

## Ruth - Chapter 4

### **Theme: Ruth Rewarded**

This chapter shows how legal proceedings were handled in Bible times. No courthouse or city hall, but rather they were handled at the main gate of the city.

v. 1 - Boaz goes up to the gate and sits down.

- Gate - Deut. 16:18; Examples: Deut. 17:5; 21:18-21; 25:5-10→applicable here
- This structure is an example of a Republic (like USA). A republic is a non-violent form of government based on the rule of law where voters elect representatives who are responsible to enact the laws and render judgments for all to obey.
- A democracy is a form of government based on “majority rule” which leads to violence, mob-rule, socialism, and eventually communism and then a dictatorship with all power centralized in one person (the Antichrist).
- The majority of almost everything is in the wrong!! - Matt. 7:13-14
- John Jay (1<sup>st</sup> Chief Justice of SCOTUS) said, “Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select Christians for their rulers.”
- George Washington (1<sup>st</sup> POTUS) said, “It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible (KJV).” (This is why our nation is doomed!)
- John Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> POTUS) said, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”
- “up” represents of Jesus Christ’s ascension to Heaven. - Mark 16:19; Acts 1:11
- Jesus Christ is presently seated on the right hand of the Father. - Heb. 10:12, 12:2

v. 2 - Boaz requests 10 men of the elders of the city and had them sit down as well.

- #10 in the Bible represents Gentiles. - Rom. 10:9-10 (Gentile salvation); Gen. 10 (list of Gentile nations); Acts 10 (1<sup>st</sup> time the gospel is preached to the Gentiles)
- With the 10 elders, + Boaz + the nearer kinsman = 12, the # of Israel (12 sons of Jacob making up the 12 tribes of Israel-1 Chron. 2:1-2, 12 apostles-Matt. 10:2-4)
- In the Body of Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile. - Gal. 3:28 cf. 1 Cor. 10:32
- Body of Christ = Bride of Christ = Church of God = Church (not local Church)

vv. 3-4 - Boaz’ Proposition

- At first, the proposition only involves a parcel of land (a marriage is not mentioned).
- “advertise” (2X) Num. 24:14 - to inform, publish, proclaim, give notice, make known
- Notice Boaz is willing to risk losing his opportunity to have Ruth as his wife because he knows that he has to follow the rules of the OT law (nearer kinsman has first chance).
- The Bible principle is to always play by the rules. - 2 Tim. 2:5; Rom. 13:1
- Base on the land parcel proposition only, the nearer kinsman agrees to redeem it.

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v. 5 - Boaz then reveals that the deal comes with a marriage to a Gentile woman.

- The OT law of the kinsman required the kinsman to also marry Ruth and raise up children in the name of the dead (Elimelech) so his inheritance can continue.
- Boaz uses wisdom in dealing with the nearer kinsman. - Matt. 10:16

v. 6 - The nearer kinsman decides not to redeem it after seeing the full picture.

- Possible reasons why he cannot to redeem it and marry Ruth:
  1. He would mar his own inheritance (he already has a Jewish bride).
  2. He might not have wanted to deal with the reproach of marrying a Gentile.
  3. He likely did not want to rewrite his will and redistribute it to more heirs.
- The types here are Boaz representing Jesus Christ (God the Son) and the nearer kinsman representing God the Father.
- God the Father cannot redeem the Gentiles personally because He already has a bride as His inheritance → the nation of Israel. - Ex. 4:22-23 (Israel as God's son; Deut. 32:9; Ps. 28:9, 33:12, 94:14, Hos. 2:14-23 (Israel as God's inheritance)
- The Bride of Christ is referred to in the NT as "the sons of God". - John 1:12
- If the nearer kinsman (representing God the Father) had taken Ruth (a Gentile) for a bride, He would have violated/broken the scriptures. - Deut. 23:3

v. 7 - Describes OT custom used to confirm all transactions in Israel. - Deut. 25:7-10

- A man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbor as a testimony.
- This is prophetic of God the Father taking His shoe off and destroying His enemies at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent. - Ps. 60:6-12
- This testimony was a public, solemn, legal, and holy witness. - Ex. 3:1-6
- PA: All our affairs as Christians should be able to pass public scrutiny.
- PA: All believers should be a public witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

v. 8 - The nearer kinsman tells Boaz that he can proceed to buy the parcel of land and marry Ruth.

