

9. THE KINSMAN REDEEMER AND THE PROMISED SEED: Ruth 4:11-12

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, May 2nd, 2021

- **Q.** Why are we studying the book of Ruth?

I) The book of Ruth is in the Scriptures, therefore God wants us to know it (1 Corinthians 10:11).

- “Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction...” 1 Corinthians 10:11

II) The book of Ruth is God-breathed, therefore it is profitable (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

- “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

III) The book of Ruth is both king David’s and the Lord Jesus’ family history (Matthew 1:5).

- “and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,” Matthew 1:5

IV) The book of Ruth will help us see and trust the mystery of God’s providence especially in times of pain (again 1 Corinthians 10:11).

- This will become plain yet again in the text before us.

V) The book of Ruth will help us delight in Jesus all the more, who is like Boaz but even better (John 5:39).

- “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,” John 5:39

- Come with me and search the book of Ruth, seeing that it ultimately testifies about Jesus!

- **BIG IDEA:** The LORD redeemed Ruth & Naomi through a kinsman redeemer & through giving the promised seed; He does the same to us in Christ!

I. THE LORD RESCUED HIS PEOPLE THROUGH THE KINSMAN REDEEMER! (11a)

Ruth 4:11a “Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, ‘We are witnesses.’” (Hebrew = “Witnesses!”)

- **This is the moment Boaz and Ruth become man and wife.** Ruth had offered herself, Boaz made the covenant known, and the elders (along with the rest of the people in the town) say, “Witnesses!”
- **See how the people rejoice!** As should we. Do you remember where this story began? There was great loss and seeming hopelessness!
- **This verse is medicine for your soul, suffering saint,** as you wonder what on earth God is doing while you are in pain.
- **Remember that this whole book takes place “in the time of the Judges”** when terribly dark deeds and bitter afflictions fell on God’s people because of their backslidings. But...
- **Look at how Ruth and Naomi began and look how they end up** because of the happy providence of God! They are blessed finally because the LORD gave them a kinsman redeemer! *This is true for you as well, believer.*
- **Q.** Did you know the Lord Jesus Christ is the kinsman redeemer of all who belong to Him?
- **This is why the eternal Son of God took on flesh and dwelt among us!**
- **Heb. 2:14-15** “Since therefore the children share in flesh & blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, & deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”
- **CHILDREN:** Jesus became a man; a human being just like you in every way except He never sinned. He knows what it is like to be your age!
- “And the Word became flesh & dwelt among us, & we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace & truth.” **John 1:14**
- **Are the flood waters of affliction ever up to your neck?** The Kinsman Redeemer is full of *SUSTAINING* grace and truth. **Is sin crouching at your door** and wanting to devour you? The Lord Jesus is full of *EMPOWERING* grace and truth. **Are you tangled in transgressions** and do not know how to get out? Christ is full of *PARDONING* grace and truth. **Are you struggling to know what you should or should not do?** Your Kinsman redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, is full of grace and *TRUTH*. **Are you lonely, troubled, or despairing?** *HE BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US*. Go to Him; He became like you; He understands. **Do you feel confident, hopeful, and happy in the LORD?** It is because and only because your Kinsman Redeemer is full of grace and truth!
- **Q. Is Jesus your Kinsman Redeemer?** That is to say, is your faith in Him alone who became a man to live for *YOUR* righteousness and die for *YOUR* sin, and arise for *YOUR* eternal salvation?

CONCLUSION OF POINT I: So the LORD rescued Ruth and Naomi through the kinsman redeemer, and He did it again with in Christ!

- **Transition:** Now that Boaz and Ruth are married, the crowd pronounces a blessing on them. This is a prayer, but it is more than that. Because in God’s providence, we know that the LORD said yes to these supplications! Look at the end of verse 12. It will help you and I understand why they say what they say.

II. THE LORD GAVE THE SEED TO REDEEM HIS PEOPLE! (v. 12b)

Ruth 4:12b “because of the offspring (*seed. Heb=zera’*) that the Lord will *GIVE* you by this young woman.”

- **The LORD redeemed both Ruth and Naomi by giving this seed, Obed, through Boaz.** The inheritance, which is a foreshadowing of heaven, would not pass out of Ruth and Naomi’s family because they have a redeemer, because the LORD gave them the offspring through this young woman!

- **But there is more happening here!** Obed is the father of Jesse and Jesse the father of David. Then from David's line comes to long promised seed of the woman who will crush the head of the serpent and save His people, Jesus Christ Himself!
- **Genesis 3:15** "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
- **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he GAVE his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
- **Galatians 4:4-5** "4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to REDEEM those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."
- **Now listen to Jesus in John 12:24!** "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."
- **CHILDREN:** Jesus became a human being so that He could die. So that He could die in place of Law breakers like you—so that you could be forgiven!

Q. Is this long promised seed, the Lord Jesus Christ, and that God GAVE HIM TO REDEEM YOU, your only hope in life and in death? He can be.

