

RUTH

THE GOD OF SECOND CHANCES



Ruth: The God of Second Chances | “Promise Keeping”

Ruth 4:1-22

I forgot to show up to KWAVE's Come Together Live two weeks ago...→Integrity/Promise Keeper Quote Quote

→Summary: We often make promises we fail at keeping. Sometimes we forget, don't put it in our calendar, are unprepared, over-promise, have no plan, have no discipline, or we stop caring. Eventually, people stop relying on us! So, how can we be the type of men and women that keep our promises? We must be willing to pay the cost, trust God with what we can't control, and remember that God has a bigger plan in mind. God fulfills His promises through Jesus!

→How can we be a promise keeper?→Ruth 4:1-22

Graphic→One last important detail remains in the official redemption of Ruth & Naomi. Boaz must keep His promise! The only problem is there is a family redeemer with first right of refusal. So Boaz must call the elders of the community together and a decision must be made regarding the land, the line, and future of Elimelech's estate, wife, and daughter-in-law, Ruth. Will Boaz keep his promise?

Ruth 4:1-22: *4 Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, “Come over here, my friend, and sit down.” So he went over and sat down.*

2 Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so. 3 Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. 4 I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.”

“I will redeem it,” he said.

5 Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.”

6 At this, the guardian-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.”

7 (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

8 So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal.

9 Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. 10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!”

The land is redeemed.→Land isn't free. Friends, redemption is NEVER free.→**Pay the cost! Control what we can.**

- The land situation in Israel. → Gō' ēl Law (Property/Redeemer): Lev. 25:24-28 → Proverbs 25:19 → OUR PART!
- Ruth will have provision because Boaz, the family redeemer PAYS THE COST. → The other guy WON'T PAY!
 1. He was a well respected man in the community who followed God's Laws.
 2. He operated his business through God's eyes and helped people.
 3. He protected and provided for a defenseless immigrant widow, Ruth, & treated her honorably.
 4. He PAID THE COST to provide/protect Ruth (+Naomi).
- FORGET PROMISES... trust people who have already delivered the goods! Talk is cheap! → Name that song!
 - Dating is to prove someone's reliability, commitment, & character.
 - If they don't deliver now... they won't deliver later.

→ TRANSITION: Boaz redeems the land & provides for Naomi... bc Boaz PAID THE COST!

11 Then the elders and all the people standing in the gate replied, "We are witnesses! May the Lord make this woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, from whom all the nation of Israel descended! May you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. 12 And may the Lord give you descendants by this young woman who will be like those of our ancestor Perez, the son of Tamar and Judah."

13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. 14 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! 15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

16 Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. 17 The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

The line is redeemed. → No retirement plan in Israel. Your kids took care of you! → **Trust God with what we can't control!**

- The community of witnesses blesses Ruth and Naomi. A son, Obed, is born! → Meaning: "servant" (David's grandpa)
- Levirate Law (Progeny/Marriage): Deut. 25:5-10 → God used Boaz to restore Elimelech's line.
- Pastoring a couple through infertility... 4 miscarriages... to 4 kids... → GOD'S PART!
 - We listen. We walk with people through pain.
 - We pray... and ask God do to what we cannot.
 - We trust that God is working out the things we don't understand.

→ TRANSITION: The land is redeemed. The line is redeemed. But there is a bigger storyline here...

18 This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, 19 Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, 20 Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, 21 Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, 22 Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

A Lord is revealed. → This story leads to King David. → **Remember... God has a bigger plan.**

