

## Ruth Chapter 4

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### Review:

1. Naomi, recognizing Boaz as their kinsmen redeemer, and acknowledging Boaz's overtures towards Ruth instructs Ruth in what to do.
  2. During the threshing of the Barley harvest, she goes to the threshing floor after the work is done and everyone is asleep and lies down at the feet of Boaz. She uncovers his feet and waits.
  3. When Boaz awakes to find Ruth at his feet, she asks him to "cover her" – symbolically she's asking him to take on the role of the kinsmen redeemer, which he gladly agrees to, he's already considered it but he must settle things first with one who is a nearer kinsman.
  4. Boaz blesses Ruth with 6 measures of grain and sends her home to Naomi to wait and see what will happen – which is where we pick up the story.
- This book begins with 3 funerals; and it ends with an overflow of joy as Boaz and Ruth are married and once again Naomi holds a baby son in her arms.
    - Sometimes God has to empty our hands before He can fill them again.

**Psalm 30:5** "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

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V: 1 The night before Ruth had asked Boaz to "9... **spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid...**"

- The very next morning we see Boaz moving towards that end.
- Going to the gate of the city – the place of authority, the place where official business was transacted, and to where the elders / witnesses would generally be gathered.
- By the providence of God the others nearer kinsmen "just happened" to come by who is then invited by Boaz to come and sit down.

V: 2 Boaz gathers 10 witnesses to "record" the event so that there would be no disputing it in the future.

**Deuteronomy 19:15** "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."

- 10 is the number of the law; it stands as a reminder that our Redeemer did not come to circumvent or abolish the law, but that He came to fulfill it.

**Matthew 5:17** “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

V: 3-4 Boaz explains the situation with Naomi having sold off her land – which actually her husband Elimelech had probably done prior to going to Moab some 10 years prior.

- Basically Boaz is suggesting that one of them initiate the right of redemption to bring the land back into the family of their kindred.
- Boaz admits that this other kinsmen has first dibs and that if he will redeem it then to do so, if not then he himself would do so.
- The un-named kinsmen then says he will redeem the land.

V: 5 As the un-named kinsmen indicates that he will redeem the land – which is all that he thinks he’s getting – Boaz informs him that it comes with a condition, that it’s a package deal which includes Ruth and the responsibility to raise up a son for the deceased husband.

V: 6 This information is a deal breaker for the kinsmen – he would take the land but not the bride.

- This would somehow mar his own inheritance; perhaps he already had another wife, but no children, or simply didn’t want to explain it to his wife... understandable.
- This nearer kinsman sought to protect both his name and his inheritance and in so doing is never named or heard from again.
- On the contrary, Boaz and his descendants are all heard from and seen throughout scripture from this point forward.

**1 John 2:17** “... he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

- The kinsmen then confers or forfeits the right of redemption to Boaz.
- In some ways this un-named kinsman represents the law – which could not redeem us either.

**Galatians 2:16** “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

V: 7-8 According to tradition, the man plucked off one of his shoes and gave it to Boaz as a sign of their agreement regarding the right of redemption.

- In the previous chapter it was significant when Ruth uncovered Boaz's feet.
- The traditional process here with the Levirate marriage involves the loosing of a shoe.
- What is the connection with the shoe? Shoes refer to possession of the land.

**Joshua 1:3** "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses."

**Joshua 3:13** "And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap."

V: 9-10 Boaz reminds the people present that they are witnesses to these events and declares his intentions:

1. Redeeming all that was Elimelech's and thereby his sons Chilion and Mahlon.
2. Redeeming their lands / inheritance.
3. Redeeming Ruth the wife of Mahlon to be his wife.
4. Intending to raise up seed, children, that the name of the dead be not forgotten or cut off from Israel.

V: 11 The witnesses acknowledge their role and go on to pronounce a blessing upon Boaz and Ruth.

- In seeking to bless Boaz and Ruth, they invoke the name of Rachel – Jacob's favorite wife who is buried in Ephrath, Bethlehem. **Genesis 35:19**
- May they be fruitful like Rachel & Leah – 8 / 12 sons and a nation.
- Ruth is no longer referred to as a stranger, no longer considered a Moabite; she's covered by her husband, Boaz, her kinsman redeemer.

V: 12 May they be like Pharez who was born of Tamar and Judah.

V: 13 Boaz took Ruth to be his wife and the Lord immediately blessed them with a son.

- Children are a blessing from the Lord.

**Psalms 127:3** "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward."

V: 14-15 Naomi is a recipient of that blessing: Referring to Obed, not Boaz.

