

RUTHE

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ISAPHLUKO 1

Kwathi emihleni abahlulela ngayo abahluleli kwaba khona indlala ezweni. Umuntu othile waseBetlehem Juda waya ukuyohlala ezweni lakwaMowabi, yena nomkakhe, namadodana akhe amabili.

² Igama lalowo muntu lalingu-Elimeleki, igama lomkakhe lalinguNawomi, amagama amadodana akhe amabili ayengoMahaloni noKiliyoni; babe ngama-Efratha aseBetlehem Juda. Bafika ezweni lakwaMowabi, bahlala khona.

³ U-Elimeleki umyeni kaNawomi wafa; kepha yena wasala namadodana akhe amabili.

⁴ Azithathela abafazi kwabesifazane bakwaMowabi; igama lomunye lalingu-Orpa, igama lomunye lalinguRuthe; bahlala khona kwangathi iminyaka eyishumi.

⁵ OMahaloni noKiliyoni bafa bobabili; owesifazane washiywa-ke ngabantwana bakhe ababili nangumyeni wakhe.

⁶ Wayesesuka nawomalokazana bakhe ukuba abuye ezweni lakwaMowabi, ngokuba wayezwile ezweni lakwaMowabi ukuthi uJehova uhambele abantu bakhe ukuba abaphe ukudla.

⁷ Waphuma endaweni lapho wayekhona, omalokazana bakhe benaye; bahamba ngendlela yokubuyela ezweni lakwaJuda.

⁸ UNawomi wathi komalokazana bakhe ababili: “Hambani nibuyele, kube yilowo nalowo endlini kanina; uJehova makanenzele umusa, njengalokho nanenza kwabafileyo nakimi.

⁹ UJehova makaninike ukuba nifumane ukuphumula, kube yilowo nalowo endlini yomyeni wakhe.” Wayesebanga, badazuluka, bakhala.

¹⁰ Bathi kuye: “Hhayi! Kepha sobuyela nawe kubantu bakini!”

¹¹ Wayesethi uNawomi: “Buyani, madodakazi ami; nohambelani nami na? Ngisenamadodana ezibilinini zami ukuba abe ngabayeni benu na?

¹² Buyani, madodakazi ami, nihambe, ngokuba sengimdala ukuba ngibe nomyeni. Noma ngangithi nginethemba, noma ngingaba nendoda kulobu busuku, ngizale amadodana,

¹³ beningawahlalela aze abe ngakhulileyo na? Beniyakuzivimbela ningabi namadoda na? Hhayi, madodakazi ami, kumunyu kimi ngenxa yenu, ngokuba isandla sikaJehova siphumele kimi.”

¹⁴ Badazuluka, baphinda bakhala; u-Orpa wamanga uninazala, kepha uRuthe wanamathela kuye.

¹⁵ Wathi: “Bheka, umnakwenu usebuyele kwabakubo nakunkulunkulu wakhe; buya nawe, umlandele umnakwenu.”

¹⁶ Kepha uRuthe wathi: “Ungangincengi ukuba ngikushiye, ngibuye, ngingakulandeli, ngokuba lapho uya khona, ngiyakuya khona nami, nalapho uhlala khona, ngiyakuhlala

khona nami; abantu bakho bayakuba ngabantu bami, uNkulunkulu wakho abe nguNkulunkulu wami.

¹⁷ Lapho ufela khona, ngiyakufela khona nami, ngimbelwe khona; uJehova akenze njalo kimi, enezele futhi, ngokuba ngokufa kuphela okuyakusahlukanisa.”

¹⁸ Esebonile ukuthi uzimisele ukuhamba naye, wayeka ukukhuluma kuye.

¹⁹ Base behamba bobabili baze bafika eBetlehema. Kwathi sebefikile eBetlehema, wonke umuzi wanyakaziswa, bathi: “Lo unguNawomi na?”

²⁰ Wathi kubo: “Ningangibizi ngokuthi uNawomi; ngibizeni ngokuthi uMara, ngokuba uSomandla ungiphathe ngomunyu omkhulu.

²¹ Ngahamba ngigcwele, uJehova ungibuyise ngize; ningibizelani ngokuthi uNawomi, lokhu uJehova efakazile ngami, uSomandla engenzele okubi, na?”

