

## **Ruth 4 - Redeeming for a King** a study for the College and Career/ Young Families Sunday School class at Gulf Coast Baptist Church by Steve Thomas 8/25/24

### **Introduction**

Having proposed to Boaz, Ruth with Naomi awaited the results of the matter. Boaz approached the near kinsman and presents a business proposition. Boaz continued to show his quality and stood out from the men of Bethlehem. The couple received a blessing from the people of Bethlehem, who were impressed with Ruth's determination to honor her mother-in-law and also with the kindness and moral center of Boaz.

### **The Business Meeting**

Boaz pulled the near kinsman of Naomi aside along with 10 witnesses from the city. Boaz offered to this man the property for sale from Naomi. At first the man accepts the offer, but at this time Boaz adds the stipulation that Ruth must be taken for a wife, meaning that the land would pass to the child of Ruth. The man is willing to take the risk of assuming the property, but is unwilling to marry Ruth. Acquiring land after the famine is risky enough, especially when the property would not remain in the man's family, but would pass to this new child. With the added stipulation, the near kinsman rejects Boaz's offer of marriage to Ruth, nullifying the entire deal. The man does not want to "mar" (spoil, ruin, destroy) his own inheritance. The risk of allowing the property to pass to a Moabitess and her son is not worth it to this man.

At this point, Boaz offers to step in himself, buying Naomi's property and agreeing to marry Ruth. To seal the deal, and to mark the agreement in front of witnesses, the near kinsman draws off his shoe, a tradition for land purchases, and gives it to Boaz. This tradition signifies the land that the shoe walks on will now belong to Boaz.

### **The Blessing of the People**

The people then bless Boaz, Ruth, and their future children. They are impressed with Ruth's kind heart and Boaz's honorable behavior. The crowd compares them to the women and men of the past who made the nation of Israel and the tribe of Judah great (Ruth 4:11–12).

God blesses the honorable Boaz and Ruth. He allows Ruth to present Naomi with a son. The women of the city give praise to God and to Ruth. Naomi is content. The narrator reveals that this son, Obed, is more than a long-wanted child or a landowner in Bethlehem: he becomes the grandfather of King David (Ruth 4:13–17).

To emphasize the significance of these events, the author presents the genealogy of Israel's great king, David. This line begins with Perez, one of the twin sons born after Tamar assumed her legal rights by tricking her father-in-law into a levirate marriage (Genesis 38). It passes through Nahshon, the leader of the tribe of Judah during the exodus (Numbers 2:3). Two generations later is Boaz, who welcomed a levirate marriage with Ruth. And it ends with David, Israel's greatest king (Ruth 4:18–22).

## **Conclusion**

God uses broken things to show His strength and care of His people. The tragedy of Tamar/Judah, Rahab, and now Ruth is some of the hardest situations people had to go through. For God to allow Ruth to be the great-grandmother to the greatest king in Israel's history is mercy personified. Naomi who endures tremendous tragedy, finds solace in a daughter-in-law who is dedicated to her, her people, and to God. God blesses this dedication with security, wealth, and honor.