

Ruth Overview

The Book of Ruth is a Love Story...of profound significance

1. Spiritual...revelation of God's Plan of Redemption announced in Gen 3
(Plan to "buy back" that which was forfeited)

God's redemption of fallen man must come thru a Kinsman-Redeemer...a *go-el*
Fallen man, his eternal life forfeited by a man (Adam), must be
bought back and restored by another Man

A *go-el*, a Redeemer could redeem ("buy back")

- widow
- orphan
- slave

Sin has made us all widows, orphans, slaves (to sin and death)...
all of Adam's race needs a Redeemer!

The *go-el*, Kinsman-Redeemer, had to be

- related
 John 1:1, 14 why God had to become a man
- free
 Rom 3:10, 23 all are slaves to sin
 John 8:7 without sin throw first stone
 Heb 4:15 high priest, tempted yet without sin
 John 1:29 with 1 Peter 1:19 without blemish, spot
- willing and able to pay the price of redemption
 John 10:17-18 Son
 Is 53:10 Father
- prepared to marry the widow
 Rom 6:17-18 servant of sin made free by faith
 Eph 2:8-9 saved by grace faith, gift, not works
 the Bride of Christ

Note: The Book of Ruth is read in the synagogues on the Feast of Pentecost...
day of birth of the Bride of Christ

2. Historical...prominent role in the line of David and of Jesus Christ,
the Son of David, the Seed of the Woman...the Messiah
3. Practical (our day-to-day lives)...the providence of God
God's fingerprints of His active involvement in our lives...
seen by the spiritually discerning

Ruth Chapter 1

v1-2 judges...famine...Moab:

The beginning of this Love Story...

- Who
 - Elimelech...”my God is King”
 - Naomi...”pleasant”
 - Mahlon...”sick”
 - Chilion...”pining” or “puny”

- What
 - famine in the land...no food, no bread
 - a family move

- When
 - when the judges ruled
 - Judges 21:25...time of moral chaos
 - no specific judge mentioned

- Where
 - Bethlehem in Judah
 - “house of bread”
 - Micah 5:2
 - Moab
 - other side of Jordan, southern half of Dead Sea
 - hostile territory...the land of an enemy
 - Balak and Balaam, Phinehas...Num 22-25
 - Deut 23:3-4
 - defeat by assimilation via compromise with unholiness
 - 1 Kings 11:1-4

- Why
 - forsaking his inheritance to live among enemies because did not trust God to provide

God who sends the rain on the just and the unjust withheld the rain in His land to get His people’s attention...Elimelech ran from God in his time of need

We respond to trials and tribulations by drawing closer to the Lord or
by running from the Lord

Don’t run to the world when trouble hits, run to the Lord our Provider.

v3-5 died...died also:

What happened during the 10 years in Moab, living a life of compromise behind enemy lines because Elimelech did not trust God to provide?

- Elimelech dies...leaving a widow
- Mahlon and Chilion take Gentile brides
 - contrary to God's call to holiness, separation vs intermarriage
 - Orpah... "stiff-necked"
 - Ruth... "friend"
- Mahlon and Chilion also die, leaving widows
(perhaps always physically weak, as names imply)

The price of grain in a strange land = 3 graves and 3 widows

When we depend upon ourselves and seek our way, the results are usually "disappointing", to say the least.

v6-9 LORD had visited...Go, return:

God is a faithful Provider

God does see, hear, care, and act – I stand here to bear witness of that!

God gives bread to His people

Naomi gets "wind" of the change in fortunes back home

So she gathers her beloved daughters-in-law to lay out the next steps

"I am going home.

You go home also.

May the LORD richly bless you as you blessed my sons and as you have blessed me.

May you find peace in the house of a husband among your own people."