²² Wabuya-ke uNawomi kanye noRuthe wakwaMowabi umalokazana wakhe owabuya ezweni lakwaMowabi, bafika eBetlehema ekuqaleni kokuvunwa kwebhali.

ISAHLUKO 2

UNawomi wayenesihlobo somyeni wakhe, umuntu ocebileyo, owomndeni ka-Elimeleki, igama lakhe linguBowazi.

² URuthe wakwaMowabi wathi kuNawomi: “Mangihambe, ngiye ensimini, ngikhothoze ezikhwetshini emva kwalowo engiyakufumana umusa emehlweni akhe.” Wathi kuye: “Hamba, ndodakazi yami.”

³ Wahamba, waya wakhothoza ensimini emva kwabavuni; kwase kwenzeka ukuba afike esiqeshini sensimu sikaBowazi womndeni ka-Elimeleki.

⁴ Bheka, uBowazi wafika evela eBetlehema, wathi kwabavunayo: “UJehova makabe nani.” Bathi kuye: “UJehova makakubusise.”

⁵ Wayesethi uBowazi encekweni yakhe eyayibekwe phezu kwabavuni: “Ngekabani le ntombazana na?”

⁶ Inceku eyayibekwe phezu kwabavuni yaphendula yathi: “Kuyintombazana yakwaMowabi ebuye noNawomi ezweni lakwaMowabi;

⁷ ithe: ‘Ake ngikhothoze, ngibuthe ezithungwini emva kwabavuni.’ Selokhu ifikile, iqhubekile kusukela ekuseni kuze kube manje, ihlale kancane endlini kuphela.”

⁸ UBowazi wayesethi kuRuthe: “Angithi uyezwa, ndodakazi yami? Ungayi ukukhothoza kwenye insimu, futhi ungasuki lapha, kepha namathela kuwo amantombazana ami lapha.

⁹ Amehlo akho mawabe sensimini ayivunayo, uwalandele; angithi ngiyalile abafana ukuba bangakuthinti na? Nxa womile, yana ezitsheni, uphuze lokho abakukhileyo abafana.”

¹⁰ Wayesewa ngobuso bakhe, wakhothamela emhlabathini, wathi kuye: “Ngifumaneleni umusa emehlweni akho ukuba unginake, lokhu ngingowezizwe, na?”

¹¹ UBowazi waphendula, wathi kuye: “Kubikiwe kimi konke omenzele khona unyokozala selokhu afa umyeni wakho nokuthi ushiyile uyihlo nonyoko nezwe lokuzalwa kwakho, weza kubantu ongabazanga ngaphambili.

¹² UJehova makakuvuze ngomsebenzi wakho, uphiwe umvuzo opheleleyo nguJehova uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli oze ukuba uphephele phansi kwamaphiko akhe.”

¹³ Wathi: “Mangifumane umusa emehlweni akho, nkosi, ngokuba ungiduduzile nangokuba ukhulume kahle kuyo incekekazi yakho, noma ngingenjengenywe yezincekekazi zakho.”

¹⁴ Ngesikhathi sokudla uBowazi wathi kuye: “Woza lapha, udle isinkwa, ugcobhoze ucezu lwakho kuviniga.” Wahlala eceleni kwabavuni, wamnika utshwele, wadla wasutha,

washiya phansi.

¹⁵ Esesukile ekukhothozeni uBowazi wayala abafana bakhe, wathi: “Makakhothoze nasezithungwini, ningamkhathazi.

¹⁶ Anoke nimkhiphele nokuthile ezithungwini, nikushiye ukuba akukhothoze, ningamsoli.”

¹⁷ Wakhothoza-ke ensimini kwaze kwahlwa; wakubhula lokho abekukhothozile, kwakungathi i-efa lebhali.

¹⁸ Wakuthatha, wangena emzini; uninazala wabona lokho abekukhothozile; wakhipha, wamnika lokho akushiyile esesuthile.

¹⁹ Uninazala wathi kuye: “Ukhothozephi namuhla na? Usebenzephi? Makabusiswe lowo okunakileyo.” Wamtshele uninazala ukuthi ubesebenza kubani, wathi: “Igama lomuntu engisebenzile kuye namuhla linguBowazi.”

