

Ruth

Ruth's Reward of Redemption by Boaz

Boaz Marries Ruth

Ruth 4:1-2: Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there, and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz spoke was passing by, so he said, "Turn aside, friend, sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. 2 He took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. NASU

Boaz was a man of his word and a man of action; he did delay in fulfilling his commitment to Ruth. He immediately went to the gate of the city, which was the place of official business in the time – much like a courthouse today, and called upon the relative who had the first claim on the land of Namoi and the right and responsibility to marry Ruth. ***Deuteronomy 23:21-22; Psalms 40:17***

Deuteronomy 23:21-22: "When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you. 22 But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you. 23 That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.

Psalms 40:17: But I am poor and needy; yet the LORD thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.

The Law called for a minimum of two witnesses (Jesus, in Matthew, used the same standard when confronting a brother who had sinned). Boaz was a wise man, calling for ten men to be witnesses to his discussion with Naomi's closer relative. This would ensure whatever the decision or commitment that came from the discussion, there would be no chance for things to change after the fact. Later Judaism considered ten men as the quorum required for a synagogue. Ten also were required among the Jews for the marriage benediction. ***Deuteronomy 19:15; Matthew 18:15-16***

Deuteronomy 19:15 "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

Matthew 18:15-16: "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

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Ruth 4:3-4: Then he said to the closest relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the land of Moab, has to sell the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. 4 "So I thought to inform you, saying, "Buy it before those who are sitting here, and before the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if not, tell me that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am after you." And he said, "I will redeem it." NASU

Boaz wastes no time in telling his relative the situation and giving a bit of the background. To survive, *Naomi, who has come back from the land of Moab, has to sell the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.* Boaz tells his relative, that he, Boaz, felt it was important that he should know about the situation and Boaz expected the relative to act in accordance with the Law, and buy the land for Naomi. Boaz does add that should the man be unable or unwilling to perform his duty, Boaz will fulfill the responsibility.

Boaz also ensures the relative understands the man is speaking before witnesses and he will be making a commitment before the ten witnesses. Given or understanding only the financial responsibility, the relative agrees to fulfill his duty and pay the price, saying, *"I will redeem it." Ecclesiastics 5:4-7; Matthew 5:33-37*

Ecclesiastics 5:4-7: When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed - 5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. 6 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? 7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God.

Matthew 5:33-37: "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' 34 "But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

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Ruth 4:5-8: Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of the deceased, in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance." 6 The closest relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, because I would jeopardize my own inheritance. Redeem it for yourself; you may have my right of redemption, for I cannot redeem it." 7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning the redemption and the exchange of land to confirm any matter: a man removed his sandal and gave it to another; and this was the manner of attestation in Israel. 8 So the closest relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." And he removed his sandal. NASU

Boaz reminds the relative that on the day he purchases the land back to maintain the family heritage for Elimelech, he would have to fulfill the second part of the redemption, as required by the Law, he would have to take Ruth as his wife, and raise up a family in the name of Ruth's deceased husband, Mahlon. The idea of the name of a family in Israel going into extinction was reprehensible to Israelis. The plight of Naomi and Ruth deeply concerned the entire community. In Israel, land had been distributed by Moses based on family, making the challenges faced by Naomi and Ruth matters of significant community interest. *Matthew 13:44-46; Luke 14:25-33; Romans 8:18*

Matthew 13:44-46: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Luke 14:25-33: Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it-- 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

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The closer relative saw that in redeeming the land he would have no financial gain; he would be holding the land in trust for the son of Ruth. Once he found out the other stipulation associated with the transaction, he refused to fulfill his obligations. The Targum, an ancient Aramaic paraphrase or interpretation of the Hebrew Bible, suggests the man may have already been married. This could explain his change in attitude, but not relieve him of his responsibilities before God. But, in Boaz, we see the plans and purposes of God are never thwarted by man's actions or inactions. *Esther 4:10-14*

Esther 4:10-14: Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai: 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days." 12 They related Esther's words to Mordecai. 13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. 14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

Again, Boaz's character shines through; Boaz would not benefit from buying the land. But, because of his love for Ruth, he is willing to make the sacrifice. Again, we see a picture of Christ in Boaz, Who, because of His love for us, spared no expense in redeeming us from our sins and saving us from our names being blotted out. *John 10:11-13; Ephesians 2:4-6; 1 John 3:16-18*

John 10:11-13: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

Ephesians 2:4-6: But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

1 John 3:16-18: By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

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Is it not interesting how God does not provide the name of the nearer kinsman? God, by His grace and because of His love for the other relative, through His Spirit, withheld the name of the man. *Proverbs 10:12, 17:19, 18:12, 1 Corinthians 13:4, 7-8; 1 Peter 4:8*

Proverbs 10:12: Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions.

