

Ruth Chapter 4

Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, 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 ye down here. And they sat down. ³ And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's: ⁴ And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it.

Boaz is fulfilling the Law in removing an obstacle for Ruth. He cannot handle this, but he can by contacting the closer relative. Refer to Deut 25: 5-10 and also Lev 25:25-26. This was a law in Israel to provide for the dead brother so that his name could continue. This allowed for property previously sold or lost to be redeemed and released back to the person; what was sold or given up was returned. The kinsman redeemer or goel didn't have to wait for the year of Jubilee. They could redeem it for you any time before that. Redeemer could buy back the land. This was a great option for poor people if they could find a redeemer.

Application for Today:

- Christ serves in the role as our kinsman redeemer who assumed our nature so that He might be our kinsman....He is the only one willing and able to redeem us and restore to us what was lost through sin.
- Our hope can be restored through the work of our redeemer. Proverbs 23:11 – ***For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.***

Verse 3 – Boaz tells the other relative that Naomi had some land which belonged to their relative Elimelech.

Verse 4 – Boaz invites this kin to take on the role of redeemer and asks him if he will redeem it. If not, then Boaz will perform it.

- Boaz can't redeem it because this kinsman came before him and is in front of him. He has to check with him first.
- This first kinsman says he will redeem it. This means he is willing to pay the price and purchase it. But there is a catch.

⁵ Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance. ⁶ And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it. ⁷ Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel. ⁸ Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

Verse 5 – Boaz then adds that in order to redeem it, he would also have to fulfill the other portion of the law as the kinsman redeemer. That means marrying Ruth and raising seed to continue the inheritance.

Verse 6 – The nearer Kinsman backs out of the deal and now doesn't want to redeem the land or Ruth. The reason, he says it will mess up his own inheritance. While he is protecting his interests on earth, he has missed out on a better and divine inheritance that we will see later in the chapter. Don't be that guy.

Verse 7 – 8 – He tells Boaz that he will get out of the way and that Boaz can buy or redeem it. He takes off his shoe to confirm his decision. This is outlined in Deut 25:7-10. The Law is being fulfilled.

⁹ And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

¹⁰ Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

¹¹ And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:

¹² And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman.

Verse 9 – Boaz speaks to the witnesses and redeems what was Elimelech's.

Verse 10 – Boaz redeems Ruth as well. He will raise up the name of the dead and keep Elimelech's name from being cut off.

Verse 11-12 – The witnesses concur and proclaim a blessing on Ruth and Boaz....may God make her prosper and be part of the foundation of Israel like Rachel and Leah and be famous in this tribe and in this town. The prophesy comes true as we are still talking about and celebrating Ruth today. The people speak faith and favor that greater blessings are ahead.

Application for Today:

- Boaz is not ashamed to declare to everyone that he is taking Ruth who is a foreigner as his bride. So to, Christ as our redeemer is not ashamed to declare us as friends, his people, or having us as the “bride of Christ”.
- Even though we have been foreigners under sin, our past and where we have come from doesn’t disqualify us from being redeemed.
- We have to take advantage in pursuing the great blessing, love and opportunity the Gospel provides us all. If we pursue after Boaz and follow the process Ruth has gone through, we too will be in position to receive God’s best. These steps (7 in all) include:
 - Humble submission to pursue and submit to Christ. Understanding that where you currently are, outside of the promised place, is not profitable.
 - Repent and change your mind about where you are. Ruth has a made up mind to not stay in Moab but instead travel to where God is moving and blessing.
 - New hope and new mind in a new place. Ruth moves physical location and spiritual location as she begins a season as a gleaner where she receives instructions and a promise from Boaz.
 - Cleansing and more favor as she receives further instructions for how to prepare to approach Boaz. This fourth step is representative of the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - Mercy. Ruth requests mercy from Boaz to come under his protection. He agrees so mercy is received. I see a picture of the Rapture and Christ coming to receive His bride.
 - Victory and Atonement. Ruth is not able to meet the challenges at this stage herself, so Boaz will take on this challenge for her. I see this as a picture of Christ’s return and future victory over our enemies. This would be a reference to the second coming of Christ. Ruth will enjoy victory through the work of Boaz. We too will enjoy victory with His return.
 - Season of joy and peace. In this chapter, we see Ruth and the people rejoice in the good fortune for Ruth and the joy in Boaz receiving his bride. I see this as a clear picture of Christ’s rule on the earth and a season of peace. You can see a similar reference in Genesis in the days of creation where Adam and Eve enjoy the seventh day of rest consistent with this seventh step.
- The believer doesn’t have to wait until Christ fulfills the end time prophesy. Just as Ruth goes through these process steps, the same process and outcome is available to us right now.
- We too can enjoy and experience His peace which surpasses all understanding.
- The story of Ruth is not just about her....it is for us and our application. He is our redeemer!

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.

Verse 13 – Boaz takes her and draws closer. The purpose was not just to be connected to her, but to draw even closer in relationship. When you get that close to Christ...something good will come out of it. Notice that God blessed her on purpose.

Application for Today:

- This journey is about relationship and our standing with God. Christians can have a long distance or carnal relationship....or a closer more spiritual relationship with God.
- God's best and desire is to have close fellowship with His people. There is a role and part in the process that we play by faith. If you do not know how to draw closer to God, simply follow the example of Ruth.
- Christ doesn't merely want us to be aware of Him, He becomes a part of us and it is the plan of God that we bear fruit and benefit the Kingdom.
- Think about it....God wants to use us and bless us in the same manner spiritually as Ruth. Along with this should be the physical manifestation of His presence in us.

