

Ruth Chapters Three and Four

Outline of the Book:

- Loves Resolve – Chapter One – Ruth Cleaves to Naomi
- Loves Response – Chapter Two – Ruth Gleans for Naomi
- Loves Request – Chapter Three – Ruth and the Threshing Floor
- Loves Reward – Chapter Four – Ruth and the Land Redeemed

Chapter Three

VS 1 Gaining security for Naomi and Ruth

- The name of Elimelech needs to be preserved
- Elimelech land needs to be redeemed
- Offspring through Ruth to preserve Mahlon

VS 2 Boaz – a kinsman

The Threshing Floor

- Separating the chaff from the kernel
- Harvest time was festive – celebrating with feasting and drink
- Staying the night was to guard the grain against theft.

VS 3 Naomi's instructions

1. Wash Yourself - Baptism
2. Anoint Yourself – Filled with Holy Spirit
3. Wear Good Clothes – Robes of Righteousness – Rev 7:9; 13
4. Go to the Threshing Floor – Go to the Place where the help is
5. Make Yourself Known – Cry out to Jesus – we make the first move

VS 4 - 9

- At Boaz's feet – horizontally
- Position of a petitioner
- Ruth uses her real name – says handmaid – available and eligible for marriage
- Ruth calls Boaz a kinsman – invoking the law of Levirate Marriage – making a claim upon him
- Goel – Kinsman redeemer
- Ruth is sacrificing her personal well being for the good of Naomi by providing her an heir

VS 10 – 13 Boaz's Response

- Boaz commends Ruth for placing Naomi's needs above her own
- Acknowledges her virtue and excellence
- Agrees to perform the role of Goel (kinsman redeemer) if the nearer kinsman refuses to do so
- Will do this the next day.

VS 14-18 Six Measures of Barley

- Ruth leaves early in the morning with six measures of barley for Naomi
- Urgency of the decision

Law of Redemption – Leviticus 25:23-28 (New Living Translation)

“The land must never be sold on a permanent basis, for the land belongs to me. You are only foreigners and tenant farmers working for me.

²⁴“With every purchase of land you must grant the seller the right to buy it back. ²⁵If one of your fellow Israelites falls into poverty and is forced to sell some family land, then a close relative should buy it back for him. ²⁶If there is no close relative to buy the land, but the person who sold it gets enough money to buy it back, ²⁷he then has the right to redeem it from the one who bought it. The price of the land will be discounted according to the number of years until the next Year of Jubilee. In this way the original owner can then return to the land. ²⁸But if the original owner cannot afford to buy back the land, it will remain with the new owner until the next Year of Jubilee. In the jubilee year, the land must be returned to the original owners so they can return to their family land.

Chapter Four

VS 1 Boaz at the City Gate

- The city gate was like the Town Hall or Courthouse
- It was a place to conduct legal business
- It was a place where council and decisions for the community were made
- It is where Boaz meet the nearer Kinsman Redeemer
- Abraham purchases Sarah's burial place (Gen 23)
- Absalom usurped David's authority (2 Sam 15)
- Kings often sat at the city gates to conduct kingdom affairs
- Criminal acts were judged at the city gates

VS 2 Ten witnesses

Role of the Kinsman Redeemer

1. Had to be a kinsman
2. Had to be able to perform
3. Had to be willing to perform
4. Had to assume all the obligations involved

VS 3-6 The decision – why did the nearer kinsman decline?

1. Had to invest his own money to redeem the land
2. Ruth's son would then be the legal heir for the land
3. The offspring would inherit the land (Mahlon's heir) as rightful owner
4. The nearer kinsman would also forfeit some of his personal property going to the heir through Ruth when he died
 - He was a nearer kinsman
 - He was able perform
 - But he was not willing to preform
 - He was not willing to accept all the responsibilities and obligations

Law of Levirate Marriage – Duet 25:5-10 (New Living Translation)

⁵“If two brothers are living together on the same property and one of them dies without a son, his widow may not be married to anyone from outside the family. Instead, her husband's brother should marry her and have intercourse with her to fulfill the duties of a brother-in-law. ⁶The first son she bears to him will be considered the son of the dead brother, so that his name will not be forgotten in Israel.

⁷“But if the man refuses to marry his brother's widow, she must go to the town gate and say to the elders assembled there, ‘My husband's brother refuses to preserve his brother's name in Israel—he refuses to fulfill the duties of a brother-in-law by marrying me.’ ⁸The elders of the town will then summon him and talk with him. If he still refuses and says, ‘I don't want to marry her,’ ⁹the widow must walk over to him in the presence of the elders, pull his sandal from his foot, and spit in his face. Then she must declare, ‘This is what happens to a man who refuses to provide his brother with children.’ ¹⁰Ever afterward in Israel his family will be referred to as ‘The family of the man whose sandal was pulled off’!

VS 7-10 Boaz Fulfills the Right of Redemption and Levirate Marriage

- The shoe is given to Boaz
- The transaction is witnessed by the elders at the gate
- Ruth is purchased as his bride
- The name of Elimelech is preserved
- Naomi is fully restored

Jesus as our Kinsman

- He was a kinsman - incarnation
- He was willing – He chose the cross
- He was able – He was sinless
- He took all the obligations necessary to redeem us and have the church as His bride

VS 11- 22

- Genealogy of Perez
- Genealogy of Obed
- Genealogy of David

Ruth's Social Progression

- Foreigner
- Beneath a Lower Servant
- Maidservant
- Wife