Waterworks result...hearts are ripped

But consider...Naomi

- speaks of the LORD to these Gentile women...in a familiar way vs an introductory way
- has faithfully witnessed of the LORD God of Israel whom she loves to her daughters-in-law whom she loves
- unselfishly wants what is best for Orpah and Ruth – to get re-married (this is love – denial of Self for the best interest of another)

Love is not a feeling or a saying...Love is choosing and doing

v10-13 Surely we will return with thee:

Orpah and Ruth have a great affection for Naomi and express their loyalty to her.
But Naomi insists on that which will cause her pain...her love is self-less

Deut 25:5 to keep the family inheritance intact

To stay with her is not in their best interest

- Naomi has no more sons
- Naomi does not have a husband
- Naomi is old...

“I cannot compete with younger women for a husband.

Even if I were to get re-married today...these things take time!

And there are no guarantees I will even

- bear any children at my age
- bear sons

Do not sacrifice your youth and so much of your lives for me.

I am grieved for your sakes (not mine) that the LORD has judged my family for not trusting Him.

So, please...go home and get remarried, raise beautiful children, and be blessed.”

v14-15 wept again...Orpah...Ruth:

Waterworks, Part 2

Orpah

- sees the (earthly) wisdom in Naomi’s argument
- has no connection with Naomi’s God
- wants a husband and children more than she has affection for Naomi
- kisses her mother-in-law “Good-bye” and leaves

Ruth

- “glues” herself to Naomi
Rom 12:9 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*
- is encouraged by Naomi to follow Orpah

What Ruth says in response is perhaps the greatest expression of love and devotion spoken by man or woman in all of Scripture

v16-17 I will go...I will lodge...my people...my God:
Ruth declares

“Don’t make me go!
I do not want to leave you...ever!
Wherever you go...I will go.
Wherever you stop...I will stop.
Your people are my people.
Your God is my God.
Only death can separate me from you.”

For the selfless love of Naomi and for Naomi’s God, Ruth is willing to leave behind everything she has and everything has ever known

- family
 - parents
 - siblings
- friends
- all the people she has ever known
- property
- culture
- her world
- her future (possibly husband and children...)

How blessed is

- Naomi’s witness of her God
- Naomi’s love and devotion for her God and her daughters-in-law
- Ruth’s love and devotion for her mother-in-law and her mother-in-law’s God

Heb 11:8-ish

A disciple is made – Love has done the work

The Die is Cast

Love never fails

v18 steadfastly minded:

Ruth is single-minded in her love and devotion
She is determined, resolute, resolved in her choice

So Naomi drops the subject

v19-21 came to Bethlehem...call me Mara:

Naomi and Ruth make the 50-60 mile journey back to Bethlehem.

The town is abuzz with excitement when they realize Naomi has come back after a 10 year absence.

“Is that Naomi?!”

“Don’t call me ‘pleasant’...call me ‘bitter’ because the Lord has dealt with me. I left here with a husband and two sons...I come back empty.”

Methodists think Naomi is

- a Debbie Downer
 - Woe is me.
 - God has judged me for my husband’s leaving his inheritance out of unbelief.
- like Job’s friends
 - bad things happen to bad people, good things to good people
 - in need of God’s perspective

God is always at work in the lives of His children...for our good and His glory
That includes tragedies, trials, and tribulations...
none of which happen without His permission and control

But our flesh is like Job’s friends

- not spiritually discerning
- self-righteous
- not loving like God is loving
- condemning – others and Self
 - This “bad” (from my perspective) thing is happening to you/me because you/I have done something wrong.
 - You are/I am suffering because God is displeased with you/me

Yet the Bible says

- Is 53:3 man of sorrows acquainted with grief
- Is 53:10 it pleased the LORD to bruise Him
- Acts 14:22 by much tribulation we must enter the kingdom
- Ps 119:71 it was good that I was afflicted that I would learn
- Rom 8:28 God works ALL things...including His affliction

Job was full...then made empty...and then made more full than before.

