

Introduction: In the book of *Ruth*, the Covenant God (Yahweh) shows some of the many qualities that make Him wonderful. He does this mostly through three people and what they experience in ten critical years in their lives. In order of appearance, they are: Naomi, Ruth and Boaz. *** Naomi is an Israelite woman, who went to the idol worshipping nation of Moab with her husband, and two sons of marriageable age, to escape a famine in the 'House of Bread'. While there, both her sons marry Moabite women. Ten years later, all the men are dead and the wives have no children. As Naomi prepares to return to Bethlehem, she feels bitter and forsaken by God. *** Ruth is a Moabite widow of Naomi's son Mahlon (sickly). She had learned of Yahweh from Naomi. She pledges to stay with Naomi always, and to have Yahweh as her (only) God. *** Boaz is a near kinsman-redeemer of Naomi's husband. Ruth just 'happens' to glean in his field. He is gracious to her from the start because he has heard that her character and faith in Yahweh are as great as his. *** What we have heard today is how Boaz selflessly sacrifices much to redeem Ruth. He is a type of God's great sacrificial LOVE in Jesus, who died for our redemption and to provide forgiveness of our sins through His LOVE, demonstrated in His faithful death on the Cross. *** Naomi comes to realize God was providing for her even in the famine which led her to Ruth. The death of the men in her life resulted in her returning home with Ruth, who ended up in the field of her kinsman-redeemer: Boaz. *** Ruth came to fear God through Naomi, and at her direction, Ruth came to meet Boaz, who eventually married her. Then, God graciously gave her a son by him named Obed, who was David's grandfather. The King of kings, Messiah Jesus, came from David! *** With this background, let's examine the details of how Boaz is a type of Jesus: THE Kinsman-Redeemer.)

I. The nearer kinsman-redeemer tells Boaz and the elders he will not take on Naomi and Ruth for fear of his own inheritance; but, in a demonstration of excellent character, Boaz takes on all Elimelech left, agreeing to marry Ruth. (Ruth 4:1-12)

A. Boaz finds the nearer kinsman-redeemer at the city gate and calls elders to witness, the nearer relative rejects Naomi and Ruth, fearing personal loss; but, Boaz redeems everything. (Verses 1-8)

1. Boaz went up to the gate, and Behold! kinsman-redeemer, of whom Boaz spoke, passing by, [Boaz] said: Such one, thou must turn aside and sit here; then he turned aside and sat; [Boaz] took ten elders and said: y'all must sit here, they sat. (Verses 1-2)

Boaz at gate: The city gate was where Israel conducted business. Boaz convenes the court.

2. [Boaz] said to kinsman-redeemer: A parcel of land, belonging to our brother Elimelech, sold by Naomi; I said I will certainly uncover thy ear: Thou must buy it before these elders; if thou will redeem it, redeem it; if not, thou must tell me, so I know, for no one except thee, then me; he said: I will indeed redeem it. (Verses 3-4)

Elimelech's land: When it comes to Elimelech's land, the nearer kinsman-redeemer wants it.

3. Boaz said: the day thou buy the field from Naomi, Ruth, the widow of the dead, thou have bought to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance. (Verse 5)

Also Ruth: He must take responsibility for the two widows, and the firstborn son of Ruth will inherit Elimelech's land, not the kinsman-redeemer.

4. The kinsman-redeemer said: I cannot redeem it for myself without ruining my own inheritance; thou must redeem it for thyself, for I cannot redeem it. (Verse 6)

Not me: The nearest relative had an inheritance too small to support two widows. Since Ruth was a childless widow almost thirty years old, he might have only one son, who would not be considered his.

Application: Let's not be hard on this kinsman because we are unable to save even ourselves due to a lack of resources to pay the price of redemption (Psalm 49:7-9), but God will pay the price (verse 15).

5. In former times in Israel concerning redemption and exchange, to establish all things: one took off his sandal and gave it to the other; then, the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz: thou must buy for thyself; then he took off his sandal. (Verses 7-8)

Sandal: It is now settled: Boaz is the legal kinsman-redeemer of the land and Ruth,

B. Boaz demonstrates sacrificial selflessness for the sake of his relative Elimelech, and all that was his, as he marries Ruth to raise up a son for him. (Verses 9-12)

1. Boaz said to the elders and all the people: Witnesses (are) y'all today that I bought all that (was) to Elimelech, Chilion and Mahlon from Naomi. (Verse 9)

Elimelech: Boaz has bought all that belonged to Elimelech and his sons from Naomi.

2. Also Ruth, Mahlon's widow, I bought to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead for his inheritance, so his name is not cut off from the gate of his place: witnesses y'all today. (Verse 10)

Ruth: Boaz declares that any son born to Ruth by him will be to establish Elimelech's name.

Selfless: This is a selfless act for Boaz. His son will not establish his inheritance, but his relative's.

In the true spirit of a kinsman-redeemer, he is giving new life to a kinsman, not himself.

The kinsman-redeemer gives new life

Application: Let us appreciate and try to imitate Boaz's demonstration of his strong character of integrity, courage from strength, and sacrificial love as he redeemed Ruth for his relative Elimelech.

3. Then all the people in the gate and elder witnesses said [to Boaz]: Yahweh will make [Ruth] like Rachel and Leah, the two who built up the house of Israel: thou must be worthy in Ephrathah and renowned in Bethlehem; thy house will be like Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah because of the descendants Yahweh will give thee by [Ruth]. (Verse 11-12)

People for Ruth: All people at the city gate declare Yahweh will use Ruth to build up His people.

