

Ruth 4

A Picture of Redeeming Love

Ruth 1 / Decisions that Determines Destiny

Ruth 2 / Amazing Grace

Ruth 3 / Five Ways to Draw Closer to God

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The book of Ruth has a happy ending.
 - i) It didn't start happily.
 - ii) It began with a funeral, but it ends with a wedding.
 - iii) It began with a famine, but it ends with fullness.
 - iv) It began with weeping; but in this fourth and final chapter, joy has come.

(1) *Psalm 30:5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.*

- b) Remember that Ruth is a picture of us - the church, the bride of Christ. Boaz is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, our kinsman redeemer.
 - i) Ruth was a Moabitess, and Boaz was an Israelite.
 - ii) Ruth was a stranger from a hateful nation that had a curse upon it. She was alienated from the commonwealth of Israel.
 - iii) Boaz redeemed her, brought her in and married her.
- c) The key word in Ruth 4 is redemption.
 - i) The word "redemption" is used at least 15 times in this one chapter.

ii) Ruth 4:4 So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "I will redeem it."

d) In Ruth 4, we find three pictures of our Lord's gift of salvation.

2) A PICTURE OF OUR REDEEMING LORD (Ruth 4:1-6) Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. 3 Then he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. 4 So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "I will redeem it." 5 Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance." 6 Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

- a) There were two laws from ancient Israel that come into play in Ruth 4.
 - i) The law of the kinsman redeemer.
 - (1) Leviticus 25
 - (2) In ancient Israel, God would give land to a tribe and family.
 - (3) If the landowner mortgaged his land or went into bankruptcy and had to sell his land, a near relative (a kinsman redeemer) could redeem that land and buy it back.
 - ii) The law of the Levirate marriage.
 - (1) Deuteronomy 25
 - (2) If a married couple had no children and the husband died, then the man's brother was to take the man's wife, who was now a widow, and marry her and endeavor to have children in order to keep the man's name alive.
 - iii) Therefore, there was a kinsman redeemer who could buy back the land and a kinsman who could marry the widow to raise up children.
 - iv) Three things were necessary in order for a man to be able to buy back the lost estate and marry the widow who came with the estate:
 - (1) He had to have the legal qualifications.
 - (a) He had to be a near kinsman.
 - (2) He had to have the money to do it; he had to be wealthy enough.
 - (3) He had to be willing to do it; it was not forced upon him.

- v) These qualifications picture our Redeeming Lord.
- b) Boaz was legally worthy.
 - i) **Ruth 4:6** *Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."*
 - (1) Boaz was legally worthy and was ready to buy back the land and marry Ruth, but there was a nearer kinsman than he.
 - (a) The nearer kinsman who could not redeem represents Adam.
 - (b) We are all related to Adam.
 - (c) In Adam, we all die.
 - ii) **Ruth 4:2** *And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.*
 - (1) Boaz gathered together ten witnesses in the gate.
 - (2) The Ten Commandments are the ten witnesses that testify that our Adamic nature cannot save us.
 - (a) If we break the law in one point, we are guilty of all.
 - iii) The nearer kinsman, so full of self and selfishness (lest he mar his own inheritance) could not redeem.
 - (1) But there was one who was next in line willing to redeem.
 - (2) Our Lord Jesus Christ became a human being that He might become our near kinsman.
 - (a) **Hebrews 2:14** *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,

c) Jesus is legally worthy.

i) He had to redeem us as man in order to be our near kinsman.

(ii) Revelation 5:1-9 *Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, 4 and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."*

6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 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,

(1) The book referred to in this passage is the title deed to Earth; the official document that determines the outcome of all history.

(2) Jesus alone is worthy.

d) Jesus is lavishly wealthy.

(1) Boaz was a mighty man of wealth.

ii) Jesus paid a far greater price for us than Boaz paid for Ruth.

