

# The Prophetic View of Ruth

## Better than Boaz

### 10/28/18

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Today we will be taking a look at the book of Ruth. Last Wednesday night we did an overview of the book of Ruth and tried to answer the Who, What, When, Where, Why questions in order to stir us to study further.

I want to preface a few things as we begin. This will be a typological look at Ruth.

I always want to be careful in two ways when I use typological examples from the OT. First, these are real events. Just because we can glean life application and see spiritual types within the accounts doesn't mean that they didn't really happen. The OT is an accurate account of real events and isn't just some allegory for life today. Second, I want to make sure that the types and pictures seen in the OT are clearly backed up by principles in the NT. The types do us no good without clear doctrine and principles behind them. Don't stretch the text or imagination too far.

Are there any scriptural examples of this to justify this type of view or teaching?

In 1 Corinthians 10 Paul uses an example about Moses and the children on Israel in the wilderness. In 1 Corinthians 10:4, he says that the rock in the wilderness is Christ. Then in verse 6 that these things are an example for us.

*"and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did." (1 Corinthians 10:4–6, ESV)*

Also, Jesus used Jonah as a spiritual example of His future burial. He called it the sign of Jonah.

*"But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here." (Matthew 12:39–41, ESV)*

He also calls Himself the "greater than Jonah." Today we will be looking at the book of Ruth and seeing the Lord Jesus Christ as the "greater than Boaz."

My observation of the book of Ruth shows three levels or layers of interpretation and application.

- 1) The Personal Level – up close
  - a. Faithfulness in everyday life
  - b. This is the more natural reading of what the original would've understood without the perspective of the coming Messiah.
- 2) The Relational Level – love in action
  - a. Each of the main characters do what they can for a person out of love
    - i. Ruth loves Naomi and stays with her and works to provide for her
    - ii. Naomi loves Ruth and, knowing the law, puts together the plan for Ruth to be Redeemed and provided for
    - iii. Boaz loves Ruth and pays the price to redeem her for himself, at her request
- 3) The Prophetic Level – an overview or a flyover
  - a. Boaz redeems the land to purchase Ruth for himself
  - b. Jesus redeems the whole world to purchase us for Himself
    - i. Matthew 13:44-45
    - ii. Romans 8:18-23
    - iii. Revelation 5

We are currently going through this book in our Living Stones Bible Study and we're taking our time and viewing more in the lens of the original reader. Since I only have today with all of us together, I thought it would be fun to take a look at this book from the prophetic perspective.

Last Wednesday night we did an overview of the book of Ruth and tried to answer the Who, What, When, Where, Why questions in order to stir us to study further.

We'll skim our way through, stopping in a few places to see how some of these people and their situations fit into the Big Picture of the Bible and the story of salvation and redemption for each of us. Not everything is a perfect fit, but they can still illustrate the NT truths and principles we can clearly see.

I'm going to ask you to apply these things to your life. Ask the Spirit of God to write on your heart. Have Him show you where you need this most.

### **How to view the prophetic players**

- Boaz ("in Him is Strength") pictures for us Jesus, our Kinsman Redeemer and Messiah, He is the "greater than Boaz"
- Naomi ("Pleasant, Delightful, Lovely") pictures for us the Jewish people
- Ruth ("Friend" closest guess) pictures for us the Gentile believers
- Orpah pictures for us the uncommitted Gentile

- The unnamed servant pictures for us the Holy Spirit
- The ten elders picture for us the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
- The unnamed kinsman pictures for us the Law
- Obed ("Servant"<sup>Cyril Barber</sup>) pictures for us new life and the church

## Chapter 1

This book takes place in the approximately 325-year period of the Judges in Israel. We can read more about that time frame in the book called, Judges. We can give a very rough estimation that this may have taken place during the time of Gideon (Judges 6-8).

I'll move quickly through the opening situation.

We have an Israelite man from Bethlehem that moves his wife and two boys to Moab because of famine. While they're there the boys get married to Moabite women and the father and both sons die. Ten years lapses from their departure to Moab and the wife, Naomi, now a widow and childless decides to return to Bethlehem in Judah, her two daughter in-laws must also decide what they'll do.

Ruth and Orpah are both starting in the same place. Both are gentiles from Moab. Both are childless widows. What can we learn from their decisions?