²⁰ UNawomi wathi kumalokazana wakhe: “Makabusiswe nguJehova ongayekanga umusa wakhe kwabaphilileyo nakwabafileyo.” UNawomi wathi kuye: “Lowo muntu uyisihlobo sethu, ungowabahlengi bethu.”

²¹ URuthe wakwaMowabi wathi: “Yebo, wathi kimi: ‘Wonamathela kubafana bami, baze baqede konke ukuvuna kwami.’ ”

²² UNawomi wayesethi kuRuthe umalokazana wakhe: “Kuhle, ndodakazi yami, ukuba uphume namantombazana akhe, ungafikelwa kwenye insimu.”

²³ Wayesenamathela-ke kuwo amantombazana kaBowazi ukukhothoza kwaze kwaba sekugcineni kokuvunwa kwebhali nokukakolweni; wahlala-ke noninazala.

ISAHLUKO 3

UNawomi uninazala wathi kuye: “Ndodakazi yami, angiyikukufunela ukuphumula ukuba kube kuhle kuwe na?

² Angithi uBowazi owawunamantombazana akhe uyisihlobo sethu na? Bheka, uyela ibhali kusihlwa esibuyeni.

³ Ngakho-ke geza, ugcobe, ugqoke isambatho sakho, wehlele esibuyeni, kepha ungazazisi kulowo muntu, aze aqede ukudla nokuphuza.

⁴ Kuyakuthi nxa eselala, uqaphele indawo ayakulala kuyo, ungene, wambule izinyawo zakhe, ulale; uyakukutshela lokhu oyakukwenza.”

⁵ Wathi kuye: “Konke okushoyo ngiyakukwenza.”

⁶ Wehlele esibuyeni, wenza njengakho konke amyale ngakho uninazala.

⁷ UBowazi wadla waphuza, inhliziyo yakhe yathokoza, waya ukulala ngasekugcineni kwenqwaba yamabele; wafika kahle, wambula izinyawo zakhe, walala.

⁸ Kwathi phakathi kwamabili yethuka leyo ndoda, yaphenduka; bheka, kwakulele owesifazane ngasezinyaweni zayo.

⁹ Yathi: “Ungubani?” Wathi: “NginguRuthe incekekazi yakho; yembesa incekekazi yakho umphetho wengubo yakho, ngokuba ungumhlengi.”

¹⁰ Yathi: “Mawubusiswe nguJehova, ndodakazi yami; ubonakalisile umusa ekugcineni kakhulu kunasekuqaleni, ngokuba awulandelanga izinsizwa, noma zimpofu noma zicebile.

¹¹ Manje, ndodakazi yami, ungesabi; ngiyakukwenzela konke okushoyo, ngokuba wonke umuzi wabantu bakithi uyazi ukuthi ungowesifazane olungileyo.

¹² Yebo, kuqinisile ukuthi ngingumhlengi, kepha kukhona umhlengi omkhulu kunami.

¹³ Hlala lobu busuku; kuyakuthi ekuseni, uma ekuhlenga, kulungile, makakuhlenge; kepha uma engathandi ukukuhlenga, mina ngiyakukuhlenga, kuphila kukaJehova; lala kuze

kuse.”

14 Walala ngasezinyaweni zakhe kwaze kwasa, wavuka bengakazani. Ngokuba yathi: “Makungaziwa ukuthi owesifazane wafika esibuyeni.”

15 Yayisithi: “Letha ingubo ephezu kwakho, uyibambe.” Wayibamba, yalinganisa kasithupha ibhali, yamthwesa lona, wangena emzini.

16 Wafika kuninazala; wathi yena: “Ungubani, ndodakazi yami?” Wamtshela konke leyo ndoda ebimenzele khona.

17 Wathi: “Ingiphile lezi zilinganiso eziyisithupha zebhali, ngokuba yathi kimi: ‘Ungayi kunyokozala ungaphethe lutho.’ ”

18 Wathi: “Hlala, ndodakazi yami, uze wazi ukuba le ndaba iyakuphethelaphi, ngokuba leyo ndoda ayiyikuphumula ingakaqedi indaba namuhla.”

