

REDEMPTION, Ruth Ch. 4

I. QUICK SUMMARY OF EVENTS IN CHS. 1-3

Ch.1

Ch.2

Ch.3, including "Kinsman-redeemer"

II. BACKGROUND ITEMS TO EXPLAIN/CLEAR UP

BG ITEM #1: KINSMAN-REDEEMER This word (1 word in original language) meant "to redeem, deliver, avenge, act as a kinsman." (Nelson's Bible Dict.) "Its basic use had to do with the deliverance of persons or property that had been sold for debt. The responsibility "to redeem" belonged to the nearest relative — brother, uncle, uncle's son, or a blood relative from his family [{{Lev 25:25,48-49}}](#). The person (kinsman) who "redeemed" the one in financial difficulties was known as a kinsman-redeemer, as the NIV translates the word in [Ruth 2:20](#).

[My Summary:] a close relative was a kinsman, but a kinsman-redeemer "bought something/someone back". He would often carry on the name of the deceased with sons born of a new marriage union, in addition to providing for and supporting the family of those he redeemed.

BG ITEM # 2: LEVIRATE MARRIAGE A form of marriage prescribed by the Law of Moses in which a man was required to marry the widow of a brother who died with no male heir. The term levirate means "husband's brother." The purpose of the law was to provide an heir for the dead brother, thereby preserving his name and estate. The law also was designed to provide for the welfare of the widows ([Deut 25:5-10](#)).

III. RUTH CHAPTER 4

[CH 3:18](#) Then Naomi said, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today."

*A man of standing, a worthy man in whom you could count/rely on (2:1)

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4:1 Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

2 Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so.

*Boaz is on the move, and taking action to redeem Ruth

* “came along” God is ultimately superintending all of these events (Cf 2:3-4)

*Boaz was a man of influence—the “KR” and the 10 elders sat as directed

3 Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech.

4 I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you ^a will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said.

*?The selling of the land—is it being sold, or does it need to be “bought back”?

*Our brother, as in “our relative”

*Notice there are two groups looking on, elders as well as others (“rubber-neckers”)

* “Friend”/Faceless Kinsman Redeemer isn’t engaged with what is going on around him; or perhaps (worse) he knows of their need and is shunning his responsibility.

He has the Right to redeem, and probably has the Resources “I will redeem it”

5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, you acquire ^b the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

*Boaz is very slick and calculating (but not sinful). “Great; and by the way, let me tell you the fine print...”

*Not just a good piece of property and an aging widow beyond childbearing years, but you also need to marry Ruth, who you know is from MOAB, and have children through her.

6 At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

*This man probably had a family of his own already and it was possible that a future son through Ruth could acquire his own estate

*Basically, he was into this for himself; he really didn’t care about Naomi, Ruth, or Mahlon’s family line

*Interesting that he said “Yes” once, but “No” twice!

7 (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

8 So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.

* Back then “The Sandal” was similar to today’s signatures and notarization (official and legal)

*These are the words we’ve been waiting for: “*Buy it yourself!*”!

*Can’t you see Boaz filling up with joy at this point? Ruth, whom God plucked out of a godless land and called to himself,

Ruth, who was devoted to Naomi and had faith to work hard and see how God would provide for them,
Ruth, whom he had gotten to know as she worked in his fields,
Ruth, who, clearly identified as a noble woman, went at her mother in law's instruction and basically asked if he would marry her and take care of her and Naomi
This Ruth who could have been interested in a younger man, rich or poor, but showed interest in a lifelong marriage partnership with Boaz!
Boaz, I believe exuberant, wasted no time... (v.9)

9 Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon.

10 I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!"

*Boaz snapped to attention and jumped at his immediate and public opportunity to redeem not only Naomi's property and to care for her down the road, but also to take Ruth as his very own wife! Additionally he pledged to carry on Mahlon's family name—which was a huge deal back then.

*He was not legally obligated to do all of this—"what's his name" was the one who was obligated to do it—but he abdicated his responsibility. This is where Boaz stepped in.

*Why? There's only one reason: LOVE! I believe he was taken aback by her. He had observed her from afar, and talked with her up close. He had seen her lifestyle, her devotion to Naomi, and her faith in God. (Now she might have also been attractive, but Boaz, being a godly man, could see beyond that to true beauty, on the inside.)