- The shoe can represent the purchase of the church by Jesus Christ. - Acts 20:28

v. 9 - Boaz confirms the transaction verbally to the elders and all the witnesses.

- PA: Our word should be our bond; don't just say what is convenient at the moment!
- Boaz pays off any money Elimelech owes on his land and, by doing so, inherits everything that would have fallen to Elimelech's two sons (had they survived), including Ruth and all that is of the hand of Naomi.
- Redeem means to buy back, so this verse represents the atonement of Jesus Christ at the Cross of Calvary. - Matt. 13:45-46; 1 Cor. 6:19-20, 7:23
- Christ paid for His bride, the Church, publicly, so our witness should be public!

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- Christ owns all, so He is all powerful (Matt. 28:18) and wealthy, like Boaz (2:1), so can purchase anything He wants to. - 2 Cor. 8:9
  - Lost sinners belong to their father the devil. - John 8:44
  - Those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ by faith alone are bought back and become “sons of God”. - John 1:12; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:12
- v. 10 - Boaz makes clear that Ruth has been purchased to become his wife.
- Here we find the name of Ruth’s former husband, Mahlon (not found in Ruth 1:3-5).
  - Notice Boaz wants to strictly adhere to the letter of the OT law of Deut. 25:5-10.
  - Boaz makes a public declaration of his marriage to Ruth; this invalidates all “common law marriages” today. Scriptural marriages are public marriages!
  - “name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren” represents that the Jews are still God’s chosen people, but have been set aside temporarily.- Rom. 11:25-28
  - Boaz again reminds them (“ye” - plural) that they are all witnesses.
- v. 11 - Everyone agrees to be a witness and then asks for God’s blessing upon Boaz.
- They want Ruth to be put on the same level as Rachel and Leah, who were daughters of Laban, who was from Padanaram (Syrian Gentiles), who were Jacob’s two wives.
  - Leah and Rachel (along with their handmaids), became the mothers of 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel. - Gen. 35:23-26
  - They all wished Boaz to do worthily in Ephratah (the region), which is called “Ephrath” in Gen. 35:16, 19, and be famous in Bethlehem (the city).
  - This verse is prophetic of the birthplace of Jesus Christ. - Micah 5:2
  - Worthiness is a prerequisite to becoming famous!
  - Jesus Christ is the King of the Jews. - Matt. 2:2
  - Jesus Christ is the **Saviour** and **King** of the entire earth. - (S)1 John 4:14; (K)Zech. 14:9
  - Jesus Christ is described as the One who is worthy of worship and praise. - Rev. 4
  - Jesus Christ is destined for eternal fame and glory! - Isa. 9:6-7; Heb. 3:1-4; Rev.5
- v. 12 - Everyone wants Boaz’s house to be like the house of Pharez.
- Tamar was another Gentile woman who married a Jew, named Judah.
  - All 3 (Leah, Rachel, and Tamar) are Gentiles, and get into the line of Christ, which again shows us the Bride of Christ is composed of mainly Gentiles.
  - Pharez is the son of Judah and Tamar, which is in the line of Christ. - Gen. 46:12
  - Review the line of Judah through Pharez down to David. - vv. 18-22; Matt. 1:1-6
  - Salvation is of the Jews. - John 4:22
  - The Book (KJV) is of the Jews. - Rom. 3:1-2

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v. 13 - Boaz and Ruth get married.