This will also be true for Naomi

v22 beginning of barley harvest:
Timestamp – spring (April)...new life
The rest of the Book takes place in only a few weeks

The “Cliff Notes” of the Bible

Matt 22:36-40

John 13:34-35

John 14:15

John 15:14

Rom 13:10

God is love...God wins...Love wins

Perhaps you have come here this morning discouraged

- the place you work seems dirtier than a sewer
- the school you are/will attend is darker than an underground tunnel
- your family is toxic vs edifying

Know this

- God loves you
Proof: Grace – undeserved forgiveness
- Jesus Christ came to redeem you...buy you back from the devil, sin, and death
- Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross is more than sufficient to pay for your sins
- Jesus is bigger than any circumstance you face...1 Cor 10:13
- He sees, hears, cares, and acts...for your good and His glory
- God wins...Love wins

The Only Questions that matter

- Do you believe (trust in action) this?
- Who do you say Jesus is?

I bear witness that

- Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God
- Jesus Christ paid the price for my sin, bought me from the slave market, and set me free
- The Cross of Jesus Christ is the point of division between me and the world
- God’s nature of Love and His work of Grace has changed me...
made me a new creation, perfect in Jesus Christ
I am not the man I used to be...the change is for my good and God’s glory

As you leave here this morning,

- May God richly bless you
- May the Lord keep/guard/protect you
- May the Lord shine His face upon you and be gracious to you
- May the Lord the Lifter of your head give you peace

Ruth Chapter 2

Last time...arguably the greatest expression of love and devotion in the Scripture

Ch 1:16-17

Willing to leave everyone and everything behind...walking by faith like Abraham did

This time...the Love Story continues

Enter the Hero...the very shadow of his Descendant

- Ch 4:21-22...Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David...Jesus
- the Kinsman-Redeemer
- the Bridegroom of an undeserving, needy Gentile woman who has nothing to offer him but her heart...a monopoly on her love and devotion

Also in this chapter, character rises to the surface...both Boaz' and Ruth's

v1 kinsman...Boaz:

The Hero – Boaz (“Strength”)

The pillars of the Temple of Solomon (son of David) in 1 Kings 7:21

- Jachin: “He shall establish”
- Boaz: “Strength”

The man Boaz

- a man of great wealth
 - land owner...the landlord
 - his descendant...Ps 24:1, the LandLord
- family of Elimelech
 - the principals in the story are related by marriage
- kinsman
 - Lev 25:23-25, 47-49
 - “may be redeemed”...the kinsman has the right of redemption but is under no obligation to do so
 - redemption is voluntary by the kinsman, motivated by love

v2 Let me now go...glean:
Naomi and Ruth have nothing but a “lesson learned”...trust the Lord to provide
They need to eat and trust the Lord to provide for them

The God of Israel knows they need to eat...has given the Law of Gleaning

- Lev 19:9-10
- Lev 23:22
- Deut 24:19
- not welfare...not a Gov't handout
- work/reward provided by a loving heart
2 Thes 3:10

Ruth is not looking for a handout, she is ready, willing, and able to work
All she needs is grace...someone to look upon her with favor

v3 her hap...field belonging unto Boaz:

Out Ruth goes...

- early in the morning...does not sleep in but has get-up-and-go
- being guided by the invisible hand of God to the right place at the right time

The God of Israel directed her steps

Prov 16:9 A man's heart devises his way: but the LORD directs his steps.

We are not robots, we have free will to choose how we want to live...
but the will and purposes of the Almighty Supreme Authority will get done nonetheless!

Ps 99:1a The LORD reigns

With the power and dominion of the King of kings in mind, there is no

- happenstance/coincidence
- luck
- chance

in the creation of the Sovereign Creator Who cares for us and is involved in our lives

The lie of Evolution is based on a lie –
chance

The deception of superstition is based on a lie –
luck

The denial of the existence and/or care of the Almighty is based on a lie –
coincidence

Our loving Creator leaves nothing to chance, luck, and coincidence

The invisible, guiding hand of God on our lives is called “providence”

Seen in Scripture, the recurring work of providence is

- preservation
 - The line of the Seed of the Woman
 - His people Israel
- blessing

The delusion of the deluded one, Satan: “You are in control!”