**1:6-13** Both women intend on going to the Promised Land with Naomi. Both start in the same direction.

**1:14.** Orpah kisses Naomi and leaves Naomi and Ruth, but not Moab. She weeps loudly, has an emotional moment, but never leaves Moab. Leaving Moab pictures for us repentance. Here we see the person who has affection and emotion without repenting action. We might call this, (as Pastor Dale has mentioned before) intellectually convinced, but not spiritually committed.

John the Baptist (Matthew 3) and Jesus (Matthew 4) both start their ministries with messages of repentance. Repentance is a change of mind and heart that leads to a change in direction.

*"For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death."* (2 Corinthians 7:10, ESV)

The beauty of the parable of the prodigal son was that he left the pigpen and found favor and forgiveness with his Father. Had he never left he would've missed out! (Luke 15:11-32).

**1:14** "but Ruth clung to her." Both women experience grief, both women begin in the same place, Orpah leaves, but Ruth clings.

Cling to what you know. At this point Ruth has limited knowledge and understanding. That's ok. Start there. Cling to what you do know of the Word of God, don't worry about what you don't know.

**1:16-18** Ruth makes a commitment. Her repentance is followed by a confession. Notice that she's not only committing herself to Naomi, but to Yahweh by name. This is one of the most beautiful verses in the whole Bible. We see this in the NT:

*"because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."* (Romans 10:9-10, ESV)

*"For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.""* (Romans 10:13, ESV)

Ruth is a Gentile, this shows that the invitation is open to all.

**1:21** "The LORD has brought me back...". It is the Lord who brought the nation back into the Land of Promise. HE brought them back after a time of suffering. This fulfills the prophecy in Isaiah.

*"Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall a land be born in one day? Shall a nation be brought forth in one moment? For as soon as Zion was in labor she brought forth her children."* (Isaiah 66:8, ESV)

May 14<sup>th</sup> 1948, this prophecy was fulfilled. The Lord brought them back.

## Chapter 2

**2:1** "a worthy man... whose name was Boaz." This means that he was a man of valor, or mighty warrior. This word is used of Gideon and Jephthah as well.

Jesus is our greater than Boaz, He is worthy.

*"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."* (Revelation 4:11, ESV)

*"And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,"* (Revelation 5:9, ESV)

**2:4** "Boaz came from Bethlehem..." Jesus also came from Bethlehem. Prophetically in Micah 5:2 and in fulfillment in Matthew 2:1

*"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."* (Micah 5:2, ESV)

*"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem," (Matthew 2:1, ESV)*

**2:5** Boaz saw her first.

*"Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:47–49, ESV)*

*"But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD." (Genesis 6:8, ESV)*

*"The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry." (Psalm 34:15, ESV)*

*"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars." (2 Chronicles 16:9, ESV)*

**2:5-7** This unnamed servant pictures for us the Holy Spirit. He makes the introduction. Shows the Bridegroom his future bride. Unnamed because the Spirit doesn't testify of Himself. He draws us. He leads us into all truth.

*"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." (John 16:13, ESV)*

The Spirit also intercedes.

*"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:26–27, ESV)*

**2:8** Boaz starts the conversation with Ruth. Jesus initiates with us by speaking to our hearts.

*"They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" (Luke 24:32, ESV)*

**2:8-9** Boaz provides blessing and protection for Ruth. Jesus is our provider and our protection.

*"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:28, ESV)*

*"So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:7–11, ESV)*

*"But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one." (2 Thessalonians 3:3, ESV)*

**2:10** "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, a foreigner?" I love this verse. This speaks of grace and humility. We should each examine ourselves in this way. Why would I find favor in the eyes of Jesus? Why would He notice me? Jesus is full of grace and the source of grace upon grace.

*"For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God." (1 Corinthians 1:26–29, ESV)*

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8–9, ESV)*

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14, ESV)*

*"For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." (John 1:16, ESV)*

*"Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God." (Romans 5:2, ESV)*

**2:11** She left everything to come to Him.

*"Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life." (Mark 10:29–30, ESV)*

**2:12** Under the LORD's wings. This speaks of the refuge of the Lord.

*"Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! Selah" (Psalm 61:4, ESV)*

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!” (Matthew 23:37, ESV)*

It was the gentile woman that was gathered under His wings first. The Jewish people will come soon.