- Represents Christ marrying His Bride, the Church.
- The marriage was consummated.
- “the Lord gave her conception,” teaching us the Lord controls all conception and barrenness. - Gen. 20:17-18; 29:31, 30:1-2; Ps. 113:9; 127:3
- Ruth gave birth to a son (whose name is Obed - v. 21)

v. 14 - The women speak to Naomi.

- Notice the women are spiritual and give glory to the Lord **FIRST**, and rejoice with Naomi for God giving her a kinsman in Boaz (a rich son-in-law) and a loyal and virtuous daughter-in-law, to carry on her deceased husband Elimelech’s lineage.
- The Lord turned Naomi’s bitterness into rejoicing. Why? Because she got back into fellowship with the Lord by returning home to Bethlehem. - Ruth 1:19-21
- Everything that happens is under the control of the Lord, either His divine providential will or else His permissive will.
- Naomi represents the nation of Israel getting restored and back into fellowship with the Lord.
- Israel getting restored and back into fellowship with the Lord is the main theme of the OT. - Deut. 30:1-6; Isa. 1:26-27; 49:6; Jer. 23:5-6; Ezek. 37:24-27; Zeph. 3:15-17
- Prophetically, this verse teaches us why God provided a kinsman redeemer to restore Israel as a nation? “that his name (Jesus Christ) may be famous in Israel.”
- God restores Israel for His own glory and so the Jews will know He is the Lord. - Isa. 49:23; Ezek. 16:62, 20:42-44, 28:25-26, 34:27; Joel 3:17

v. 15 - The women continue their speaking to Naomi.

- The “he” in v. 15 refers to Obed, Naomi’s new grandson.
- The women assured Naomi that Obed would restore her life and care for her in her old age.
- The women felt so highly of Ruth that they told Naomi that Ruth’s love to her was better than having seven sons.

v. 16 - Naomi takes the baby, lays him on her bosom, and becomes his nurse.

- Naomi treats the child as if it were her very own.
- To Naomi, this is the child God gave her to replace the two sons she lost.

v. 17 - Naomi’s women neighbors name the baby (not Boaz, Ruth, or Naomi).

- They name the baby Obed, which means “worshipping” or “serving”.

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- Notice the baby is referred to as Naomi's son, rather than her grandson, which means in the Bible the term "son" or "daughter" can be used of a "grandson" or "granddaughter." - cf. 2:2
- Obed becomes the father of Jesse, who is the father of David.

vv. 18-22 - List of the generations from Pharez down to David.

- Here is the portion of the Messianic lineage of Jesus Christ starting with Pharez down to David. - cf. Matt. 1:1-6
- The great historical lesson for the book of Ruth is found here in the lineage of Jesus Christ, which is God's main point for putting the book of Ruth in the Bible.
- The Lord is interested in His Son, and anybody connected with His Son.
- God is keenly more interested in Ruth, a Moabite (Gentile), than he is in all the philosophers, world leaders, sports stars, entertainers, musicians, doctors, lawyers, politicians, or other famous people this world idolizes.
- If you want God to pay attention to you, you had better pay more attention to His Son; and bring Him glory with your life. - Col. 1:10-19
- The great doctrinal lesson for the book of Ruth is the Lord Jesus Christ's work of redemption for lost sinners.
- When we trust Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, God puts us in the spiritual line of Christ, just as He put Ruth in Christ's physical lineage. - Rom. 8:16
- The great practical lesson for the book of Ruth is that any believer who gives up this world for the sake the proclaiming the gospel and serving Christ will be greatly rewarded by God. - Mark 10:28-31; Luke 9:23-24, 17:33
- Ruth represents believers in the church today who have turned their backs on "this present evil world" to seek a heavenly country & city. - Heb. 11:14-16
- Right now we are called to suffer for Jesus Christ, so that we may reign with Him later. - 2 Tim. 2:12; 3:12; Rom. 8:17-18; Eph. 3:20
- If you as a believer want to really have an exciting and fruitful life right now, then give up living for this sin-cursed world and live for Jesus Christ!