

# 8 - Ruth: Romance and Redemption

- One of the **most significant books for the Church (the Bride of Christ)**, contains the role of the Kinsman-Redeemer, and essential to the understanding the book of Revelation (chapter 5, title deed to earth).
- A simple **4-chapter story that reads like a 4-act play**. It is beautifully constructed for easy reading and comprehension, and is considered one of the most beautifully written pieces in all of literature.
- **The Players** (*their names have great meaning to understanding this book*): Elimelech (“*God is my King*”), Naomi (“*Pleasant*”-“*Land*”?), Mahlon (“*Unhealthy*”; “*to blot out*”), Chilion (“*Puny*”; “*to perish*”), Orpah (“*Fawn*”), Ruth (“*Desirable*”), Boaz (*meaning uncertain, indefinable?*)



## Highlights

Chapter 1: The Tragedy	Chapter 2: Ruth and Naomi	Chapter 3: Kinsman Redeemer	Chapter 4: Marriage and Redemption
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Events "<u>when the judges ruled</u>" (1:1)</li> <li>▪ Famine in Bethlehem (1:1)</li> <li>▪ Move to Moab (1:1)</li> <li>▪ Elimelech and wife, Naomi (1:2) had 2 sons, Mahlon and Chilion, were Ephrathites of Bethlehem-Judah</li> <li>▪ Elimelech died in Moab (1:3)</li> <li>▪ Two sons married Moabite women (1:4)</li> <li>▪ One married Orpah (1:4)</li> <li>▪ Other married Ruth (1:4) <i>This violated God's law</i> (Deut. 7:3-8, 23:3, and Ezra 9:2)</li> <li>▪ After 10 yrs both Mahlon and Chilion died (1:5)</li> <li>▪ Naomi was without husband or sons (1:5) and decides to return to Bethlehem-Judah (1:7)</li> <li>▪ Orpah, Ruth accompany Naomi part way (1:7)</li> <li>▪ Naomi urges her daughters-in-law to remain in Moab (1:8-13)</li> <li>▪ Orpah tearfully agrees to remain in Moab (1:14)</li> <li>▪ Ruth refuses to leave Naomi (1:14-18)</li> <li>▪ Ruth's statement: "<i>Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.</i>" (1:16)</li> <li>▪ Ruth determined to remain with Naomi, so mother-in-law stopped protesting (1:18)</li> <li>▪ They arrive at Bethlehem (1:19)</li> <li>▪ Women of Bethlehem surprised Naomi so sad</li> <li>▪ Naomi asks to be called "Mara" (bitterness) (1:20)</li> <li>▪ Naomi blames Jehovah for her sad plight (1:21)</li> <li>▪ Arrive at harvest time (1:22)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Boaz, a powerful, wealthy kinsman of Elimelech (2:1)</li> <li>▪ Ruth "happens" upon fields of Boaz, and asks Naomi permission to glean (2:2)</li> <li>▪ Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz (2:3)</li> <li>▪ Boaz observes and meets Ruth (2:4-7) (<i>introduced by "unnamed servant"</i>)</li> <li>▪ Boaz makes special provision and protection for Ruth, serves her bread and wine (2:8-23)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Naomi advises Ruth how best to remind Boaz of his duty (3:1-9)</li> <li>▪ Ruth follows Naomi's instructions (3:6-8) (<i>Deuteronomy 25:5 Boaz was to take Ruth for his wife</i>)</li> <li>▪ Boaz discovers Ruth at his feet (3:9)</li> <li>▪ Boaz desires to become Ruth's husband (3:10-18)</li> <li>▪ A problem (<i>closer kinsman</i>) (3:12)</li> <li>▪ Gift to Ruth and Naomi (3:15)</li> <li>▪ Ruth returns to Naomi with good news and a gift (3:16-17)</li> <li>▪ Naomi correctly surmises that Boaz will act quickly (3:18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Boaz confronts "Nearer Kinsman" (4:1-12)</li> <li>▪ He is willing to redeem property; but not willing to take Ruth as bride</li> <li>▪ "Yields shoe" to relieve obligation</li> <li>▪ Boaz secures right of redemption</li> <li>▪ Boaz steps up, purchases land for Naomi, "purchases" Ruth as bride</li> <li>▪ Boaz and Ruth marry (4:13)</li> <li>▪ Obed is born (4:14-17)</li> <li>▪ Genealogy of David, and ultimately the Messiah (4:18-22)</li> </ul>