**2:13** Boaz' words are a comfort to Ruth. May the word of the Lord be a comfort to us.

*“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.” (2 Thessalonians 2:16–17, ESV)*

*“Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.” (Psalm 119:49–50, ESV)*

We see grace again.

**2:14** Boaz call Ruth to Him “Come here.” He invites her into fellowship and relationship.

Jesus invites us.

*“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28–29, ESV)*

*“I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”” (Luke 5:32, ESV)*

*“And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.” (Luke 9:23–24, ESV)*

*“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.” (John 7:37, ESV)*

*“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.” (John 6:35–37, ESV)*

*“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” (John 5:39–40, ESV)*

**2:14** Ruth finds her satisfaction with Him. She worked for food in the world, but she finds what she is seeking with Him. Plus, there were leftovers (see the feeding of the 5,000).

This is similar to when Peter and the crew went fishing after Jesus rose from the dead. They fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus had what they needed already cooking on the shore. (John 21).

**2:14** With Boaz as our type of Christ, what do we see him give to Ruth? Bread and wine. When did Jesus give bread and wine and what does that speak of? At the Last Supper when He instituted communion.

*"Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.""* (Matthew 26:26–29, ESV)

**2:15-16** He's setting her up for more blessing. We are blessed in Him.

*"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:19, ESV)

*"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,"* (Ephesians 1:7, ESV)

**2:18** Ruth the gentile is sharing the blessing with Naomi the Jewish woman. We are to be a blessing to them as well. The gentiles should share in the blessing.

*"For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings."* (Romans 15:27, ESV)

**2:19** Naomi (pictures the Jewish people) sees the blessing that Boaz (pictures Jesus) has poured out on Ruth (picture the gentiles) and wants to know where she got it.

*"So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!"* (Romans 11:11–12, ESV)

The blessings we receive from Christ ought to provoke Israel to jealousy. After all we're in relationship with, and worshipping their Messiah.

At this point Naomi knows who Boaz is but hasn't met him yet!

**2:20** This word kindness here. Naomi is rejoicing over the kindness of the Lord. This reminds me of Romans 2:4, which is contextually written to the religious person who seeks to establish their righteousness through the law.

*“Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?” (Romans 2:4, ESV)*

His kindness is meant to bring us into repentance.

**2:20** “has not forsaken the living or the dead!” The Lord isn’t finished with Israel. Continuing with the idea of who Naomi is in our typology, we see she isn’t forsaken. There’s no room for Replacement Theology. The church hasn’t replaced Israel. They are two different entities, just like Ruth and Naomi are two different people. Romans 9-11 deals with Israel in light of the Gospel. God isn’t done. And the fullness of the gentiles hasn’t come in yet. I believe we’re witnessing Ezekiel 37 and the valley of dry bones. Were somewhere between the bones coming together and the spirit being breathed into them.

**2:20** “close relative of ours”

First, I see that she says “ours.” Naomi the Jew and Ruth the gentile are both in need of the same redeemer! Romans 1-3 levels the playing field and demonstrates all of our need for salvation.

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 gives us the law for redemption for a brother. Numbers 27:1-11 Tells us of Zelophehad’s daughters. This helps us to sort out how to solve the problem if there is no living brother. Then the right of redemption goes to the nearest kinsman. What qualified a kinsman redeemer?

- You had to be related. Nearest living male relative.
- You had to be able. You had to be able to afford the price of redemption, which would also include not owing the debt yourself.
- You had to be willing. If you didn’t want to redeem you didn’t have to, but be prepared to be slapped and spit on!

How does Jesus fit these criteria as our Kinsman Redeemer?

- He is related. God became a man, to redeem mankind. He stepped into His creation and became one of us. Emmanuel, God with us.
  - *“who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:6–8, ESV)*
  - *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).” (Matthew 1:23, ESV)*

- *"Since therefore the children share in flesh and 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,"* (Hebrews 2:14, ESV)
- *"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,"* (Colossians 2:9, ESV)
- He is able. This is why the virgin birth is necessary. Romans 5 helps sort this out. He is the seed of the woman, with God as His Father. This avoids the headship of Adam as well as his debt of sin. Jesus could pay the price because He's not a sinner by birth. We inherited Adam's sin nature, He did not. Jesus is also sinless by choice. He never chose to sin either. As our sinless sacrifice, He could pay our debt that He didn't owe!
  - See Romans 5:12-21
  - *"knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot."* (1 Peter 1:18–19, ESV)
  - *"He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth."* (1 Peter 2:22, ESV)
- He is willing. In the Garden of Gethsemane in prayer to His Father He prayed, and surrendered His will to the Father.
  - *"And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.""* (Mark 14:35–36, ESV)

**2:21** The harvest isn't finished

*"And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* (Luke 10:2, ESV)

### Chapter 3

**3:8** Ruth positions herself at his feet. This speaks of placing herself under his authority. This also speaks of humility and submission. Shouldn't his be our heart with Christ?