I was taught this in school and in the workplace

Lexus ad: “Control is the ultimate expression of power.”

If you believe that, you have been deceived by the father of lies.

Knowing the truth sets you free...it is liberating to NOT be in control!

The providence of God is a gentle manifestation of God’s awesome power...
and is a comforting reminder that the power of God easily breaks the
power of the devil and the world

Our simple response: child-like faith...humility, submission, obedience

All of which are the antidote against self-righteousness, hypocrisy, worry,
and other spiritual maladies

The unseen God and King will have His way!

We can choose to obey the Lord (follow Jesus)...the easy way

We can choose to disobey the Lord (Judges 21:25)...the hard way

Either way, the plan of God will be accomplished.

So let’s choose wisely...choose to live by faith like Ruth!

Find peace in the providence of God...the peace of a little child in the arms of his
Father

v4 the LORD be with you:
The character of Boaz the kinsman rises to the surface

- active love
 - oversight of the harvest
 - involvement in the lives of his workers
- Godly master who is himself a servant...of the LORD
 - blesses his workers
 - blessed by his workers
 - in the time of the judges, Joshua 24:15
 - Eph 6:5-9

What we do is proof of who we are...
What we do testifies of our character

Speaking of a nation of rebels and backsliders, Jeremiah cried out in Jer 14:7, "LORD, our iniquities testify against us."

Boaz' actions (love) speak of his character

Our actions speak of our character

- flesh – the sin nature
- Spirit – the nature of Christ indwelling

v5-7 Whose damsel is this:

Ruth is already on site, busily gleaning in Boaz' field
And she catches his eye!
"WHO is that?!"

What is the servant's testimony of Ruth?

- the Moabite woman that came back from Moab with Naomi
- the Gentile woman who left everything she had to be here with Naomi
- came at dawn, the break of day, and asked to glean behind the reapers
- not in the least bit lazy...very hard working, taking only a short rest

In light of the interactions that follow, Boaz seems to be instantly smitten with Ruth...his heart seems set on her before she even knows

- he is there
- who he is

Boaz loved Ruth before Ruth loved him
Boaz' descendant...1 John 4:19

v8-9 Go not to glean...but abide:

Boaz noticed and was keenly aware of Ruth who was completely unaware that the landlord had her in his sight

So Boaz initiated the conversation with her to express his desire

He does not introduce himself – just looking at him Ruth would know he was the landlord

Just as Jesus did/will do to us by the “foolishness” of preaching the Gospel

- I love you
- Follow Me

Just as Jesus is doing in dreams and visions to Muslims (hold up book) – more undeserving, needy Gentiles who have nothing to offer Him

He is going into fields He owns...Mecca, Medina, etc...that His workers cannot

He is appearing

- without introduction
- as pure light, yet not blinding
- with pure love and warmth
- telling Muslims He loves them

And they know who He is

This is the time of His visitation to the Muslims

Want to be a part of what Jesus is doing, want to be a worker in this “white” field?

Share the love of Jesus with a Muslim

Back to the story...

“Excuse me, miss.

Do not go to another field to glean...abide/stay here in my field with my workers.

I have commanded the young men to not bother you – you are safe here and will be provided for here.

Whenever you are thirsty, drink to your heart’s content.

My arms are open wide to you.”

The kinsman’s character keeps rising

- caring/compassionate...even to unworthy strangers
- generous...holding nothing in reserve
- gracious...pleased to give what is not deserved

v10 fell on her face:

Now we see Ruth's character rising

Lowly and needy in the presence of the mighty landlord who has just
"out of the blue" spoken kindly to her, Ruth

- falls on her face in genuine
 - humility
 - respect
 - honor
 - submission
- speaks meekly, sheepishly
 - “Who am I that you should be so gracious to me?
Why have you even noticed me?
I am nothing and have nothing.
I am...a Gentile not worthy of your notice.”