Tamar: The story of Tamar (Genesis 38) is sordid; but, this Canaanite woman fathered Perez, who was an ancestor of Boaz.

II. Ruth gives birth to a son blessing Naomi with new life; he is named Obed: David's grandfather; through David's descendant Mary, THE Kinsman-Redeemer is born bringing glory to the holy God for merciful salvation.

(Ruth 4:13-22; Luke 1:46-55)

A. Ruth conceives and gives birth to a son so Yahweh blesses Naomi with new life; he is named Obed (serving) and he became David's grandfather, Messiah came from David. (*Ruth 2:13-22*)

1. Then Boaz took Ruth and he came to her, then Yahweh gave to her conception, then she bore a son. (*Verse 13*)

Conceived: After failing to conceive in her ten years with Mahlon, Ruth soon conceived a son with Boaz and gave birth to the son, all by Yahweh's providence.

2. The women said to Naomi: Blessed (is) Yahweh who has not left thee without a kinsman-redeemer; his name will be renowned in Israel; he shall restore thy life and nourish thy old-age; because thy daughter-in-law, who loves thee, has borne him, she is better to thee than seven sons. (*Verses 14-15*)

Naomi's new life: This baby boy, born to replace her husband and sons, has given new life to Naomi because the foreigner Ruth has a character as noble as Boaz.

The kinsman-redeemer gives new life

3. Then Naomi took the baby boy and laid him on her bosom and became his foster-mother. (*Verse 16*)

Naomi's love: Naomi loves this baby boy because she knows it is a gift from God through her godly daughter-in-law and her kinsman-redeemer. This is a perfect example of God's faithfulness.

Application: We have a better knowledge that God is always faithful because of what Jesus Christ did.

4. And the neighbor-women gave a name to the son who had been born to Naomi by the kinsman-redeemer: Obed; he was the father of Jesse, the father of David. (*Verse 17*)

Name: The name means serving: both God and family.

David: Obed was king David's grandfather, by whom the eternal King was born (2 Samuel 7:9-13). Jesus is THE Kinsman-Redeemer of those fearing Him. Boaz is a type of Jesus; Naomi (an Israelite) and Ruth (a non-Israelite) together are a type of the Church, made up of people from all nations.

Application: We must take the truth of this typology and always thank and praise God that Jesus is the Messiah King from David's line through Mary who became THE Kinsman-Redeemer for His Church made up of both Israel and the nations.

Jesus is THE kinsman-redeemer (who) gives new life

5. The last five verses give the list of Judah's descendants from Perez to David. (*Verse 18-22*)

David: David is the tenth from Perez. He is the result of new life from a kinsman-redeemer.

And, his greatest descendant is THE Kinsman-Redeemer who brings new life to all who trust and obey Him.

The kinsman-redeemer gives new life

B. When Mary realizes God chose her to bear His Savior Son, she glorifies Him and rejoices in humility before His holiness and mercy to those fearing Him, the One who scatters the proud. (*Luke 1:46-55*)

1. And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. (*Verses 46-47*)

Magnify Lord: As Mary responds to Gabriel's announcement that God chose her to give birth to His Son, her soul bursts out in praise to Him. She says her soul magnifies the Lord who chose her!

Rejoice in Savior: Then her spirit rejoices when she thinks about God saving her through the Son who will be born to her! (See Hannah's song: 1 Samuel 2:1)

God is glorified for His salvation through Mary's Son

2. For He regarded the humility of His servant / therefore, from now they will bless me, all generations // because the Mighty one has done to me magnificent things/ and holy (is) His Name. (*Verses 48-49*)

Humble: God is especially close to those who are humble (Isaiah 57:15; Matthew 23:11-12).

Holy: God is both holy and mighty (1 Samuel 2:2).

3. And His mercy from generation to generation of those fearing Him. (*Verse 50*)

Mercy: God's mercy moves Him to forgive all who turn to His Son and cry out in faith to be forgiven.

Application: We must all act on this Gospel truth: even in dark and confusing times of death and famine, God is providing for those with humble fear of Him.

4. He has done strength with His mighty arm / He has scattered the proud in the thought of their hearts // He has taken down the mighty from their thrones / and lifted up the humble. (*Verses 51-52*)

Scatters proud and lifts humble: Mary is quoting a proverb of Solomon (Proverbs 3:34) later quoted by Peter (1 Peter 5:5) and James (4:6). [See also 1 Samuel 2:7]

5. He has filled the hungry with good things / and those being rich, He sent away empty // He has helped Israel, His servant / having remembered mercy // even as He said to our fathers / to Abraham and his descendants forever. (*Verses 53-55*)

Fills hungry: God fills hungry people with good and nutritious food.

Remembers mercy: He remembers to have mercy on His servant, Israel – whom He redeemed from bondage in Egypt (2 Samuel 7:23).

As spoke to Abraham: Abraham is the father of all the faithful (Romans 4).

Bottom Line: When Abraham offered up his son Isaac to death to Yahweh (Genesis 22:1-19), Isaac also became a type of Jesus, THE Kinsman-Redeemer, who redeemed all who turn to Him in obedient faith based on His death for their sins and resurrection to give them new life, starting now and going forever.

Conclusion: The nearer kinsman-redeemer tells Boaz and the elders he will not take on Ruth for fear of his own inheritance.

But, in a demonstration of excellent character, Boaz takes on all Elimelech left, agreeing to marry Ruth. Ruth gives birth to a son blessing Naomi with new life; he is named Obed: David's grandfather. Through David's descendant Mary, THE Kinsman-Redeemer is born bringing glory to the holy God for merciful salvation.

The kinsman-redeemer gives new life