

## Ruth 4 “Naomi and Ruth’s redemption”

**God makes beautiful things out of the dust!** He has been working behind the scenes. He will show Himself **STRONG** on behalf of two widows who lost everything.

Ruth challenged Boaz to fulfill his role as goel and marry her. It has been his desire from the beginning but he couldn't make the first move because there was another who was a closer relative. What is Boaz gonna do? What is the nearer kinsman gonna do?

Boaz says to Ruth... “YOU are a bride worth winning.”

**JESUS SAYS “YOU ARE A BRIDE WORTH DYING FOR!”** **PRay**

**Chapter 4 verse 1** Now Boaz went up to the **GATE** and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by.

The **GATE** of the city was always the place where the esteemed and honorable men of the city sat. For an ancient city in Israel it was a combination of a **city council chamber** and a **courtroom**.

**AS HUEY POINTS OUT;** “The city gate was “A kind of outdoor court, the place where judicial matters were resolved by the elders and those who had earned the confidence and respect of the people . . . a place for business and as a kind of forum or public meeting place.”

Boaz was obviously a wealthy landowner, but he also sits at the city gate, which implies that he could have been **MAYOR OF THE CITY**. When Boaz asks this man to sit down, he does so without question.

So Boaz said, “Come aside, friend, sit down here.” So he came aside and sat down. **Remember, coincidence is not a “kosher” word!** **Albert Einstein - “Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous.”**

**WHY NOT MENTION THE NEARER KINSMAN'S NAME?** “Doubtless Boaz both knew his name. Small village everyone knows each other. The Hebrew is written in such a way that the writer did not want us to know.

**ONE...** did we really need to know it?

**TWO...** one man said, "a just punishment upon him, that he who would not preserve his brother's name might lose his own, and lie buried in the grave of perpetual oblivion."

<sup>2</sup> And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down, **CLEARLY THIS WAS A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE TO BOAZ.** <sup>3</sup> Then he said to the close relative, **(again, nameless)** "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which *belonged* to our brother Elimelech.

**When Israel** came into the Promised Land during the days of Joshua, the land was *divided among the tribes* and then among the family groups. God intended that the land stay within those tribes and family groups, so the land could **never permanently** be sold. Every 50 years, (year of jubilee) it had be returned to the original family group (Leviticus 25:8-17)

But **50** years is a long time. So God made provision for land that was "sold," that it might be redeemed back to the family by the kinsman-redeemer.

<sup>4</sup> And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy *it* back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem *it*, redeem *it*; but if you will not redeem *it*, then tell me, that I may know; for *there is* no one but you to redeem *it*, and I *am* next after you.'"

And he said, "I will redeem *it*."

**property** – I love property... yes, I will do it.

Certainly Ruth and Naomi were watching and listening. How their hearts must have sunk when they heard the nearer kinsman say, "**I will redeem it.**" They heard from his own lips that he would exercise his right as kinsman-redeemer, and that meant that he would gain not only the property in question, but also marry Ruth - instead of Boaz.

**Boaz a Jewish new York lawyer...** He knew what he was doing!

**Boaz says, "have I got a deal for you!" response, "deal, I'll take it." FINE PRINT... Terms and conditions apply... gives him the fine print.**

**Verse 5...** Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy *it* from Ruth the **MOABITRESS**, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."

No you don't have to marry Naomi and give her children to perpetuate the name but Ruth is another matter.

**This was a package deal.** If someone was going to exercise the right of kinsman-redeemer towards the deceased Elimelech, he had to fulfill the duty in regard to **BOTH** the property and the posterity.

According to Deuteronomy 25, the *goel*—the nearer kinsman—not only had the right to redeem the property, but an **obligation** to take care of the family. If the nearer kinsman refused to meet his responsibility to the family—in this case, if he refused to marry Ruth—**the Law said he was to be spat upon**. Then his shoe was to be removed from his foot, signifying that he was walking away from his responsibility

**METAPHORICALLY**, the "nearer kinsman" represents the Mosaic Law.

- he's nameless.
- The Law could not redeem us. It was *impossible* for the Law to redeem us. **Rom 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.
- The Law was never given to be a redeemer.
- The Law was given to reveal man's true condition.

**Paul calls it a ministry of condemnation** (2 Cor 3:9) **And a ministry of death** (2 Cor 3:7). The Law was never a savior. The Law actually condemned us rather than saved us.

**SPIRITUAL PARALLEL... COURSON...** "Although we initially think the Law can save us through our good works, we realize in the end that it cannot redeem. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul writes that the strength of sin is in the Law. The more you read the Law, study the Law, and know the Law—the more you realize that the Law is not your redeemer. **It's your condemner**. The Law points out your weaknesses, your failings, and your flaws."