ISAHLUKO 4

UBowazi wenyukela esangweni, wahlala phansi khona; bheka, umhlengi akhuluma ngaye uBowazi, wadlula; wathi kuye: “We wena sibanibani, phambuka, uhlale lapha.” Waphambuka, wahlala phansi.

2 Wathatha amadoda ayishumi kuwo amalunga omuzi, wathi: “Hlalani phansi lapha.” Ahlala.

3 Wayesethi kuye umhlengi: “UNawomi obuyile ezweni lakwaMowabi uyathengisa ngesiqephu sezwe esasingesika-Elimeleki;

4 bengithi ngiyakukwambulela kuwe, ngithi: Lithenge phambi kwabahleziyo lapha naphambi kwamalunga abantu bakithi; uma ulithenga, lihlenge; kepha uma ungalithengi, ngitshele ukuba ngazi, ngokuba akakho ongalihlenga ngaphandle kwakho, mina ngisemva kwakho.” Wayesethi: “Ngiyakulihlenga.”

5 Wathi uBowazi: “Msukwana ulithenga izwe esandleni sikaNawomi, ulithenga nakuRuthe wakwaMowabi umkamufi ukuba ulivuse igama lofileyo efeni lakhe.”

6 Umhlengi wathi: “Anginakuzihlengela lona, funa ngone ifa lami; zihlengele wena, ngokuba anginakukuhlenga.”

7 Lokhu kwakunje ngokuhlenga nokwenana endulo kwa-Israyeli ukuba kuqiniswe izindaba zonke: umuntu wakhumula isicathulo sakhe, wasinika umakhelwane wakhe; lokho kwakungubufakazi kwa-Israyeli.

8 Umhlengi wayesethi kuBowazi: “Zithengele.” Wakhumula isicathulo sakhe.

9 UBowazi wayesethi kumalunga nakubantu bonke: “Ningofakazi namuhla ukuthi ngithengile konke okwakungokuka-Elimeleki, nakho konke okwakungokukaKiliyoni nokukaMahaloni esandleni sikaNawomi.

10 NoRuthe wakwaMowabi umkaMahaloni ngimthengile abe ngumkami ukuvusa igama lofileyo efeni lakhe ukuba igama lofileyo linganqunywa phakathi kwabafowabo nasesangweni lendawo yakhe; nina ningofakazi namuhla.”

11 Bonke abantu ababesangweni namalunga bathi: “Singofakazi; uJehova makenze lowo wesifazane ongene endlini yakho abe njengoRaheli noLeya abakha bobabili indlu yakwa-Israyeli, ucebe e-Efratha, ube nodumo eBetlehem;

12 indlu yakho mayibe njengendlu kaPheresi uTamari amzalela uJuda ngenzalo uJehova ayakukunika yona ngale ntombazana.”

13 UBowazi wayesemthatha uRuthe, waba ngumkakhe; wangena kuye; uJehova wamnika ukuba akhulelwe; wazala indodana.

- ¹⁴ Abesifazane bathi kuNawomi: “Makabusiswe uJehova ongakushiyanga namuhla ungenamhlengi; igama lakhe malidume kwa-Israyeli.
- ¹⁵ Uyakuba ngumbuyisi wokuphila kuwe, nomondli ebudaleni bakho, ngokuba umalokazana wakho okuthandayo, omuhle kuwe kunamadodana ayisikhombisa umzele.”
- ¹⁶ UNawomi wamthatha umntwana, wamgona esifubeni sakhe, waba ngumzanyana wakhe.
- ¹⁷ Abesifazane abakhelene naye bametha igama, bathi: “Kuzelwe indodana kuNawomi.” Baqamba igama lakhe ngokuthi u-Obede; yena unguyise kaJese, uyise kaDavide.
- ¹⁸ Nazi izizukulwane zikaPheresi: uPheresi wazala uHesironi;
- ¹⁹ uHesironi wazala uRamu; uRamu wazala u-Aminadaba;
- ²⁰ u-Aminadaba wazala uNaheshoni; uNaheshoni wazala uSalimoni;
- ²¹ uSalimoni wazala uBowazi; uBowazi wazala u-Obede;
- ²² u-Obede wazala uJese; uJese wazala uDavide.

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