She speaks of Boaz as her descendant would speak of the Lord...Ps 8:3-4

v11-12 It has been fully showed me:

“I've heard about you.

I have heard many witnesses of your love for Naomi

- selfless
- sacrificial
- active
- faith-full

May the Lord God of Israel Whom you trust for protection and provision richly
reward your labor of love.”

Boaz is moved that this lowly and needy Gentile widow (not a virgin) has loved

- his kinfolk
- his God Who first loved her (thru Naomi)

Note: In the time of the judges, Ruth is very unlike the typical Jew who
was doing what was right in his own eyes...
she “stands out” in his field

Ruth's faithfulness is her testimony and nothing can be more attractive than

- the love for the God of Israel
- holiness...separation from the world unto God
- humility
- submission to God's love

v13 thou hast comforted me:

Ruth eagerly accepts Boaz' offer...just as we have accepted Jesus offer!
Ruth tells Boaz that he comforted her...just as we tell Jesus, God of all comfort,
that He comforts us every time He comes to us/we go to Him

Gone is any worry and stress Ruth brought with her to that field that morning.

Gone is all our worry and stress when

- we take Jesus' yoke
Matt 11:28-30
- we cast our cares on Jesus Who cares for us
1 Peter 5:7
- we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
Matt 6:25-33
- we receive the peace of Jesus Who has overcome the world
John 16:33

v14 bread...vinegar:

Ruth asks for favor...Boaz freely gives it

“At mealtime, please join us...come be one with us as we partake of bread and vinegar.”

She did, humbly sitting down with the reapers...and Boaz served her himself.

Luke 14:8-11

Ruth ate until she was full...then left with a “take home box”
(for her beloved mother-in-law...1 Cor 10:24)

Another remarkable shadow

- Jesus serving His disciples (John 13)
- The disciples enjoying a meal with their Master
- Jesus on the Cross...
 - broken Bread of Life
 - poured out wine/blood
 - served vinegar
 - with gall...refused it (Matt 27:34)
 - without gall...drank it (Matt 27:48)
- Communion...to remember it all

My heart's desire for you this and every Sunday is that you

- come to our "mealtime" hungry and thirsty
- eat your fill of a nourishing meal of the Bread of Life at the feet of Jesus
- be blessed (bread) and convicted (vinegar)...as I am...to
 - grow in grace and in knowledge of Lord Savior Jesus Christ
 - press on to the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ
- as freely as you received, freely share with someone not here with us
 - invite someone you love to church...work the field

v15-16 Let her glean...handfuls of purpose:

Once Ruth is refreshed and well-fed, she gets right back to work.

After she left, Boaz' character shines as he pours out his favor/grace upon Ruth...
as she will soon find out as she continues her labor of love.

"Let Ruth glean anywhere she wants...even from the harvested sheaves!

In fact, drop hands full of harvested grain on purpose for her to glean.

She has a 'blank check' in my field, of all I own, got it?"

The Law says the poor can glean from the borders and from the leftovers.
Grace says the whole field is wide open!

How much grace does Jesus (Gal 3:9-13, Rom 10:4) shower on us?

Eph 3:20

v17-18 until even and beat out...reserved:

Ruth is very industrious – working in the field until the sun goes down and then
separating the fruit of the grain from the chaff

She worked hard all day, she did not cut out early

And she went home with 5 days worth of grain rather than the usual one day

1st order of business when she got home – to share with Naomi the blessing she
had freely received at the table of the landlord (the "take home box")

v19 Where hast thou gleaned:

Looking at her "take home" meal and all that grain, Naomi exclaims,

"Wow, wow, wow!

Where did you work today?

Oh, Lord bless the one who noticed you in your need!"

