphandle kokuphumula kancinyane nje emthunzini.”

⁸UBhowazi wasesithi kuRuthe, “Lalela lapha-ke ndodakazi yami. Ungaze wayadobha kwenye insimu, ungasuki lapha. Hlala lapha lamantombazana azincekukazi zami. ⁹Nanzelela leyonsimu lapho amadoda avuna khona, wena ulandele amantombazana. Ngiwalayile amadoda ukuba angakuhluphi. Ungezwa usuwomile, uhambe uyenatha ezimbizeni ezikhelelwe zagcwaliswa ngamadoda.”

¹⁰Ekuzwa lokhu, uRuthe wathi mbo phansi ngobuso wababaza wathi, “Kungani ngifumane umusa ongaka kuwe uze ungizwele mina ngingowezizweni?”

¹¹UBhowazi wathi, “Sengitsheliwe ngakho konke owakwenzela unyokozala kusukela ekufeni komkakho – lokuthi watshiya uyihlo lonyoko lelizwe lakwenu weza ukuzahlala labantu owawungabazi. ¹²Sengathi uJehova angakupha umvuzo ngalokhu okwenzileyo. Sengathi uJehova, uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, oze ukuphephela ngaphansi kwamaphiko akhe angakupha umvuzo omkhulu.”

¹³URuthe wathi, “Sengathi ngingaqhubeka ngithola umusa kuwe, nkosi yami. Usungiphe ukududuzeka njalo ukhulume ngomusa encekukazini yakho loba ngingafanele ukuba ngomunye wamantombazana azincekukazi zakho.”

¹⁴Ngesikhathi sokudla, uBhowazi wathi kuye, “Woza lapha. Nansi isinkwa, dlana utshebe ngewayini elilevinega.” Wahlala phansi labavunayo, uBhowazi wasemupha amabele akhanzingiweyo. Wadla wasutha waze watshiya.

¹⁵Esesukuma ukuba ayedobha, uBhowazi walaya amadoda wathi, “Loba angaze adobhe phakathi kwezithungo, lingaze lamhlupha. ¹⁶Kodwa, hwatshani amanye amahlanga ezithungweni limtshiyele ukuze adobhe kuwo, lingaze lamkhuza.”

¹⁷Ngakho uRuthe wadobha ensimini kwaze kwahwalala. Wasebhula ibhali ayeyidobhile, yagcwala phamu amagokoko amabili. ¹⁸Wayithwala waya layo ngekhaya, uninazala wabona lokho ayekuvunile. URuthe wakhupha ayekutshiyile esedle wasutha, weza lakho wamupha.

¹⁹Uninazala wabuza wathi, “Udobhe ngaphi lamhlanje? Usebenze ngaphi? Ubusisiwe lowomuntu okwenzele umusa!” URuthe wasemtshela uninazala ngalowo lapho ayekade esebenza khona wathi, “Ibizo lendoda engisebenze kuyo lamhla nguBhowazi.”

²⁰UNawomi wathi kumalokazana wakhe, “UJehova kambusise! Kakuyekelanga ukutshengisa umusa wakhe kwabaphilayo lakwasebafayo.” Wengeza njalo wathi, “Indoda leyo iyisihlobo sethu esiseduze; ingomunye wezihlobo zethu ezingabahlengi.”

²¹URuthe umMowabi wasesithi, “Uze wathi kimi, ‘Ubohlala ulandela izisebenzi zami zize ziqede ukuvuna amabele ami.’”

²²UNawomi wathi kuRuthe umalokazana wakhe, “Kuzakuba kuhle, ndodakazi yami, ukuthi uhambe lamantombazana akhe, ngoba ungahlutshwa ensimini yomunye.”

²³Ngakho uRuthe waba seduze lamantombazana azincekukazi zikaBhowazi ekudobheni kwaze kwaphela ukuvuna ibhali lengqoloyi. Njalo wahlala loninazala.

