

Ruth Part 5: "Hold Fast to the Promise" (10-15-2017)

Intro to the Study of Ruth: The 4 short chapters of Ruth will take us throughout the scripture – it's 1 complete story all pointing to Jesus and every detail matters and speaks of Him.

Hebrews 10:23 (ESV)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Review: First 2 weeks: Hold Fast to the King & His People / Last 2 weeks: Hold Fast to His Grace & Rest

Ruth 3:16-18 (ESV)

(16) And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, (17) saying, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" (18) She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."

This Week: Hold Fast to the Promise (The whole message is about 1 verse, but we won't get there till the end)

Ruth 4:1-10 (ESV)

(1) Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. (2) And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. (3) Then he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. (4) So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "I will redeem it." (5) Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance." (6) Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it." (7) Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. (8) So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal. (9) Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. (10) Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."

- Boaz to the nearer-kinsman: redeem the land or allow me to
- Nearer-kinsman: wants the land
- Nearer-kinsman: doesn't want Ruth. Why?

Ruth 4:5 (ESV)

Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the **Moabite**, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in **his inheritance**."

- She is a Gentile
- Her 1st Son receives all the inheritance. So, he spends money, to give it away, & he can't afford it

Ruth 4:6-8 (ESV)

(6) Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it." (7) Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. (8) So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal.

Note: The passing of the **sandal** symbolized Boaz's right to walk on the land as his **property**.

But the sandal symbolizes a lot more in this story, this nearer kinsman is in a desperate spot . . .

Levirate Marriage**Deuteronomy 25:5-10 (ESV)**

(5) "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. (6) And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. (7) And if the man does not wish to take his brother's wife, then his brother's wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to perpetuate his brother's name in Israel; he will not perform the duty of a husband's brother to me.' (8) Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him, and if he persists, saying, 'I do not wish to take her,' (9) then his brother's wife shall go up to him in the presence of the elders and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face. And she shall answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.' (10) And the name of his house shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal pulled off.'

Note: The nearer redeemer was in a lose-lose situation – shame & disgrace if he took a gentile and gave up his inheritance to her son, and shame and disgrace if he refused to redeem.

But Boaz removes the shame and fulfills the obligation – He redeems what isn't wanted (Ruth), and pays for what the kinsman can't afford (Land that will be given away, to a son who won't bear his name).

Boaz covers Naomi (the woman who gave up her land to run away)

Boaz covers the Near-Kinsman (the man who didn't want Ruth, and couldn't afford to redeem)

Boaz takes Ruth (the un-wanted gentile bride)

Boaz will take the Land & the Bride . . . Why will he take a gentile bride?

We see some of Boaz history in the last few verses of chapter 4 (verse 21) – Salmon fathered Boaz

But to see the full story of his lineage, we have to look a little more . . .

Matthew 1:5 (ESV)

and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab . . .

Note: Boaz takes Ruth the Gentile, because He is half-gentile too!

To understand the significance of this sandal exchange, and the power of covenant, let's quickly review another story that has an important lesson . . .

God's Covenant with Abram (Abraham) – it's about land & children . . .

Genesis 15:6 (ESV)

And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:8-12 (ESV)

(8) But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" (9) He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." (10) And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. (11) And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. (12) As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.

Note: Biblical covenant – the 2 parties made a vow to each other, then they walked through the sacrifices together (think figure 8) trampling the blood and symbolizing this is what we will do to the other if they don't fulfill their part of the bargain!!

Now Abram is cutting up these animals & fending off the vultures and he is realizing the weight of what he is doing & who he is making a covenant with . . . **"and behold a dreadful and great darkness fell upon him"**

Side Note: Then God declares the promise and what is to come including . . . Abraham's life, future generations, the 400 years of slavery in Egypt, the taking of the promised land, and the Amorites receiving hundreds of years till then to repent.

Genesis 15:17 (ESV)

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

Note: Then God walks the covenant himself. And maps out the land that will be for Abraham & his descendants forever. God plans to keep the covenant himself. He is the one swearing the blood-oath. Abram can't!

Compare to Our Story today . . .

Boaz (in the place of Jesus)

Naomi & the Land (Israel)

Ruth (Gentile Bride)

Redemption in the NT

Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV)

(4) But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (5) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (6) And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (7) So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (ESV)

(21) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Note: In the person of Jesus is **Jew**, **Gentile**, and **God** most High!

And so He purchases for us . . .

Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

Note: He is rich enough to pay the price for our "Trespasses"

Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV)

(13) He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, (14) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Note: He has redeemed us from darkness (think Abram & the dread of what he couldn't do), and moved us into a new kingdom!

We are the bride, or put another way, we are the treasure of this story . . .

Matthew 13:44 (ESV)

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Homework: Isaiah chapters 52-53

Isaiah 52:7-9 (ESV)

(7) How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (8) The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. (9) Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.