



There Is A Redeemer

Chapter 4

“Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, ‘You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife.’”
Ruth 4:9-10a

A. There was another family redeemer...

“But while it’s true that I am one of your family redeemers, there is another man who is more closely related to you than I am.” Vs 3:12

1. Boaz went to the town gate. The town gate was where the esteemed and honorable men sat before they left for work for the day. It was like the city council or an outdoor courtroom for public meetings.

“Boaz went to the town gate and took a seat there.” Vs 4:1a

2. Typically, the other family redeemer came by and Boaz invited him to a seat.

“Just then the family redeemer he had mentioned came by, so Boaz called out to him, ‘Come over here and sit down, friend. I want to talk to you.’ So they sat down together.” Vs 4:1b

3. Boaz convened the court with 10 witnesses, even though only two or three would be needed.

“Then Boaz called ten leaders from the town and asked them to sit as witnesses.” Vs 4:2

4. The land rights for Elimelech were available and Boaz surprisingly offered this other family redeemer first right of purchase.

“I thought I should speak to you about it so that you can redeem it if you wish. If you want the land, then buy it here in the presence of these witnesses. But if you don’t want it, let me know right away, because I am next in line to redeem it after you.” Vs 4:4

5. The other family redeemer accepted his rights to the offer and wished to redeem it. Ever since Joshua, land was divided among tribes and family groups.

“The man replied, ‘All right, I’ll redeem it.’” Vs 4:4b

6. Then Boaz told him that with the land, he would get the widow.

“Then Boaz told him, ‘Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow. That way she can have children who will carry on her husband’s name and keep the land in the family.’” Vs 4:5

7. The other family redeemer declined the offer and passed to Boaz.

“Then I can’t redeem it,” the family redeemer replied, ‘because this might endanger my own estate. You redeem the land; I cannot do it.’” Vs 4:6

8. The deal was sealed with a sandal.

“Now in those days it was the custom in Israel for anyone transferring a right of purchase to remove his sandal and hand it to the other party. This publicly validated the transaction. So the other family redeemer drew off his sandal as he said to Boaz, ‘You buy the land.’” Vs 4:7-8

“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...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. 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.’ 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,’ 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.’ Ever afterward in Israel his family will be referred to as ‘the family of the man whose sandal was pulled off!’” Deuteronomy 25:5-10

B. The marriage was announced...

“This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” Genesis 2:24

1. Boaz confirmed his marriage announcement before witnesses.

“Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, ‘You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to

inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today.” Vs 4:9-10

2. The witnesses confirmed the marriage announcement.

“Then the elders and all the people standing in the gate replied, ‘We are witnesses!’” Vs 4:11a

3. A blessing was offered to the couple. It was a bridal benediction that is still practiced today.

“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. 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.” Vs 4:11b-12

4. Boaz took Ruth as his wife and her barrenness was gone, as God provided a son.

“So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the LORD enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son.” Vs 4:13

5. Naomi’s bitterness turned to joy as she became a nurse to her grandson. God’s blessing rested on Naomi.

“Then the women of the town said to Naomi, ‘Praise the LORD, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!’ Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. The neighbor women said, ‘Now at last Naomi has a son again!’”

6. Boaz and Ruth were given the greatest honor in their son, Obed, for he became the grandfather of David!

“And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.” Vs 4:17b

7. And through David...our Messiah!

“Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah). Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, (and the family line continued to) Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoiachin, Shealtiel, Zerubbabel, Abiud, Eliakim, Azor, Zadok, Akim, Eliud, Eleazar, Matthan, Jacob...Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.” Matthew 1:5-16

C. God worked powerfully through this story to prepare each of us for a “Redeemer”...

“Our Redeemer, whose name is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, is the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 47:4

1. God brought Naomi back to the land of her God.
2. God brought Ruth with her.
3. God brought Boaz into Ruth’s life.
4. God prepared the way to join Ruth and Boaz together.
5. God brought Obed into their lives.
6. God included Ruth and Boaz in the birth line of Jesus.
7. Boaz, the family redeemer of Ruth, prepared the way for our Redeemer!

“Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins. He has showered His kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.” Ephesians 1:4-8

D. Our Redeemer lives...

Naomi’s return to Bethlehem, and the roots of David in Bethlehem, going back to Ruth and Boaz, are why Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem to register in the census of Augustus (Luke 2:1-5). Ruth and Boaz are the reason why Jesus was born in Bethlehem!

But the consideration of Jesus in this book of Ruth doesn’t begin with the mention of King David; Jesus has been through the whole book, pictured by Boaz and the office of the kinsman-redeemer.

- The kinsman-redeemer had to be a family member; Jesus added humanity to His eternal deity, so He could be our kinsman and save us.
- The kinsman-redeemer had the duty of buying family members out of slavery; Jesus redeemed us from slavery to sin and death.
- The kinsman-redeemer had the duty of buying back land that had been forfeited; Jesus will redeem the earth that mankind “sold” over to Satan.
- Boaz, as kinsman-redeemer to Ruth, was not motivated by self-interest, but motivated by love for Ruth. Jesus’ motivation for redeeming us is His great love for us.

- Boaz, as kinsman-redeemer to Ruth, had to have a plan to redeem Ruth unto himself – and some might have thought the plan to be foolish. Jesus has a plan to redeem us, and some might think the plan foolish (saving men by dying for them on a cruel cross?), yet the plan works and is glorious.
- Boaz, as kinsman-redeemer to Ruth, took her as his bride; the people Jesus has redeemed are collectively called His bride (Ephesians 5:31-32; Revelation 21:9).
- Boaz, as kinsman-redeemer to Ruth, provided a glorious destiny for Ruth. Jesus, as our redeemer, provides a glorious destiny for us.

But it all comes back to the idea of Jesus as our kinsman-redeemer; this is why He became a man. God might have sent an angel to save us, but the angel would not have been our kinsman. Jesus, in His eternal glory, without the addition of humanity to His divine nature might have saved us, but He would not have been our kinsman. A great prophet or priest would be our kinsman, but his own sin would have disqualified him as our redeemer. Only Jesus, the eternal God who added humanity to His eternal deity, can be both the kinsman and the redeemer for mankind!

Isaiah 54:4-8 describes the beautiful ministry of the LORD as our goel – our kinsman-redeemer: ***“Do not fear, for you will not be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame... your [Kinsman] Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel... For the LORD has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit... with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you, says the LORD, your [Kinsman] Redeemer.”***

From eternity, God planned to bring Ruth and Boaz together, and thus make Bethlehem His entrance point for the coming of Jesus as our true Kinsman-Redeemer, fully God and fully man.

*David Guzik

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

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