*"And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him."* (Matthew 28:9, ESV) This is after the resurrection.

Luke 7 The woman in humility and worship anointed Jesus' feet.

*"And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,"* (Ephesians 1:22, ESV)

*“so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:10–11, ESV)*

**3:9** “I am your servant” We should submit ourselves as servants of God. The NT writers had a habit of starting their letters by describing themselves as servants. We should approach Christ as His servants. Remember what He said.

*“No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15, ESV)*

To the best of our understanding, there's a possibility that Ruth means “friend.” The trouble is her name is Moabite, which is a dead language.

**3:10** “spread your wings over” or “spread your garment over” This is not sexual. She seeks for Boaz to be her covering and security.

Jesus robes us in His righteousness.

*“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.” (Isaiah 61:10, ESV)*

Matthew 22 in the parable of the wedding feast, a man comes in without a wedding garment. This speaks of him trying to enter the kingdom of Heaven without Christ's provided righteousness.

*““When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.” (Ezekiel 16:8, ESV)*

*“For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.” (Romans 10:3, ESV)*

We can't come with our own righteousness.

**3:13** “I will redeem you.” What a wonderful promise! Boaz has agreed to pay the price. Hosea redeems Gomer for 15 shekels of silver. We don't know the price that needed to be paid here, but redemption came with a price.

*“waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for*

*himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."* (Titus 2:13–14, ESV)

**3:14-18** more blessing

**3:18** Once Jesus made the decision to go through with redemption, He didn't rest until it was paid.

*"When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."* (John 19:30, ESV)

## Chapter 4

**4:1** The gate was the place of judgement. The elders of the city would meet at the city gate to make deals and render judgement. (See Deuteronomy 21:19; 22:15)

*"The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth"* (Genesis 19:1, ESV)

**4:1** The Unnamed Redeemer, pictures for us the Law.

**4:2** Ten men of the elders picture for us the Ten Commandments.

Boaz speaks to the elders, not Ruth. Just as Jesus speaks to the law and the Commandments for us. Jesus meets the requirements. He kept the commandments not us.

Jesus was sinless (see above). If he wasn't sinless he wouldn't be able to stand as a living mercy seat between us and the Ten Commandments, between us and the Law.

Ruth found grace with Boaz. We find grace Jesus.

*"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?"* (Romans 6:1, ESV)

*"O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"* (Galatians 3:1–3, ESV)

**4:2-5** The deal. Buy the land, get the girl. No girl, no land. The Unnamed Redeemer is interested in the land, but not the girl. Property but not relationship.

Is there anything wrong with the Law? No.

*"So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good."* (Romans 7:12, ESV)

*"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;" (Psalm 19:7, ESV)*

*"(for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God." (Hebrews 7:19, ESV)*

But go back to the deal. Look what the Unnamed Redeemer turns down but Boaz accepts. The land and the girl are a package deal.

*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Matthew 13:44, ESV)*

*"that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:21, ESV)*

See also Revelation 5. The sealed scroll is the title deed to the earth!

Notice in this one act of redemption, Boaz not only redeems Ruth, but also Naomi.

Jesus' one act of redemption; His death burial and resurrection, need not be duplicated. In the one act, He redeemed both Jew and Gentile.

**4:6** The Law just can't redeem. It can declare what is *righteous* but it can't make someone *righteous*. The law cannot redeem you.

How is it that the law is at first a closer redeemer? (Ruth 3:12) Because the Law is written on our hearts. It is meant to bring us to our Redeemer, Jesus, but not to be a redeemer for us.

*"So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith." (Galatians 3:24, ESV)*

*"Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," (Romans 3:19–24, ESV)*

**4:7-8** The sandal. This is also a part of the law of redemption found in Deuteronomy 25:5-10. The sandal speaks of possession. By giving the shoe to the willing redeemer, he's giving up his rights of possession.