"A wonderful man named Boaz."

v20 Blessed be he of the Lord:

“Did you say Boaz?!

PTL!

The Lord (Supreme Authority and Master) has not left us nor forsaken us!

He is so good and kind and merciful and faithful and gracious to us...

exceedingly, abundantly better than we deserve.

He sees us and has by His unseen hand led you to a near kinsman!”

Ruth, a Gentile, does not grasp the magnitude of what happened this day...but

Naomi

- sees the hand of God (providence)...
- knows what the Word of God says about the redemption of widows by a near kinsman...
- knows where this is headed

Naomi knows this was truly a momentous day...and now hope springs eternal to the poor and needy, both Jew and (ingrafted) Gentile

v21-22 keep fast by...not in any other field:

Ruth tells Naomi “the rest of the story.”

Naomi instructs her daughter-in-law:

“Do as Boaz said...believe him.

Stay close to his workers...even to the very end.

Do not stray from them...do not wander off to any other field where you might be harmed.

You are blessed...’reserved’ for Boaz!”

v23 So she kept fast...barley...wheat:

She may not grasp the magnitude of what is going on, but Ruth loves and trusts her mother-in-law...so she obeys Naomi’s instructions – from Passover (barley) to Pentecost (wheat)

Moving forward around the time of Pentecost, the plot thickens

So many shadows of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer, and His Bride in this book

Consider His character and His love for you

You have caught His eye!

His is an undying love-at-first-sight!

You are the object of the love of the Almighty God!

Ps 19:1 so you would know that He is Lord and that He loves you

Jesus is jealous for you!

Ex 34:14

Jealousy in the perfectly pure heart of God manifests itself in
others-centeredness at His expense

Jealousy in the corrupted, completely impure heart of man manifests itself
in self-centeredness at the expense of God and others

He longs to shower you with blessings.

His heart is burning with desire to show you just how much He loves you.

Respond as Ruth did – falling on your face in humility, respect, honor, and
submission...the only rational thing to do!

Now consider Ruth's character (the Bride of Christ's)

Eager to serve/work...the landlord and her mother-in-law

1 Thes 1:2-3

Rom 15:1-2

Works very hard all day long...a labor of love as long as the sun is up with few breaks

Heb 6:9-12

Rewarded with the favor of the landlord

1 Cor 15:58 know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord

Bold in asking for even more favor of the landlord...her motives pure...and she received

James 4:3 ask, receive not, ask amiss

Freely, lovingly sharing the blessings showered upon her with her loved ones

Matt 10:8b

And this unworthy and needy Gentile woman's life is about to be changed forever!

In her future: marriage and "fruitfulness"

Now that you have eaten, go share it with someone you love!

Then come back next week for some more...with someone else.

Ruth Chapter 3

The Bible is filled with stories of love

- Parent for child
 - Abraham for Isaac...1st Mention of
 - Jacob for Joseph
 - Paul for Timothy

- Husband and wife
 - Isaac for Rebekah
 - Jacob for Rachel

- Child for parent
 - Joseph for Jacob

- among siblings
 - Joseph for his brothers

- Like-minded friends
 - Jonathan and David

- Prophet for Israel
 - Jeremiah
 - Paul

But no greater love has no man than this but he lay his life down for his friend...God the Son for

- God the Father – obedience, the Father's sin sacrifice
- sinful Adam's race – Divine devotion, the redemption of the Kinsman-Redeemer
 - faithful
 - patient
 - kind
 - gentle
 - respectful
 - gracious/forgiving
- Self-less

The Love Story of Boaz and Ruth is

- historical – real people, real love
- prophetic – shadow of True Love

The Love Story continues

v1-2a rest for thee...our kindred:

Last time, Naomi understood the magnitude of what happened when Ruth was gleaning in Boaz' field...and knew where it was all headed
This time, she takes the initiative...with selfless love