<sup>6</sup> And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem *it* for myself, lest I ruin (**destroy**) my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem *it*."

<sup>7</sup> Now this *was the custom* in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave *it* to the other, and this *was* a confirmation in Israel.

Deals off... don't want to split my inheritance with another family. Also, no doubt, the man was married - and knew it would be awkward (at best!) to bring home Ruth (the **MOABITRESS**) as wife number two. Bottom line it was more about money than anything else. Money, money money. Whoever this guy was his name passes without any legacy.

### **BIBLICALLY, THE SHOE ALWAYS REFERS TO POSSESSION.**

Now, think with me: The true Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who came to redeem all of mankind, had His heel nailed to a Cross, and was spat in the face. Thus, although they didn't know it consciously, Scripturally what Israel said was, "You will not be our *goel*. We spit in Your face. We take off Your shoe. We will not have You rule over us."

Today, if you have not acknowledged Jesus as your Redeemer, you, too, have taken off His shoe. You have spat in the face of the One who died for you and wants to live inside you. Your rejection of Him is the greatest insult that could ever take place. It's called the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, and it is the one sin which is eternally unforgivable (Matthew 12:31).

<sup>8</sup> Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy *it* for yourself." **So he took off his sandal.** HE GOT OFF WITHOUT THE SPITTING IN THE FACE PART...

**So he took off his sandal.** ONE IDEA IS THIS... SANDAL WAS A **PROOF** document with your fingerprint on it, in this case your **foot**print was on it. The very sandal... leather leaves an imprint of your foot. Just produce it and prove the transaction occurred. Plus this was done in the presence of witnesses.

<sup>9</sup> And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You *are* witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi.

Boaz stepped up and said, "Since the nearer kinsman cannot redeem, I will!" **I'll Redeem the land... but I get the bride... Jesus did it all to obtain His bride... US!**

- Jesus alone has the **right to redemption**. Rules and regulations do not, will not, and cannot.
- Jesus alone has the **resource for redemption**. He purchased us with the richness of the blood that flowed through His veins and onto the ground at Calvary.
- Jesus alone has a **reason for redemption**. It is His grace, his undeserved, unmerited, unearned favor which brings us into His family.
- Finally, Jesus alone gives us **rest in redemption**.

<sup>10</sup> Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You *are* witnesses this day." **Not afraid to proclaim that Ruth would be his wife. Jesus brings us all in as well.**

**Galatians 3:28** There is **neither Jew** nor Greek, there is **neither** slave nor free, there is **neither** male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (**Colossians 3:11**)

<sup>11</sup> And all the people who *were* at the gate, and the elders, said, "We *are* witnesses.

**SIDE NOTE... You are witnesses this day:**

**Baptism**... public confession!

**Baby Dedication**... public proclamation

**Marriage ceremony**... This explains why a marriage ceremony is important, and why it should be recognized by the civil authorities. Boaz had a love for Ruth that was public, a love that wanted to be publicly witnessed and registered.

**Sometimes, people wonder** why a marriage ceremony or a marriage license is important. **“CAN’T WE JUST BE MARRIED BEFORE GOD?”** But there is something severely lacking in a love that doesn’t want to proclaim itself; that does not want witnesses; and that does not want the bond to be recognized by the civil authorities. That love falls short of true marital love.

**Titus 3:1** Remind **them** to be subject to rulers and **authorities**, to **obey**, to be ready for every good work. **REQUIRED TO HAVE A LICENSE.**

**Starting verse 11 again** And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, *“We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, **These two had 13 children between them, and were the “mothers” of the whole nation of Israel.** like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. **No longer is Ruth a stranger. Never again is she called a Moabitess because now she has been absorbed in the covering of Boaz, her kinsman redeemer.**”*<sup>12</sup> May your house be like the house of Perez, whom **Tamar** bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman.”

**Tamar** is the first of **5** women in the genealogy of Christ as we have it in Matthew 1. **There is Tamar verse 3; Rehab verse 5; Ruth verse 5; Bathsheba verse 6; and Mary verse 16.** Notably absent are the great mothers of Israel: Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel. Why only the four, and then Mary? **First, all four of Mary’s predecessors were Gentiles.** Tamar and Rahab were Canaanites, Ruth was a Moabitess, and Bathsheba was a Hittite. **Thus Tamar and company declare that in Christ there is hope for the Gentile nations.**

This is why when Jesus’ parents took him to the temple, Simeon swept the baby up in his arms and said in Luke 2 verses 29-32 *“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;”*<sup>30</sup> *For my eyes have seen Your salvation”*<sup>31</sup> *Which You have prepared before the face of **all peoples,***<sup>32</sup> *A light to bring revelation to the **Gentiles,** And the glory of Your people Israel.”*

**Prophetic foreshadowing of how all will one day be welcomed into the family of God. No longer Jew or Gentile... Salvation is available to all.**



<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. **10 YEARS WITH MAHLON. NEVER A CHILD HONEYMOON NIGHT BAM!**

<sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, **"BLESSED BE THE LORD"**, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!