- The Lord has not left you! He has not left you without a redeemer.

- He has restored your life; he will nourish you in your old age.
- Ruth your daughter in law is better than 7 sons!

V: 16-17 Naomi becomes a nursemaid to the child.

- Again the praise directed to the Lord – that through the redemption process, it is as though God has granted to Naomi another son.
- The son's name is "Obed", the father of "Jesse", the father of "David".
  1. Obed = "Serving"
  2. Jesse = "Man" or "Manly", "I possess".
  3. David = "Favorite" or "Beloved".

V: 18-22 Genealogy: From Judah and Tamar:

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|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Pharez    | Breach.                     |
| 2. Hezron    | Camping place / Reeds.      |
| 3. Ram       | High / exalted.             |
| 4. Amminadab | My people give freely.      |
| 5. Nashon    | Serpent.                    |
| 6. Salmon    | Coat.                       |
| 7. Boaz      | Lively, In him is strength. |
| 8. Obed      | Serving / Worshipper        |
| 9. Jesse     | Manly / I possess           |
| 10. David    | Beloved                     |

- 10 generations listed, why?

**Deuteronomy 23:2-3** <sup>2</sup>"A bastard / illegitimate child shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the Lord for ever."

- The same genealogy is described in the Gospel of Matthew, which when it is continued shows that Joseph was in the lineage of David – demonstrating a legal right to the throne of David. The same is demonstrated in Luke regarding Marry.
- The Kinsmen Redeemer. There was a law in Israel that if you were poor, and you sold your property, or you took a mortgage on it. If you sold a house in the city, within that gates of a city you could within a year redeem it; on property you could redeem it any time.

- In any event every 50 years all properties and persons were returned to their original owners, but in the mean time it could be redeemed. If perhaps you sold yourself into slavery, you could be a slave for 6 years, but in the 7<sup>th</sup> year the Hebrew slaves were to be set free, or in the mean time they too could be redeemed for the redemption price.
- The world originally belonged to God, He created it. God gave the world to man, when He placed Adam on the earth – He told Adam

**Genesis 1:28** “Have dominion over the earth, over the fish of the sea, the fowls of the air, over every moving and creeping thing, for I have given it unto you.”

- Adam in turn forfeited it to Satan, as we sit here – know that it belongs to Satan which is one of the reasons a lot of bad things happen.
- Satan is the god of this world, that is what Paul calls him; the world is under the power of darkness, under the power of Satan.
- Satan is ruling in this world, except in those persons who have committed themselves to the lordship of Jesus Christ.
- The purpose of Jesus coming to the earth was to redeem the world back to God.

Jesus said:

**Luke 19:10** “I’ve come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- Jesus came to redeem the world back to God, by paying the full redemption price, which was His death on the cross. The shedding of His blood was the price for this world.
- Like Boaz He didn’t just want the land, He wanted the bride that came with it, the church.
- The word “redemption” is used throughout the NT – relating to the blood of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.
- Even though Jesus has paid the price, He hasn’t taken possession of it yet. The world in a technical sense belongs to Jesus, but He hasn’t come to claim what is His just yet.

When we pray those words:

**Matthew 6:10** “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven...”

- In a sense we’re saying, Lord come set up your kingdom, throw Satan out of here! We desire a world that is ruled by righteousness, we want a world that is filled with the Love of God – but that won’t happen as long as Satan is the ruler of this world.

- As we've discussed, when the near kinsmen refused the Levirate marriage, refused to raise up children for his deceased brother; the woman was to remove one of his shoes, and spit in his face.
- Our Kinsmen Redeemer came to save us, to redeem us – but was soundly rejected at that time by the bride.
- How was this signified? They reversed everything.

**Isaiah 50:6** “I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.”

- “We reject you as our goel.” “We spit in your face.”
- You will not rule over us, we remove your shoe. They weren't content just to remove a shoe; they drove nails through his feet.

**Psalm 22:16** “... they pierced my hands and my feet.”

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- All of this if we do the same thing amounts to the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said:

**Matthew 12:31** “Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.”

- Rejecting the testimony of the Holy Spirit which testifies of Jesus – salvation through Jesus alone.
1. Jesus alone has the right to redemption, He became one of us just to redeem us.

**Hebrews 2:14-15** “<sup>14</sup>Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; <sup>15</sup>and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

2. Jesus alone has the resources for redemption – His blood.

**1 Peter 1:18-19** “<sup>18</sup>Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup>But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and with out spot.”

3. Jesus alone has the motive for redemption – His grace towards us, and His love.

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

**John 8:36** “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

Ref.Ruth.04