

RUTH CHAPTER FOUR

~ When we began this leg of our Spiritual Safari through the Book of Ruth, I had seven reports outlined for it; but, with a few minor editing adjustments, we can complete Ruth in this sixth report. When I originally wrote this particular report in our first safari through the entire Word of God, it seemed almost certain it would be the final report I would publish. It would have been a good place to stop, too, because I had brought the entire Gospel account to the entire world; I have taught the Mosaic Law in its entirety; I fully explained and correlated the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ in Joshua - the Old Testament; I brought severe judgment in Judges, and God seemed certain to terminate my missionary efforts teaching redemption. I'm not going to lie to you dear readers, because I never lie to you - I thought I had absolutely missed the point God was revealing to me in Scripture. All I knew was, I could bow down and pray honestly that I had taught the Bible properly, correctly and completely throughout the effort thus far. The caveat to that was, I had still managed to fail the cause of Christ completely. It's a bitter, difficult realization, my beloved.

In our previous report, Ruth claimed Boaz as her kinsman redeemer. Naomi had instructed Ruth to be still until they knew how the matter would work out. It is now up to Boaz to take it from here; and he has made it clear there was another who was nearer of kin than him. It's likely it was a brother of Elimelech; which would have made him an uncle of Ruth's dead husband. Dr. Kyle and others take this position; and it is the most plausible. Most educated and sincere rabbis have also taken that view of this relationship.

Either way, Ruth has come a long, long ways from the idolatry of Moab, as a hopeless and impoverished foreign widow, to the fields of Boaz – and now into the home and heart of this Jewish man. You and I have, likewise, come a long way from our hopelessness of being hell-doomed sinners, and into the position of sons of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, we are in the heart and home of Christ Who gave Himself for us....

1 Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, 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 ye down here. And they sat down.

3 And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's:

4 And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it.

5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.

6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it.

~ This closer kinsman initially accepts the responsibility but abruptly changes his tune when he hears about a Moabitess being involved. In verse four he said, without hesitation, that he would redeem Naomi; but, when the Moabitess factor was introduced, it was taken off the table of possibilities just like Naomi had said would happen. I think this nearer kinsman already had children. Those children were likely grown – or nearly full grown – and this would have jeopardized the entire family inheritance. This was exactly what Boaz wanted to hear, too!

Well, this “nearer kinsman” speaks of the Mosaic Law, which can never redeem us. The law is not capable of redeeming. Paul made it clear no man is justified by works of the law. Only faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can justify

us to God our Father. If the law were able to save, it would have to lower its standards. Well, just as the law will not come down to the low standards of man – man can never rise to the high level of the law! There’s nothing wrong with the law - there is something radically wrong with us, friends....

7 Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel.

~ At least they aren’t spitting in his face, as the law called for; but this man still lost his shoes – as opposed to his shirt – in this transaction. I suppose that was bad enough. See, the law comes barefoot, and only the Gospel can put shoes on our feet in our walk with Christ. When Paul mentions the armor of God, he specifically says our feet are to be shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. The law cannot do that, friends. So many people have the wrong assumption they are going to walk into Heaven on their own; but that’s just not going to happen. We are LOST and barefoot without our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ! Here, in Ruth, we see a barefoot man backing out because he is unable to redeem. The spiritual picture is quite remarkable....

8 Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

11 And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like

Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem:

12 And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman.

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.

14 And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.

15 And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.

16 And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

17 And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

18 Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron,

19 And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab,

20 And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon,

21 And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed,

22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

~ Ruth is the beginning of the lineage that will lead to the Lord Jesus Christ. She is the grandmother of David. As we have said before, if this had not

happened this way, there would be no baby Jesus a thousand years from the time we are studying born in Bethlehem. This book has been an exquisite illustration of the kinsman redeemer. It is an illustration of the love aspect of our redemption. The Lord Jesus Christ never received the Name Jesus until He was physically born. Jesus is His earthly name and Christ is His title in deity. There could never have been a way for Him to save His people from their sins until He came to this earth.

*Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; **15** And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. **16** For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham ~*

*Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, **5** To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons ~*

Christ is our kinsman redeemer; He knows you and He knows me – better than we know ourselves. Only because He came to this earth as a man does He know us. The kinsman must be WILLING to redeem, too. Boaz was certainly willing and wanted to redeem. It was for the joy set before Him Christ endured the cross and was despised by men and bore shame – the shame of YOUR sins! Well, Christ sat down at the right hand of God after that. Presently, the Lord Jesus Christ is capable – VERY – capable of redeeming.

There are many who are throwing intellectual and emotional lifelines at each other today through sociology, religion, psychology, philosophy, theory and more. They're all in the same sinking boat. I cannot save you – I can't even save myself. Only One from Heaven can save us now. Man has problems in this world man created - but cannot solve. The Lord Jesus Christ was not thrown to us from humanity; Jesus came out of Heaven and a voice followed that said, "this is My beloved Son in Whom I am well-pleased!" I hope you'll hear Him today ~