TRANSITION: Now look at the blessing and prayer the elders and the people spoke over Boaz and Ruth:

I) Because of the offspring the LORD gives, Ruth becomes a builder of God's people! (v. 11b)

Ruth 4:11b "May the Lord make the woman (*wife*), who is coming into your house (*family-home*), like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel." (*these woman bore children to Jacob, producing the Twelve Tribes of Israel!*)

- **As the great Puritan Bible Commentator Matthew Henry wrote,** "They desired that the wife might be a blessing in the private affairs of the house, and the husband a blessing in the public business of the town, that she in her place, and he in his, might be wise, virtuous, and successful."
- **The Lord used Ruth to build his people. He can use you as well, women!**
- **Some of you will have physical children and some of you may not;** but all of you must have spiritual children, doing your part to build up the house of the Lord's people!
- **Q. Women, what are you doing to physically or spiritually build up the house of God's people, the church?** Are you imitating worthy women such as Ruth or are you believing the lies of the world, that your focus should be elsewhere?

II) Because of the offspring the LORD gives, Boaz must act worthily! (v. 11c)

Ruth 4:11c "May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem,"

- **LISTEN:** God does not show you grace because you are worthy; it is God's free grace in Christ that qualifies you and changes you to then be a worthy man!
- **It is not enough to simply keep away from doing unworthy things, it is not enough to be harmless and inoffensive. You must act!**
- **CHILDREN:** God does not love you IF you are good enough and well behaved enough; He loves you even though you are not good enough! And if you trust in Jesus and know that God loves you, you must then act rightly and be well-behaved—you must be holy, because it makes God happy.
- **This is why Paul prays the way he does in Colossians 1:9-10:** "9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."
- **Q. Men, are you acting worthily?** Are your eyes in this book, your knees bent to the earth, your heart in heaven, and your hands to the plow?

III) Because of the offspring the LORD gives, Boaz's family will become prominent among God's people! (v. 12a)

Ruth 4:12a "and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah,"

- **R.C. SPROUL:** "In a much earlier time, Judah became the father of Perez because Onan refused to carry out his obligation as a close relative (Gen. 38:29). Perez is a symbol of the fruitful offspring. In the same way, Boaz becomes the father of Obed (v. 21) because another person has refused to carry out the levirate obligation. Despite human failures, the messianic line is preserved (Matt. 1:3, 5, 16)."
- **The house of Perez became great before and so did the house of Boaz after.** First, it is from this family that King David descended and Bethlehem became known as "the city of David," the King who defeated God's enemies! Second, and far more importantly, it is from this family line that King Jesus came—He was even born in this very city, the city of Bethlehem.
- **Is Bethlehem known for Boaz? Nah. David? Sure. But it is much more widely known now for the city in which Christ was born!**
- **CHILDREN:** This town that Boaz and Ruth live in is the same town Jesus was born in! Have you heard the story of Jesus being born in a stable laid in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn? That was only a few feet away from where Boaz and Ruth were married!
- **In this small city, and from Boaz' family, over one thousand years after the book of Ruth, Christ Jesus emerged from Mary's virgin womb, untainted by original sin.** Jesus then crawled, waddled, stumbled, walked, and marched in holiness all the way from Bethlehem for birthing, Egypt for hiding, Nazareth for growing, the wilderness for tempting, Capernaum for preaching, Galilee for healing, the Mount for transfiguring, Jerusalem for teaching, the garden for praying, Golgotha for dying, the garden tomb for arising, and now the right hand of God the Father for reigning! The one who emerged in Bethlehem is now seated on the throne as the true Prophet, Priest, and King. These are all links in a chain, and Boaz is a far back link used by God to bring His Son into the world to save sinners and renew this entire world!

CONCLUSION OF POINT II: So the LORD gave the seed through Boaz to redeem His people Ruth and Naomi! And through their family line, the long promised seed, the Son of God Himself, came forth to rescue us from our misery!

CONCLUSION

- **In this passage, Ruth transitions fully from being called "Ruth the moabitess" which is the same as saying, "Ruth the outsider," or "Ruth the idolater;"** She is now Ruth the Israelite; Ruth the Christian! She is a picture of what it is like when God saves a sinner.

- The LORD in His grace turns outsiders into insiders; He turns sinners into saints; He transforms the guilty into the godly; The LORD turns strangers into fellow heirs together with Christ.
- Look to Christ Jesus in faith and He will make you a new creation!
- If you do look to Him, you are no longer an outsider marked by your sin and separation from God.
You have been given a new identity—SAINT;
you have been given a new people—THE CHURCH;
you have been given a new King—CHRIST JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS;
you have been given a new Father—GOD HIMSELF;
you have been given a new inner principle—THE HOLY SPIRIT at work within you to make you more like Jesus;
and you have been given a new destiny—HEAVEN ITSELF where righteousness reigns!