Proverbs 17:9: He who conceals a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

Proverbs 18:13: He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him. 1 Corinthians 13:4, 7-8: Love... bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails ...

1 Peter 4:8: Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Ruth 4:9-10: Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses today that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. 10 "Moreover, I have acquired Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, to be my wife in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance, so that the name of the deceased will not be cut off from his brothers or from the court of his birth place; you are witnesses today." NASU

Boaz accepts the decision of the relative and immediately executes his responsibility to redeem the land and Ruth. Boaz makes certain the witnesses hear and understand the decisions and commitments made by both men and states his intent to ensure there is no confusion or later accusations. *Genesis 38:6-8*

Genesis 38:6-8: Now Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. 7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD took his life. 8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife, and perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother."

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Ruth 4:11-12: All the people who were in the court, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel; and may you achieve wealth in Ephrathah and become famous in Bethlehem. 12 "Moreover, may your house be like the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah, through the offspring which the LORD will give you by this young woman." NASU

The witnesses acknowledge the agreement or covenant the two men made regarding the land of Elimelech and the marriage of Ruth. They then pronounced a blessing on Boaz, for his faithfulness, and Ruth and acknowledged God blesses those that obey Him and children are a blessing or gift from the Lord. *Genesis 22:15-18; Psalms 24:3-5; Proverbs 11:23-31; Luke 6:38; Galatians 6:7-10*

Genesis 22:15-18: Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16 and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Psalms 24:3-5: Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? and who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure - pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Galatians 6:7-10: Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

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Ruth Bears a Son, Obed

Ruth 4:13-16: So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went in to her. And the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed is the LORD who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel. 15 "May he also be to you a restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her lap, and became his nurse. NASU

The Book of Ruth focus on the events leading to the marriage of Boaz and Ruth and quickly closes after Boaz exercises his responsibility as the redeemer of Ruth (and Naomi). The Lord blessed Boaz and Ruth with at least one child, a son. The women of the city acknowledged God's blessing on Ruth and Naomi. God had provided Naomi a redeemer, retirement income, a faithful, loving daughter-in-law, and a grandchild. God is good! ***Job 42:12-17; Psalms 127:3-5; James 1:17***

Job 42:12-17: The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys. 13 He had seven sons and three daughters. ... 16 After this, Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons and his grandsons, four generations. 17 And Job died, an old man and full of days.

Psalms 127:3-5: Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. 5 How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; they will not be ashamed when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

James 1:17: Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

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Ruth is the Great-Grandmother of David

Ruth 4:17-22: The neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi!" So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David. 18 Now these are the generations of Perez: to Perez was born Hezron, 19 and to Hezron was born Ram, and to Ram, Amminadab, 20 and to Amminadab was born Nahshon, and to Nahshon, Salmon, 21 and to Salmon was born Boaz, and to Boaz, Obed, 22 and to Obed was born Jesse, and to Jesse, David. NASU

It seems at the time of Ruth, the women of the village were involved in naming the children; *Obed* means "worshiper," "servant," or "slave" as was often combined with the names of the God of Israel, as in *Obadiah*. The Bible contains the line of David in three ***other*** places and is important to the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ. ***1 Chronicles 2:9-15; Matthew 1:3-6; Luke 3:31-33***

1 Chronicles 2:9-15: Now the sons of Hezron, who were born to him were Jerahmeel, Ram and Chelubai. 10 Ram became the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, leader of the sons of Judah; 11 Nahshon became the father of Salma, Salma became the father of Boaz, 12 Boaz became the father of Obed, and Obed became the father of Jesse; 13 and Jesse became the father of Eliab his firstborn, then Abinadab the second, Shimea the third, 14 Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth, 15 Ozem the sixth, David the seventh

Matthew 1:3-6: Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. 4 Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon. 5 Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. 6 Jesse was the father of David the king. David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah.

Luke 3:31-33: the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, 32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, 33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,