URuthe loBhowazi eSizeni

3 Ngelinye ilanga uNawomi, uninazala wathi kuye, “Ndodakazi yami, akungcono ngikudingele umuzi lapho ozagcineka khona kuhle na? ² Angithi uBhowazi, lo obusebenza lamantombazana akhe, yisihlobo sethu. Ngobusuku balamhlanje uzabe esela ibhali esizeni. ³ Geza, uziqhole ngamakha, ugqoke ezokuceca. Ube ususiya esizeni, kodwa ungaze waziveza kuye aze aqede ukudla. ⁴ Nxa eselala, uqaphelise indawo alala kuyo, ube usufika wambule ezinyaweni zakhe ulale lapho. Uzakutshela ukuthi wenzeni.”

⁵URuthe wathi, “Ngizakwenza lokho ongitshela khona.” ⁶Wasesuka waya esizeni wenza konke ayekutshelwe nguninazala.

⁷Kwathi uBhowazi esethabe kakhulu ngemva kokudla lokunatha, wasuka wayalala ekucineni kwenqumbi yamabele. URuthe wasondela ngokuthula, wembula izinyawo zakhe waselala lapho.

⁸Kwathi phakathi kobusuku indoda yethuswa ngokuthile, yasiphenduka yathola owesifazana elele ezinyaweni zayo.

⁹Yabuza yathi, “Ungubani wena?” Yena waphendula wathi, “NginguRuthe, incekekazi yakho. Ngembathisa ngesambatho sakho, njengoba uyisihlobo sethu esingumhlengi.”

¹⁰Yena wathi, “UJehova akubusise, ndodakazi yami. Umusa wakho lo mkhulu ukwedlula lokho okwenze kuqala.

Awuzange ukhethe ukulandelana lamajaha, ingabe nganothileyo loba angabayanga.

¹¹Ngakho-ke, ungesabi ndodakazi yami.

Ngizakwenzela konke okucelayo. Bonke abantu bakulo umuzi bayakwazi ukuthi wena ungowesifazana oqotho.

¹²Loba kuliqiniso ukuba mina ngiyisihlobo esiseduze, ukhona oyisihlobo esihlengayo esiseduze okwedlula mina.

¹³Hlala lapha kulobubusuku, kuthi ekuseni nxa efuna ukukuhlenga; uzakwenza njalo. Kodwa nxa engakavumi lokho, mina ngizakwenza lokho njengoba uJehova ephila. Lala lapha kuze kuse.”

¹⁴Ngakho walala kwaze kwasa, wasevuka engakananzelelwa muntu; uBhowazi wathi kuye, “Ungaze watshela muntu ukuthi ukhona owesifazana oke weza esizeni.”

¹⁵Wathi njalo, “Letha kimi isambatho leso osembetheyo usivule.” Kwathi esenzenjalo wathatha kuso ibhali eliyizilinganiso eziyisithupha wamethesa. Wasesuka wabuyela ngekhhaya.

¹⁶URuthe wathi efika kuninazala, uNawomi wabuza wathi, “Kuhambe njani ndodakazi yami?” Yena wamtshela konke ayekwenzelwe nguBhowazi, ¹⁷wengeza esithi, “Ungiphe izilinganiso eziyisithupha zebhali wathi, ‘Ungaze wabuyela kunyokozala ungelalutho.’”

¹⁸UNawomi wasesithi, “Mana, ndodakazi, uze ubone okuzakwenzakala. Umuntu lo kasoke aphumule indaba le ize ilungiswe lamhlanje.”

UBhowazi uthatha uRuthe

4 Kusenjalo uBhowazi waya esangweni ledolobho wahlala lapho. Kwathi isihlobo esihlengayo ayekhulume ngaso sisedlula lapho, uBhowazi wathi, “Woza lapha, mngane wami, uhlale phansi.” Waya kuye wahlala phansi.

