

The God of the Ordinary

RUTH

Ruth 4:1-12

A Pattern of Redemption

Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there, and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz spoke was passing by, so he said, "Turn aside, friend, sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. ² 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 closest relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the land of Moab, has to sell the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. ⁴ So I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy *it* before those who are sitting *here*, and before the elders of my people. If you will redeem *it*, redeem *it*; but if not, tell me that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem *it*, and I am after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem *it*."

⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of the deceased, in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance." ⁶ The closest relative said, "I cannot redeem *it* for myself, because I would jeopardize my own inheritance. Redeem *it* for yourself; you *may have* my right of redemption, for I cannot redeem *it*."

(Ruth 4:1-6)

Legal Background

1. Three interconnected customs

- family inheritance in the land
- redemption by a near relative (go'el)
- remarriage of a childless widow (levirate)

The importance of the survival of families through descendants on their inherited land

Legal Background

2. The extreme situation of Naomi

- true levirate marriage was impossible
- she had no descendants who would inherit the land
- she had a widowed, childless daughter-in-law from Moab

Legal Background

3. The role of the “go’el” in Ruth

- he was responsible for maintaining Elimelech’s land within the larger family and...
- raising up an heir to Elimelech through marriage to Ruth the daughter-in-law

Legal Background

➤ This background helps explain why...

- Boaz first brought up the sell of Elimelech’s land by Naomi
- the “go’el” was responsible to marry Ruth as part of his role as redeemer
- the nearer kinsman declined his right when informed about his responsibility to Ruth

⁷ Now this was *the custom* in former times in Israel concerning the redemption and the exchange of *land* to confirm any matter: a man removed his sandal and gave it to another; and this was the *manner of attestation* in Israel.

⁸ So the closest relative said to Boaz, “Buy *it* for yourself.” And he removed his sandal.

⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses today that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon.

¹⁰ Moreover, I have acquired Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, to be my wife in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance, so that the name of the deceased will not be cut off from his brothers or from the court of his *birth* place; you are witnesses today.”

¹¹ All the people who were in the gate, and the elders, said, “*We are* witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel; and may you achieve wealth in Ephrathah and become famous in Bethlehem. ¹² Moreover, may your house be like the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah, through the offspring which the LORD will give you by this young woman.”

(Ruth 4:7-12)

Pattern of Redemption

1. Redemption was costly

- Boaz paid a price and assumed great financial responsibility for Elimelech’s land and family

Pattern of Redemption

2. Redemption was selfless

- Boaz’s concern was not firstly for his own interests but the interests of others

Pattern of Redemption

3. Redemption was obedient

- Boaz's was ultimately submitting to God's word in acting as a kinsman-redeemer

Pattern of Redemption

4. Redemption was unto an inheritance

- the purpose was to raise up Elimelech's family name on his inheritance

Pattern of Redemption

5. Redemption was rewarding

- Boaz would be greatly blessed and honored because of his actions as redeemer

Pattern of Redemption

➤ Jesus Our Redeemer

- His redemption of His people was costly, selfless, obedient, unto an inheritance, and rewarding
- He is our kinsman-redeemer and we are His bride!