¹⁴ And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. ¹⁵ And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. ¹⁶ And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it. ¹⁷ And the women her neighbours gave it 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.

¹⁸ Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron,

¹⁹ And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab,

²⁰ And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon,

²¹ And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed,

²² And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

Verse 14 – Now Naomi is set up for success....she gets to enjoy the blessings and reward. She is not left without a kinsman, redeemer, or bright future.

Verse 15 – The proclamation from the people who are rejoicing also is that this child will be a restorer of life even in her old age. Naomi gets to receive a blessing from her investment in Ruth and the benefit will be greater from this one son, than if she had seven other sons. This is a clear indication that Ruth is receiving God’s best and Naomi as a participant shares in this reward.

Verse 16 – Naomi was able to hold in this season...her best season, what she has never been able to hold before...a grandchild. She probably thought should would ever be able to recover from the losses she suffered while in Moab.

If you do this thing right, you can expect to see some things you never thought you would see and hold on to some things you never thought you would have held onto.

- What??? She lays the child in her bosom and becomes nurse to him. Wait a minute. She didn’t have the child, but she gets to enjoy the benefits. She enjoys a season that she never thought she would experience while she was in Moab (Moab = the wrong place or wrong decisions you made).

Verse 17 – They act like its Naomi’s son...look at how she is getting blessed. The child’s name is called Obed = serving or some say worshipped. Obed is Jesse’s dad which means he is King David’s granddad. Please take notice of this....Ruth, a foreigner who is very new to the faith, an outsider, is now redeemed and finds herself in the birth line of the future King of Israel. Jesus our great redeemer is in the line of David. Therefore, Ruth is also now in the line of Jesus. What favor and blessing and what a legacy she now has as a result of her great faith in leaving her past and faithfully waiting on and pursuing God’s best. The great redeemer our great king comes out of this blessing and this foundation....don’t you want a legacy like that?

Application for Today:

- Personally, as I have looked at the major characters in this story, I align myself and my ministry in this phase of life with Naomi. Naomi serves as a mentor in helping to show Ruth how to get in proper position and how to wait on the promises of God.
 - My motivation is not trying to be like Ruth, though I believe firmly that each of us have to go through the process steps outlined above. But in following these steps, my goal is to mentor and confirm the Word of God (just as Naomi confirmed the instructions Ruth received from Boaz).
 - If I can help someone reach a higher level of relationship with Christ and move in position to receive God’s best.....then like Naomi, I can enjoy and rejoice in what God will do in their lives.
 - There is a reward when you serve God and others in the Kingdom.
- Ruth lives out a level 7 blessing and this is something every believer should be able to experience by simply following the faithful example of Ruth. There is a reward and greatness at the end of this story.

John Courson notes:

- Naomi – a picture of Israel
- Naomi had to go in order for the new bride to be brought in.
- Ruth a picture of the church
- Moabites cursed through ten generations according to the law (Deut 23); Law shuts you out, grace lets you in. It is ten generations leading up to David.
- Boaz saw Ruth first; but he doesn't force himself on her...she has a decision and move to make. She washes (blood), anointed (Holy Spirit), clothed (righteousness)
- Naomi knows who Boaz is, but doesn't know where to find him.
- Ruth doesn't really know Boaz, but knows where to find him. So Jews and Gentiles will learn from each other. Need each other.
- Tribulation = threshing floor; Matt 25 – separation.
- Pentecost, when Jews and Gentiles are brought together.

Note: Ruth is typically read during the Feast of Pentecost which represents birth of the Church. The two leavened loaves of bread offered during this feast celebration can be representative of Jews and Gentiles being included.

Other Notes and Observations from J. Turner

- As Ruth comes under Boaz's wing for protection; by faith, we can exercise our rights by faith to pursue Jesus as our Kinsman Redeemer and come under his wing for protection.
- Two types of people saved; Naomi – a Jew, Ruth – a Gentile.
- Near kinsman couldn't redeem Ruth just as the Old Testament Law can't redeem us.
- Ruth is a book of clues designed to reveal to us the ultimate plan of God; also a clue to how you can have a happy ending and an expected end.
- While some may reject you, Jesus will take you in.
- Jesus ain't ashamed of you because of your condition or a bad record.
- Jesus can change your condition. Ruth wasn't accepted because of her condition, but Boaz turned her condition around.
- Some bad things in your life are about to be turned around.
- Ruth asked for protection and it took a while, but Boaz provided the breakthrough she needed. Instead of asking everybody else for help, maybe we just need to ask Jesus.
- Jesus always keeps his promises so don't be surprised....expect it to happen.
- The enemy wants you to think delay means denial. Just because you don't have it now doesn't mean it is not on the way.
- Impact of the crowd of believers; surround yourself with prayer warriors who pray for you to get blessed.
- Ruth wasn't satisfied in just knowing Boaz, she got closer. We need to get closer to Jesus.
- Ruth got what she asked for, but also received so much more. She received a child. This is something new that she had never experienced before.



- Conception is always the harvest you get by getting together with God.
- Ruth went through a lot. What you are able to handle will often determine what God gives you back.
- Something from God is about to come out and when you get it, you'll see it was worth the pain and trouble.
- Naomi was qualified to be blessed because she blessed Ruth.
- Your blessing may not always be just "stuff". Ruth received something better than just stuff. She had a good name and promise of fame.
- Stuff is nice, but being connected with Jesus is better.
- What other people think doesn't determine who you are; what God thinks about you is what really matters.
- Don't focus so much on your loss, focus more on what you gain in Jesus Christ.
- Your latter will be greater than your past.