11 Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

12 Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

*Can't you see the celebration in the crowd gathered here? "We are witnesses"!

*Prayers and blessings here--primarily regarding having a fruitful family

Rachel and Leah together bore the 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel
(Include Tamar/Perez here?)

13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

*This is just one picture of a godly relationship. There's so much in here, and if many more people just trusted God to follow the pattern in this one verse it would save so much heartache; we'll return to this in a bit...back to the text in v. 14

Note: these next 4 vs shift to Naomi and the son born to Ruth/Boaz

14 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!

15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

16 Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him.

*Notice how the son is referred to as a Kinsman-redeemer in these verses—as he is expected to (later on) care Naomi in her old age

*However, notice that the women gave credit where credit was due—"the Lord", as HE was the one who was really providing for her, who had made the way.

Recall how in 1:21, when returning to Bethlehem she said "I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty".

*This was an acknowledgement that God had not abandoned her, as she may have sensed during those very dark times in chapter 1, but that God indeed had provided for her

17 The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

*We're not going to get further into the genealogy listed here, but did you notice that Boaz and Ruth end up being the Great Grandparents of a very special King—King David? (We'll come back to this later)

IV. SOME POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS FOR US TODAY

A) Examples to Emulate as people of character: Ruth and Boaz!

Ruth—a portrait of a transformed person: turned to the true God; exercised faith, worked hard, exercised patience, was responsive to her authority (in this case Naomi), was a woman of integrity

Boaz—a portrait of a godly man: wise and hard-working, generous in spirit and actions, active (not passive), looked out for interest of others, was responsible

B) Additional thoughts on Godly relationships:

Follow God's timing

Follow his ways and methods as described in his Word. Example: His plan for purity before marriage and faithful commitment during marriage! First marriage, then intimacy, then children—in that order. (See v. 13; also remind that nothing in Ch. 3 indicates any manner of wrong-doing, although in these later {NT} times this would not be recommended!)

Get wise counsel and follow the authorities He has placed in your life (they are there as a protection, not to cramp your style).

Spend your energy becoming the person someone would love to marry

Finally, know that even the best marriages are filled with challenges—challenges which are likely designed for your and my purification and to stretch us in love and make us more holy!

[One lesson to learn for the Ladies: Don't blindly run after ungodly men!] [[Seek God; trust God!]]

[One lesson to learn for the Men: Don't be passive!] [[In the right timing, be active and get moving!]]

C) Know that God has not abandoned you! (Recall Naomi's earlier pain at the end of Ch.1, but now see 4:14)

“Don't let the darkness of the hard times overshadow the truth of His work and Word in your lives”

It's easy to become bitter, but God wants us to be better

Rom 8:28-29

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, ^j who ^k have been called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

D) Know that God works in spite of, and sometimes through, our messed up backgrounds—all for his glory!

Ruth and Boaz are awesome examples for us to follow, but they came from some messed up stuff/backgrounds

Ruth—came from a land known for immorality and for devotion to its pagan god-- Chemosh

Boaz—Scripture describes Boaz in a consistently positive light. However we learn from Matt 1 that his mother was Rahab, first identified in scripture as a Canaanite prostitute.

(Now she later turned around and was absorbed by the people of God, and is later listed in the NT as a woman of faith).

E) The best “application” of all: REDEMPTION for our souls!

We mentioned earlier that Ruth/Boaz are ancestors to King David. Well, it gets even better than that! Matt Ch 1 tells us that if you follow way on down the line you get to King Jesus!

As awesome as this story of Ruth is, and as awesome as Boaz is, there’s a much greater and deeper story happening here—it’s the story of God’s redemptive plan and longing for the whole world to know Him!

God, who is superintending all of human history, sent Jesus at just the right time in His redemptive history—a real man who was also fully God, who descended, in the natural sense, from much less than perfect people—but who was the perfect Messiah to redeem us from sin, death, and hell. Consider these scriptures:

Eph 1:7-8

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Col 1:13-14

13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

14 in whom we have redemption, ^e the forgiveness of sins.

V. CLOSE

Invite people to put their trust in Christ

Invite people to pray for other needs, as God leads them