- **LAWS AND CUSTOMS CRITICAL TO UNDERSTANDING THIS BOOK:** (1) **Law of the Sojourner** (Alien): "*And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.*" Leviticus 19:33-34 (also Deut. 10:18) An interesting exception... "*An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever...*" Deuteronomy 23:3 (2) **Laws of Gleaning:** Could only harvest one time through, and not the edges; poor given opportunity to gather what is left; alien also given this privilege (along with widows, poor, etc.) (3) **Laws of Inheritance:**

Land “ownership” not fee simple, lease; ownership to male heirs; keep land in family; first born (double portion), all other sons, then daughters if no sons; land did not pass from one tribe to another (4) **Laws of Kinsman Redeemer** (Redeeming Relative): Goel = Kinsman-Redeemer; must be a Kinsman (related); must be able to pay price of redemption; must be willing; must assume all the obligations (including marry the widow if she desired); objective to provide heir. Redeem land; redeem relative in slavery, avenge killing of relative, receive restitution for wrong. (5) **Laws of Levirate Marriage**: LEVIR – Latin “husband’s brother” or “brother-in-law”; In practice BEFORE law given (Genesis 38, Tamar and Judah); kinsman has CHOICE, not strictly required, but considered shameful if not done (act of love); provide heir so land remained in tribe; widow had to ASK

**The TYPES in Ruth** (every character has meaning in the overall plan of redemption):

Boaz=The Lord of the Harvest, The Kinsman-Redeemer; Naomi=Israel; Ruth=Gentile Bride (the Church); Unnamed Servant=Holy Spirit (always true in scriptural types); Nearer Kinsman=The Law (has claim to us)

- In order to bring Ruth to Naomi, Naomi had to be exiled from her land (the Jews were exiled as well in history, but have since been restored, just like Naomi, and through considerable assistance from Gentiles)
- What the Law could not do, Grace did (the Law cannot save us)
- Ruth does not replace Naomi (the Church does not replace Israel)
- Ruth learns of Boaz’s ways through Naomi (the Church learns of Jesus first through the Jews)
- Naomi meets Boaz through Ruth (the Jews will know Jesus through the Church)
- No matter how much Boaz loved Ruth, he had to wait for her move (we choose to be redeemed by Him)
- Boaz, not Ruth, confronts the Nearer Kinsman (only our Kinsman Redeemer can challenge the Law)

- **Strange Prophecy:** “May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman.” Ruth 4:12 “One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD.” Deut 23:2 **The Genealogy:** “Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.” (Ruth 4:18-22)
- **The Fields of Bethlehem:** Happens at Passover, the fields of Bethlehem (the place where the Passover lambs were raised, then taken to Jerusalem for sacrifice) Jesus – the Passover Lamb - born in Bethlehem (“House of Bread” – I am the Bread of Life) The year Jesus died, Passover lambs were being raised in the fields of Bethlehem previously owned by Boaz and Ruth, who characterize the plan of God’s Redemption. The shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem the night of Jesus’ birth were probably tending sheep where Ruth had once gleaned.
- **Ruth: The Hidden Church:** The book of Ruth is always read by the Jews at the Feast of Pentecost (Shavuot), it is prophetic of the Church. The concept of the Church, or Bride of Christ, is a mystery only unveiled in NT (Ephesians 3), yet God clearly foreshadows it in this book.
- **The Sealed Scroll: Revelation 5** “And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” (Rev. 5:1-2) You can’t really understand Revelation 5 without understanding the Book of Ruth. When land was sold or leased among the tribes in Israel, a deed was written up on a scroll. On the inside were the terms of the sale. On the outside of the scroll were written the instructions for redeeming the land. Then it was rolled up and sealed. This often missed detail is vital to our understanding of the book of Revelation, and exactly who the one worthy to open the scroll was, and what function He fulfilled. The scroll in Revelation 5 was written “within and on the backside,” or inside and on the back, which identifies it as a deed subject to redemption. A Kinsman of Adam, in His role as a *goel*, a Kinsman-redeemer, is taking possession of what He had already purchased with His blood as the sacrificial Lamb. He not only purchased the land; he also purchased a Bride. The only One in Revelation worthy to open the scroll, worthy and able and willing to fulfill the role necessary for redemption, is our GOEL, our Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ. With this little bit of information, the whole plan of God begins to unfold and make more sense to us, and we can better understand just what was happening in Revelation 5, which sets the tone for the remainder of the book.

Reminder...

The Word of God is carefully engineered and integrated