

# BOAZ - THE KINSMAN-REDEEMER



[Ruth 3:1-13]

What a great weekend last weekend was! If anything was learned it is that what we are reading is the Words of God. They are special, they are trustworthy.

We have been learning about people in the Bible that we should know, and today want to focus on another one. It's not the people themselves that are important – it's how God worked in/through their lives, isn't it? Today we'll see that again. We are going to the Book of Ruth and we will focus on the story of this book in its entirety, and on Boaz in particular.

Like Esther, this is another MUST READ book. Read it all – you'll enjoy it from beginning to end.

Last week we saw so of the many "external" evidences that exist which confirm the accuracy and the historicity of the Bible. (like Manuscript evidence)

What we did not even begin to touch on are the many "internal" evidences, contained within the Bible, that also lead us to a certainty that this book is a supernaturally authored book. This book contains things that, without the hand of God upon it, would be practically impossible for it to contain. Today I believe we will see one of those examples. A story of redemption that points to the ultimate redemption found in Jesus Christ.

## BACKGROUND (early chapters)

The book of Ruth takes us to the years just before the life of King David - a little more than 1000 years before the birth of Christ. (1000 years is a long time)

Intro: Chapter One begins ten years before Boaz enters story. Naomi with her husband Elimelech and their two sons, because of a famine, sold their land in Israel, went to Moab to live. Not long after their arrival, Elimelech died. The sons married Moabites, but in time both sons died, leaving Naomi and her two daughter-in-laws. It was a bad ten years.

Naomi, in despair, to moves back to Israel. One of her Moabite daughter-in-laws, Ruth, loved Naomi and chose to leave her homeland and come back with the aged woman to try to take care of her.

Without any real means of support, Naomi sends Ruth out to the fields to "glean" – that is to go behind the harvesters and pick up any dropped or missed grain, so that they might eat. It is not a pretty picture. It is devoid of hope.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** (other part of the Old Testament)

There are certain things that God sought to preserve and Israel:

**1. THE FAMILY Line.** The family was and it is extremely important in God's eyes. He sat out the laws in order to preserve the family. One of these involves Kinsman Redeemer or in Hebrew, the Goel.

If we looked at Deuteronomy 25:5-10 we would read about it.

**Deuteronomy 25:5-10** *<sup>5</sup>If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. <sup>6</sup>The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.*

*<sup>7</sup>However, if a man does not want to marry his brother's wife, she shall go to the elders at the town gate and say, "My husband's brother refuses to carry on his brother's name in Israel. He will not fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to me." <sup>8</sup>Then the elders of his town shall summon him and talk to him. If he persists in saying, "I do not want to marry her," <sup>9</sup>his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders, take off one of his sandals, spit in his face and say, "This is what is done to the man who will not build up his brother's." <sup>10</sup>That man's line shall be known in Israel as The Family of the Unsanctified.*

**2.** The 2nd thing God sought to preserve in Israel were **FAMILY INHERITANCES**, and this is related to the first, since God divided Israel's land to the families and clans of Israel. In **Leviticus 25:23+** were told that when a family sold its land, after falling on hard times (like Elimelech and Naomi did), there was required a special *Revisionary Clause* in the sale whereby after a certain amount of time the family could buy the land back.

If the original owner could not afford to buy the

land back at that time, a close relative, or Kinsman could buy back or redeem the land in his place. That close relative was called in Hebrew the Goel or Kinsman-Redeemer

If the owner had died and there was a widow left, it was also the responsibility of the Kinsman Redeemer to take her as his wife, so if they should have a son together, the family line would not be cut off.

So *both things* revolved around a Goel or Kinsman Redeemer.

**There were 4 REQUIREMENTS necessary to be a Kinsman-Redeemer:**

1. He had to be a NEAR KINSMAN - a close relative.
2. He had to be WILLING
3. He had to be ABLE to Pay the Price of Redemption
4. He must PAY THE PRICE.

Remember - When the Bible talks about redemption, it speaks about gaining something back that was lost.

Back to the story. In **Chapter 2** Ruth is sent out to glean the fields. (v. 3) By *happenstance* the first field that she stops at was owned by Boaz, a relative of Elimilech. As soon as we meet Boaz, we realize that he was a very kind and righteous person.

**Ruth 2:4-7** *“Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, ‘The Lord be with you!’ ‘The Lord bless you!’ they called back.”*

He also had good eyes, for a Ruth must have been a good-looking woman.

*“Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, ‘Whose young woman is that?’”* <sup>6</sup>*The foreman replied, ‘She is the Moabite woman who came back from Moab with Naomi.’* <sup>7</sup>*She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.’ She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter.”*

Boaz immediately took a liking to her, found out about her background and told his hired hands to make sure they dropped extra grain behind them where ever she was gleaning.

