

# Boaz the Redeemer

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

## Introduction:

A. Ruth 4:1-17

B. The book of Ruth begins with a series of tragedies:

1. Famine forced Elimelech and Naomi to move from Bethlehem to Moab
2. Elimelech dies and the sons do not have a father to negotiate wives for them from Israel, so they take foreign Moabite wives.
3. Then the sons die, leaving Naomi alone in a foreign land with two foreign daughter-in-law
4. Naomi returns home in grief, fear, poverty, and shame with a young woman that in that place and time was unmarriageable
5. With no husbands, it was impossible for Naomi and Ruth to reclaim the

family lands they left during the famine. When the children of Israel went in and possessed Canaan, the land was divided up among the twelve tribes. Within these allotments, the land was divided up by families. No man was allowed to sell his land outside his tribe. In financial difficulty, a man might be forced to mortgage his land. In this case, he lost all rights to the land until it had been redeemed by paying off the debt, or until the Year of Jubilee, when all debts were cancelled. This is essentially what happened to the land that belonged to Elimelech. Naomi and Ruth had no way of getting back the land that had belonged to their husbands.

C. This is the law of the kinsman-redeemer; he is a relative who protects the needy members of his extended family. There were three things that the Kinsman-Redeemer could redeem, or buy back.

1. A relative sold into slavery - Lev. 25:47-49
2. Preserve the lineage of the family by marrying the widow of a deceased relative and providing an heir to the family possessions - Deut. 25:5-6.
  - a. Called levirate marriage; children produced from such a union were considered offspring of the deceased man.
  - b. Become completely responsible for the woman and the children
3. Land that had been sold outside the family - Lev. 25:25.

D. Boaz is a near kinsman to Naomi's dead husband, and he becomes the Kinsman-Redeemer.

1. He restores their lives and future, illustrating the Great Redeemer Jesus
  - a. He had to be a near relative.
  - b. He had to be willing to redeem.
  - c. He had to be able to redeem.

## I. BOAZ HAD THE RIGHT TO REDEEM

A. Ruth 2:1, 20, 4:4 - Since he was a near kinsman, Boaz had every right to intervene for these women.

1. Jesus became our kinsman - John 1:1, 14; Heb. 2:14
2. Boaz knew who Ruth was - Ruth 2:5-6
3. He knew her past. He knew her condition. He knew what she had to offer. He knew about the curse on her people. However, he didn't care.

4. Boaz knew his own lineage - Ruth 4:21; Matt. 1:5
  - a. His mother was Rahab the harlot
5. Jesus had a harlot and a Moabite woman in His lineage - Heb. 4:15

## **II. BOAZ HAD THE RESOLVE TO REDEEM**

- A. Naomi and Ruth were powerless to redeem their land; they would have eventually dissipated or died. Boaz would know this.
  1. Jesus knew that we were powerless to redeem ourselves from our sins
    - a. Rom. 3:23, 6:23
- B. His desire for the task
  1. Boaz reacted with joy at the opportunity to redeem Ruth and her inheritance
  2. Jesus did not have to be forced to go to the cross - Isa. 53:7; Heb. 12:2
- C. His devotion to the task - Ruth 3:18
  1. Likewise with our Redeemer - Isa. 50:7; Luke 9:51
- D. His discharge of the task - Ruth 4:9 - Boaz stayed on task until completed.
  1. Ruth was no longer a widow doomed to a life of poverty. She was the wife of a honorable and wealthy man
  2. Jesus stayed on task - John 19:30; Mark 16:19

## **III. BOAZ HAD THE RESOURCES TO REDEEM**

- A. The resources to purchase Naomi and Ruth's property - Ruth 4:9
  1. He paid Naomi the price for all the land of her husband and sons. She would be financially cared for the rest of her life.
  2. Everything Adam lost in the Garden of Eden, Jesus purchased back on the cross. Adam squandered fellowship with God, Jesus bought it back. Adam sold his life and soul, Jesus bought them back. Adam cast away peace with God, joy, blessing, and righteousness, but Jesus bought it every bit back on the cross. He has the resources to carry of a transaction of this magnitude.
- B. The resources to support and bless Ruth personally - Boaz had the resources to make Ruth his wife. He wanted to buy back the property, but he really wanted the relationship.
  1. Jesus specializes in taking hell bound sinners, saving them by His blood and transforming them into the children of God. When He pays the price, He purchases the whole person as is.
    - a. Titus 2:14; Rev. 1:5-6

## **IV. BOAZ HAD THE REASONS TO REDEEM**

- A. Giving love - Ruth 2:8-16, 3:10-15
  1. He loved here in spite of her lineage, poverty, in spite of the fact that she had nothing to offer but herself. He loved her with a selfless love that sought nothing but her best interests.
  2. How does that resemble the love the Divine has for us? - Rom. 5:6-8
- B. Giving life - Ruth 4:5, 13 - Boaz brought life out of death. Without a kinsman-redeemer, the family of Elimelech would have died out.

1. Remember: this is a critical link in the lineage of Christ.
2. Jesus went to the cross and lost His life that we might gain life
  - a. Eph. 2:1, 5; 2Cor. 8:9; John 10:10-11

C. Giving liberally

1. In Ruth chapter one, Naomi and Ruth are the center of attention; their losses, pain, and helplessness are center stage.
2. In Ruth two through 4:12, Boaz is the primary focus of the book as the redeemer.
3. But the attention returns to Naomi and Ruth for the balance of the book as their redeemed and blessed state take the forefront; as it ought to be in a story of redemption
4. Naomi and Ruth now have family and a future!
5. Now that Christ has fulfilled His part of the story of redemption, what great blessings we presently enjoy in the family of God with a future in heaven!
6. Rev. 5:9-10; 1Peter 1:3-4; Heb. 12:22-24