- A Lord leads to THE LORD: Perez (Mom: Tamar/Dad: Judah) Salmon/Rahab to Boaz to David/Bathsheba to JESUS!
- Heseq: Ruth 1:8 (Naomi to daughters, of God), 2:20 (Naomi of Boaz), 3:20 (Boaz OF Ruth) → PURE KINDNESS!
- **Palm Sunday Pic** (Mt. 21:4-9): Jesus enters Jerusalem with a triumphant chorus of praise and palm branches:
 - The palm branches signified, "OUR KING IS VICTORIOUS!" → Elimelech = "My God is King."
 - God promises to redeem us... to PAY THE COST of our sin. → Heseq... PURE KINDNESS!
 - We want God to answer our prayers OUR WAY... but God redeems us HIS WAY. → THE ONLY WAY!
- We expect God to deliver on a whole bunch of promises that He has never promised:
 - God doesn't promise marriage. → Jesus, Himself, wasn't married.
 - God doesn't promise kids. → Jesus had no kids.
 - God doesn't promise a fulfilling career. → Jesus died on a cross.
 - God doesn't promise perfect health. → Jesus died an early death.
- **God's PART: He doesn't promise a "happily ever after" on Earth... so what DOES He promise?!**
 - **We can Know God** → because of Jesus!
 - **We can Find Freedom** → in Jesus!
 - **We can Discover Purpose** → through Jesus!
 - **We can Make a Difference** → with Jesus!
 - **His death and resurrection prove his ability to REDEEM PEOPLE and fulfill these promises!**
- Disappointed... but hopeful. Why? God promises to redeem people... and fulfills that promise through Jesus!
- Promise Keepers Founder: Coach Bill McCartney who now has dementia / alzheimers.
- VISION: EASTER! → Prayer: Lord, help us be people who redeem because you have redeemed us!

→ TRANSITION: God promises to redeem people!

→ **God promises to redeem people and fulfills that promise through Jesus!**

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Has someone ever broken an important promise to me? What happened?
2. Who has been a person of integrity, reliability, & character in my life? How have they influenced me?
3. How did God use Boaz to redeem Naomi & Ruth? How did his character come into play?
4. How does the way Boaz redeems Ruth and Naomi lead to the bigger redemption story through Jesus?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help me to be part of the redemption process of others as you have redeemed us!"

VIDEOS / GRAPHICS:

- Bible Project "Ruth" Graphic: [Click HERE to download.](#)
- Bible Project "Ruth" Video Summary: [Click here to watch on Youtube](#) or watch below.



QUOTES:

- "If you want to take the meaning of the word integrity and reduce it to its simplest terms, you'd conclude that a man of integrity is a promise keeper. When he gives you his word. You can take it to the bank. His word is good." - **Bill McCartney**

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **Proverbs 25:19** - Putting confidence in an unreliable person in times of trouble is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot.
- **Gō' ēl Law(Property/Redeemer): Leviticus 25:24-28** - 24 "With every purchase of land you must grant the seller the right to buy it back. 25 If one of your fellow Israelites falls into poverty and is forced to sell some family land, then a close relative should buy it back for him. 26 If there is no close relative to buy the land, but the person who sold it gets enough money to buy it back, 27 he then has the right to redeem it from the one who bought it. The price of the land will be discounted according to the number of years until the next Year of Jubilee. In this way the original owner can then return to the land. 28 But if the original owner cannot afford to buy back the land, it will remain with the new owner until the next Year of Jubilee. In the jubilee year, the land must be returned to the original owners so they can return to their family land.
- **Levirate Law (Progeny/Marriage): Deuteronomy 25:5-10** 5 "If two brothers are living together on the same property and one of them dies without a son, his widow may not be married to anyone from outside the family. Instead, her husband's brother should marry her and have intercourse with her to fulfill the duties of a brother-in-law. 6 The first son she bears to him will be considered the son of the dead brother, so that his name will not be forgotten in Israel. 7 "But if the man refuses to marry his brother's widow, she must go to the town gate and say to the elders assembled there, 'My husband's brother refuses to preserve his brother's name in Israel—he refuses to fulfill the duties of a brother-in-law by marrying me.' 8 The elders of the town will then summon him and talk with him. If he still refuses and says, 'I don't want to marry her,' 9 the widow must walk over to him in the presence of the elders, pull his sandal from his foot, and spit in his face. Then she must declare, 'This is what happens to a man who refuses to provide his brother with children.' 10 Ever afterward in Israel his family will be referred to as 'the family of the man whose sandal was pulled off!'"
- **Matthew 21:4-9** - 4 This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said, 5 "Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt.'" 6 The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it. 8 Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!"

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