When she got home that day and told Naomi all that happened, Naomi’s spirits lifted, for she was sure that God was doing something special. When she told him it was Boaz she responded:

**Ruth 2:20-22.** <sup>20</sup>*“The Lord bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing*

*his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers.”* <sup>21</sup>*Then Ruth the Moabite woman said, “He even said to me, ‘Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.’”* <sup>22</sup>*Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with his girls, because in someone else’s field you might be harmed.”*

She told Ruth to only go to Boaz’s fields from then on. She did.

So as we read in **Chapter 3**, one night Ruth stays in the fields to sleep with the others. Following Naomi’s instructions, she lays down at the feet of Boaz who awakens and when he finds that she, a younger woman is willing to be his, (and he already has the hots for her) – he tells her he is willing to be a Goel for her family and to marry her as well.

But there is a problem. He is a kinsman, but there is a closer kinsman, who if willing, has first rights to redeem the land. Boaz pledges to go into town the next day and work it out with the man.

Ruth reports it all to Naomi and when she hears that Boaz plans to take action the next morning, she basically says in v. 18: *“You just wait. That man won’t sleep until he settles this.”*

That brings us **Chapter 4**:

**Ruth 4:1-12** <sup>1</sup>*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.* <sup>2</sup>*Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so.* <sup>3</sup>*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.* <sup>4</sup>*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 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.*

<sup>5</sup>*Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabite woman, you acquire the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.”*

<sup>6</sup>*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.”*

...<sup>8</sup>So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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!” <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”

And so the story has a happy ending. Boaz marries Ruth. Naomi is taken care of for life and the family line continues.

**Ruth 4:16-17** <sup>16</sup>Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. <sup>17</sup>The women living there said, “Naomi has a son.” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

I said at the beginning to this story of redemption is to me, one of the many internal evidences of the supernatural character of this amazing book, the Bible.

One of which is that here we get a glimpse of Jesus’ lineage, 1000 years before he is born. (Matt. 1:5)

You realize, of course, that without this foreign woman, Ruth, the messianic line, that runs through Boaz may have never continued. This truth is repeated in the last vs.: **Ruth 4:21-22** <sup>21</sup>Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, <sup>22</sup>Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

Yet this story has far greater significance than a love story, or even showing how near relatives continue the genealogical line of Jesus. It’s a living picture of the most important redemptive act of all. What God would enact in Jesus Christ 1000 years later .

Jesus, you see, was not just our Redeemer, He was our Kinsman-Redeemer. Redemption always involves the “buying back of something that was lost” and in the Garden of Eden, the world and the human race was lost to God through sin. Ever since, God

had a plan to redeem us – to buy us back.

The interesting thing is that one brother wanted the field but not the bride, but the opposite was true of Boaz - he bought the field in order that he might obtain the bride!

Perhaps Jesus was thinking of this wine and Matthew when he said **Matthew 13:44**<sup>44</sup>“**The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field..**”

In order to obtain the “treasure” the man buys the entire field. The field is the world. Who gave everything in order that he might redeem the world? Jesus. “**For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son**” Why? God purchased the world and order that he might obtain a bride. Jesus came that he might be our Goel - our kinsman redeemer.

Remember – there were Four Requirements?

**1. YOU HAD TO BE A NEAR KINSMAN** - a close relative. And that is why Jesus being God, had to become a man. He had to become a man in order to redeem mankind - he had to be our next of kin.

**John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

**John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh.*

**Philippians 2:6-8** <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

**2. YOU HAD TO BE WILLING.** Boaz was willing (the other was not.)

**Luke 19:10** *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.*”

**John 10:17-18** <sup>17</sup>The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, **but I lay it down of my own accord.** I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again...

**3. You HAD TO BE ABLE TO PAY THE PRICE** of Redemption. Hebrews 7:25 *Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him...*

**4. All that’s left - HE MUST PAY THE PRICE.**

The price for man's sin is death. You can't die for your own sin – and live that is.

**Ephesians 1:7** *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace*

He has redeemed the world, not that he wanted the world, but that he may take a bride out of it.

### CONCLUSION

**That's where YOU come in.** Because he loved you, and he saw in you a special treasure. He purchased the whole world and order that he might take you out of it.

His bride. His, forever.

And Again, only one thing remains – there is the appointed time in the deed when the revisionary clause is activated.

There is only one thing that remains in order for you to be redeemed. **You have to accept him.** It was Ruth who invited Boaz to be her Kinsman-Redeemer.

Starting thousands of years before, God set into motion a plan to buy you back. He didn't keep it a secret – he prefigured it with the temple sacrifices, with Boaz too.

But He won't force you to love him or serve him - you must make a choice. What are you waiting for? Could he make his desire, his love, any clearer?

Will you invite Jesus Christ to be your kinsman-redeemer. Will you tell him you will place your faith in him and his redemptive work?

Let's pray.