If you're having a difficult time praising and worshiping, if you feel far removed from **JUDAH, THE PLACE OF PRAISE**—it could be because you're not dwelling in **BETHLEHEM THE HOUSE OF BREAD** the Word of God.

as the prophet Isaiah says, He makes **beauty** for **ashes**, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Is. 61:3 God is in the business of making sweet the sour of life, of turning ugly monochrome into **TECHNICOLOR**.

No life insurance; no social security; no medical; it doesn't get much worse for a woman in this part of history.

1. Remarry
2. Slavery
3. Prostitution

The road back to God is sometimes hard and humbling... Naomi will take this road... how humble... how broken she must be. [Psalm 147:3](#) He heals the **brokenhearted** And binds up their wounds. **If she never takes this road...**

[Verse 14 again](#)... Then the women said to Naomi, **"BLESSED BE THE LORD"**, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!

[verse 15...](#) And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." **ONE WOMAN BETTER THAN 7 SONS... really? REALLY! 7** being the number of perfection. **Prophetic**... Out of Ruth's line would come the **PERFECT ONE**... The perfect Lamb of God that would save us from our sins.

<sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. <sup>17</sup> Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David. **AND THEY LIVED HAPPY EVERAFTER!**

<sup>18</sup> Now this *is* the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; <sup>19</sup> Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; <sup>20</sup> Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; <sup>21</sup> Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; <sup>22</sup> Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

- **Chapter 1:** Ruth doesn't even know that Boaz exists.
- **Chapter 2:** Ruth is a poor laborer, gleaning in the field of Boaz. To her, Boaz is only a mighty man of wealth who shows kindness to her.
- **Chapter 3:** Ruth places herself at Boaz's feet demanding redemption.
- **Chapter 4:** **Ruth is no longer a poor gleaner, for now she has Boaz, and everything he owns belongs to her.**

Too many of God's people are content to live in Chapter 2, picking up the leftovers and doing the best they can in their difficult situation.

**Don't get just enough of Jesus to make you miserable!**

**The father of David:** Naomi's return to Bethlehem, and the roots of David in Bethlehem, going back to Ruth and Boaz, are why Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem to register in the census of Augustus ([Luke 2:1-5](#)). Ruth and Boaz are the reason why Jesus was born in Bethlehem!

**Boaz:** Naomi and Ruth's kinsmen redeemer

**Jesus Christ:** Our glorious Kinsmen redeemer

**The kinsman-redeemer** had to be a family member; Jesus added humanity to His eternal deity so He could be our kinsman and save us.

**The kinsman-redeemer** had the duty of buying family members out of slavery; Jesus redeemed us from slavery to sin and death.

**The kinsman-redeemer** had the duty of buying back land that had been forfeited; Jesus will redeem the earth that mankind "sold" over to Satan.



Boaz, as kinsman-redeemer to Ruth, was not motivated by self-interest, but motivated by love for Ruth. Jesus' motivation for redeeming us is His great love for us.

Boaz, as kinsman-redeemer to Ruth, had to have a plan to redeem Ruth unto himself - and some might have thought the plan to be foolish. Jesus has a plan to redeem us, and some might think the plan foolish (saving men by dying for them on a cruel cross?), yet the plan works and is glorious.

Boaz, as kinsman-redeemer to Ruth, took her as his bride; the people Jesus has redeemed are collectively called His bride (Ephesians 5:31-32; Revelation 21:9).

Boaz, as kinsman-redeemer to Ruth, provided a glorious destiny for Ruth. Jesus, as our redeemer, provides a glorious destiny for us. Amen!

But it all comes back to the idea of Jesus as our *kinsman-redeemer*; this is why He became a man. God might have sent an angel to save us, but the angel would not have been our *kinsman*. Jesus, in His eternal glory, without the addition of humanity to His divine nature might have saved us, but He would not have been our *kinsman*. A great prophet or priest would be our kinsman, but his own sin would have disqualified him as our *redeemer*. Only Jesus, the eternal God who added humanity to His eternal deity, can be both the *kinsman* and the *redeemer* for mankind!

**GOD FORMED US, SIN DEFORMED US, CHRIST  
TRANSFORMED US!**