(1) **1 Peter 1:18-19** *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

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

(3) **1 Peter 3:18** *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,*

(4) **Revelation 5:9** *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,

- iii) Jesus bought us back with His blood.
 - e) Jesus was lovingly willing.
 - i) Boaz did not have to buy Ruth, nor did the Lord Jesus have to buy us.
 - ii) He does not love us because we're valuable; we're valuable because He loves us.
 - iii) He loves us by His sheer grace, as Boaz loved Ruth before she ever knew his name.
 - iv) We love Him because He first loved us.
- (1) *1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.*

3) A PICTURE OF OUR RENEWED LIFE (Ruth 4:7-8) *Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. 8 So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal.*

- a) Ruth had three major problems; and without Christ, we share these same problems.
 - i) *Ephesians 2:12-13 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once*

were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

ii) Her past was cursed.

- (1) She was born a Moabite.
 - (a) She was an alien from the commonwealth of Israel.
 - (b) ***Remember Ephesians 2:12***
- (2) She lived under a curse.
 - (a) ***Deuteronomy 23:3 "No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever,***
 - (b) The Moabites were descendants of Lot, who had a child through an incestuous relationship with his daughter; and the curse was upon them.
- (3) According to the law, the law could not admit Ruth.
 - (a) So is the case with each of us.
 - (b) In Adam, we all die.

iii) Her present was crushed.

- (1) ***Remember again Ephesians 2:12***
 - (a) Ruth was a stranger to the things of God; she was without Christ.
 - (b) Her life was marked by tragedy and sorrow.
 - (c) The joys of a life with Christ were not hers.

iv) Her future was condemned.

- (1) ***Again because of Ephesians 2:12***
 - (2) Her future, without God, was hopeless.

b) Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

- c) The word “redeem” means “to purchase, to buy back.” It can also mean “to buy out,” “to take out of the marketplace.” It also means “to set free.”
 - i) When our Lord redeemed us, not only did He buy us, but He took us out of the market place; we are no longer for sale.
 - (1) This speaks to our security.
 - ii) We are set free in Christ.

d) Ruth 4:7-8 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. 8 So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal.

- i) As was the custom, the nearer kinsman, who could not redeem, took off his shoe and handed it to Boaz.
- ii) When Jesus paid for our sins, He took our place: He stands in our shoes.
 - (1) As Boaz stood in the shoes of the nearer kinsman, Jesus stood in our shoes and paid the price that we cannot pay.
- iii) **2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

4) A PICTURE OF OUR RESTORED LEGACY (Ruth 4:10-

17) Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day." 11Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, 12and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman."

Ruth and Boaz Marry

13So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! 15He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." 16Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. 17And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born

to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

e) Ruth received a family.

i) *Ruth 4:10 Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."*

ii) When we are saved, we become a part of the family of God.

f) Ruth received a fortune.

i) *Ruth 4:10 Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."*

ii) No longer is Ruth gleaning the fields; she owns the field. She shares in the wealth of Boaz.

iii) As Christians, we are joint heirs with Jesus.

(1) *Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

(2) Joint heir means to “share and share alike.”

(3) Everything that belongs to Jesus belongs to us.

g) Ruth received fame.

- i) *Ruth 4:11 Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem,*
- ii) Even today, the name of Ruth is spoken with reverence.
- iii) If we know Jesus, we are part of royalty, married into the family of God.

h) Ruth received fruitfulness.

- i) *Ruth 4:11 Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem,*
- (1) The word “Ephrahtah” means “fruitful.”
- ii) *John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*

i) Ruth received a future.

- i) *Ruth 4:16-17 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. 17 And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.*
- ii) Ruth’s son, Obed, was the grandfather of David, the ancestry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4) CONCLUSION

- a) If people only knew what they have in Christ Jesus, then we couldn't keep them away from following Him.
- b) Jesus bought us with a great price.
- c) Just as Ruth was not ashamed of Boaz, neither should we be ashamed of Jesus Christ.
 - i) ***Mark 8:38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."***

Ruth 4:18 Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, 19 Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, 20 Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, 21 Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, 22 Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

Three pictures of God's Gift of Salvation:

- 1) A PICTURE OF OUR REDEEMING LORD**
- 2) A PICTURE OF OUR RENEWED LIFE**
- 3) A PICTURE OF OUR RESTORED LEGACY**
 - a) Ruth received a family.**
 - b) Ruth received a fortune.**
 - c) Ruth received fame.**
 - d) Ruth received a future.**