*"Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours. Your territory shall be from the wilderness to the Lebanon and from the River, the river Euphrates, to the western sea." (Deuteronomy 11:24, ESV)*

*"Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses." (Joshua 1:3, ESV)*

Also in this law Ruth has the opportunity to slapped and spit in the Unnamed Redeemer's face. She wasn't there. But Jesus did this for us as well.

*"And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows." (Mark 14:65, ESV)*

**4:9** "You are witnesses..." Everyone knew Boaz bought Ruth it was a public redemption. The same are witnesses for Jesus, The Law and the Commandments are witnesses to His righteousness. He met the requirements.

*"O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified." (Galatians 3:1, ESV)*

*"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him." (Colossians 2:13–15, ESV)*

**4:10** Ruth is now a redeemed bride. Like Gomer was for Hosea as well. We are the redeemed bride of Christ! Redeemed for relationship. Not about religion at all. No one else wanted us, but Christ did! The odds of Ruth finding a willing redeemer were very minimal because she was of Moab. Boaz' mom was Rahab from Jericho!

*"Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."'" (Revelation 21:9, ESV)*

*"The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete." (John 3:29, ESV)*

*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." (Ephesians 5:31–33, ESV)*

**4:13** Boaz and Ruth come together and have a son.

**4:14-14** Now Naomi sees Boaz her redeemer. Before she knew of his potential to redeem, but now he is her redeemer. This didn't happen until Boaz and Ruth were united in the wedding chamber.

The Jewish people won't recognize, as a whole, Jesus as Messiah until the rapture. This is when Jesus takes his church away to be with him. I believe this happens at the beginning of, or prior to the great tribulation period. During the tribulation period, the Jewish people will see Jesus for who he is, their messiah and Redeemer.

*"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord."* (1 Thessalonians 4:13–17, ESV)

*"I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Corinthians 15:50–57, ESV)

*"After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.""* (Revelation 4:1, ESV)

*"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn."* (Zechariah 12:10, ESV)

*"Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come*

from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!" (Romans 11:25–33, ESV)

**4:15-17** The fruit of their union was Obed. His name means "Servant." How appropriate. The fruit of our union with Christ ought to be that we serve Him and each other. This union represents two things.

- 1) New life. He came to give us life and that more abundantly. John 3:16-18; 10:10
- 2) The church. See the church is a NT mystery. It's neither Jew nor Gentile, but its own thing. Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."* (John 3:16–18, ESV)

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10, ESV)

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* (Galatians 3:28, ESV)

*"Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all."* (Colossians 3:11, ESV)

It was through Naomi (Jewish people) that Ruth (Gentile believers) had the opportunity to know Boaz (Jesus). And it was through Ruth (Gentile believers) that Naomi (Jewish people) saw Boaz (Jesus) and experienced his restoration in blessing.

**4:17-22** They become a part of the royal line of David. The royal line of the Messiah, the son of David. (Matthew 9:27; 15:22; 20:30; 21:19). We too are brought in to the family of God. Through grafting and adoption, we are the children of God! (Romans 11; Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:15,23).

*"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know*

him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." (1 John 3:1-3, ESV)

*Redemption had a price*

*It cost Jesus his life*

*His blood was paid*

*In the tomb He was laid*

*On the third day*

*In victory He raised*

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***Better than Boaz is our redeemer***

***A better redemption new life for the believer***

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Eternal life is misunderstood. The song of the world today is, "I don't want to live forever." The problem is, people have the wrong idea about what "life" is being promised. They picture a continuation or a prolonging of what they experience here in a sin-filled, fallen world. To them a continuation of life is a continuation of pain, suffering, and tears. But the life God promises isn't this. Because this isn't life. It is the in during of a cursed existence. Continuing in spiritual death.

Jesus came to free us from the curse. To offer real-life. Life in the spirit. Alive to God. Jesus came to free us from the price – paid in full – (John 19:30). The life that Jesus has promised, is to wipe away every tear from our eyes, with no more death, pain, or sorrow. Real life. These things will pass away. Living forever isn't a perpetuation of suffering, but an end to it. With real life and God as its source.

Will you accept this free gift of life that Jesus offers? He is qualified. He is able. He is willing. Jesus offers you eternal life. Redeemed life. Trust in him and he will act.