²UBhowazi wabiza abadala bakulelo dolobho abalitshumi wathi, “Hlalani lapha,” benza njalo. ³Wasesithi kusihlobo esihlengayo, “UNawomi osebuyile evela eMowabi uthengisa isiqinti esasingesomfowethu u-Elimeleki. ⁴Ngibone kufanele ukuthi ngilethe loludaba kuwe njalo ngicebise ukuthi usithenge phambi kwabo laba abahlezi lapha laphambi kwabadala bakithi. Nxa usihlenga, yenza njalo. Kodwa nxa ungasihlengi, ungazise. Phela kakho olelungelo lokwenza lokho ngaphandle kwakho, besekulandela mina.” Yena wathi, “Ngizasihlenga.”

⁵UBhowazi wasesithi, “Mhla uthenga lesosiqinti kuNawomi loRuthe umMowabi, uzazuza lomfelokazi womufi, ukuze umise ibizo lowafayo kanye lempahla yakhe.”

⁶Sikuzwa lokho, isihlobo esingumhlengi sathi, “Angingeke-ke ngisihlenga ngoba sekungonakala okwelifa lami. Sihlenga wena ngokwakho. Mina anganelisi.”

⁷(Ngalezonsuku zakuqala e-Israyeli, ukuze umkhuba wokuhlenga lokuguqula impahla zisuka komunye zisiya komunye uphelele, oyedwa wayekhupha inyathela lakhe aliphe omunye. Le yayiyindlela yokuqinisa isivumelwano ko-Israyeli.)

⁸Ngakho isihlobo esihlengayo sakhupha inyathela laso sathi kuBhowazi, “Sithenge wena.”

⁹UBhowazi wasebika ebadaleni lakubo bonke abantu wathi, “Lamhlanje lingofakazi bokuthi sengithengile kuNawomi yonke impahla ka-Elimeleki, loKhiliyoni loMaheloni. ¹⁰LoRuthe umMowabi, umfelokazi kaMaheloni sengimzuzile ukuba

abe ngumkami, ukuze kugcinakale ibizo lomufi kanye lempahla yakhe, lokuze ibizo lakhe linganyamalali emulini loba embalini yomuzi. Lingofakazi lamhlanje!” ¹¹Abadala kanye labo bonke ababesangweni bathi, “Singofakazi. Sengathi uJehova angenza owesifazana ozayo emzini wakho abe njengoRasheli loLeya, bona abakha indlu ka-Israyeli. Sengathi unghlonitshwa e-Efratha ube lodumo eBhethilehema.

¹²Ngenzalo uJehova azakunika yona ngalo owesifazana, sengathi imuli yakho ingaba njengekaPherezi, uThamari ayizalela uJuda.”

Uuhlu lwenzalo kaDavida

¹³UBhowazi wamthatha uRuthe waba ngumkakhe. Wembatha laye, uJehova wenza wakhulelwa, wasezala indodana. ¹⁴Abesifazana bathi kuNawomi: “Kadunyiswe uJehova, yena ongakutshiyanga wasala ungelasihlobo esihlengayo. Sengathi angaba lodumo kulo lonke elako-Israyeli! ¹⁵Uzakwenza impilo yakho ibentsha akulonde ebudaleni bakho. Ngoba umalokazana wakho, yena okuthandayo njalo ongcono kulamadodana ayisikhombisa, usemuphe inzalo.”

¹⁶UNawomi wasethatha umntwana, wamgona, wamondla. ¹⁷Abesifazana ababehlala lapho bathi, “UNawomi uselendodana.” Bamutha ibizo bathi ngu-Obhedi. Wayenguyise kaJese, ozala uDavida.

¹⁸Lesi yiso isizukulwana sikaPherezi: uPherezi wayenguyise kaHezironi,

¹⁹uHezironi enguyise kaRama, uRama enguyise ka-Aminadabi,

²⁰u-Aminadabi enguyise kaNashoni, uNashoni enguyise kaSalimoni,

²¹uSalimoni enguyise kuBhowazi, uBhowazi enguyise ka-Obhedi,

²²u-Obhedi enguyise kaJese, uJese enguyise kaDavida.