Before picking up stakes and moving to Moab, Elimelech

- did not sell his family inheritance – the land belongs to God (Lev 25:23)
- sold the number of harvests until the next Year of Jubilee
- could be redeemed...bought back...by himself or a kinsman-redeemer

The widow of Elimelech is herself eligible to be taken as wife by the kinsman for the purpose of bearing sons to continue the line of Elimelech

In fact, as widow of Elimelech, her right of redemption by a kinsman-redeemer is first...she has the First Claim of redemption

This widow turns to another widow (not a virgin) and calls Ruth

- not “My daughter-in-law”...some other mother’s child
- “My daughter”...as if she were her very own child

To lovingly blend/unite a family in a world of broken families,
drop the “step-“ and the “-in-law”

This mother and widow declares the selfless desire of her heart –
seeking Ruth’s good vs her own

- seeking kinsman-redeemer to redeem/marry Ruth rather than herself
In context: ”rest”/”manoah” = marriage
- deferring her right of redemption by a kinsman-redeemer to Ruth

This mother and widow sacrifices

- her security (cared for, provided for by a husband) so that Ruth would have that security...no longer a poor widow and gleaner of fields but a wife and mother
- her potential joy for children/sons so that Ruth might have that joy

Husbands – what is the one thing your wife needs from you?

Security

- spiritual...your personal relationship with Jesus to be vibrant
- emotional...your understanding her and knowing you always, unconditionally have her back, protecting her heart
- physical...a safe place for her and her children

You must take the leadership given you by the Lord and cover your wife with Him

Naomi...constrained by love for her Lord and for her daughter Ruth...
is a widow after Paul's heart

1 Cor 7:8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

1 Cor 7:32 He that is unmarried cares for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord:

1 Cor 7:34 The unmarried woman cares for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married cares for the things of the world, how she may please *her* husband.

And, knowing the Word of God regarding the kinsman-redeemer, she takes the initiative by leveraging Boaz' interest in Ruth to gain a favorable decision of redemption for Ruth

v2b-4 winnoweth...wash...uncover his feet:

This is the time of the harvest to winnow/thresh...separate the wheat from chaff

- beat the sheaves of grain
- throw the beaten grain into the air
 - uphill during a light breeze
 - wind carry the chaff downstream and downhill...burned
 - heavier grain fall at the feet of the harvester..."barned"
- long, hard work

Naomi knows that Boaz would be there to oversee the work on the threshing floor
The perfect opportunity for a marriage proposal!

"Go, Sweetheart, wash up.

Make yourself presentable – best outfit and just the right amount of make-up.
Then go undetected to the threshing floor and hide until the workers have refreshed themselves.

When Boaz turns in for the night, take note of where.

Then after everyone is asleep, go to Boaz

- uncover his feet
- lie down at his feet
- wait for him to tell you what to do."

What is all this about?!

v5-6 I will do...did according to all:

Does Ruth understand what Naomi told her to do?

No

Did she do it (obey) anyway?

Yes

Why?

She loves Naomi and Naomi's God...she took the counsel of one who loved her (submission)

She obeys...believing is faith in action, obedience is the evidence

1 Cor 8:1 knowledge puffs up

Heb 11:1, 6

v7 merry...softly:

When asked about living on the street, a homeless man replied,

"It's wet and it's cold and the cardboard on the sidewalk is hard...
but when my stomach is full, it's not half bad!"

Food comforts our soul (and some of us a very obviously very comfortable!)

Boaz is comforted – in a good mood, thankful for a full belly

And after a long, hard day's work, Boaz lies down for some sweet sleep

When Ruth is assured he and all the other men are sound asleep, she emerges from her hiding place to uncover his feet...and makes herself comfortable

Note: There is nothing immodest or immoral going on here!

v8-9 afraid...Who are you:

At midnight methinks God gives Boaz a poke in the side...Boaz awakens startled

"Whoa!

Who are you!?"

What Boaz hears is also startling

"I am Ruth, your servant. (Not "I am Naomi.")

Your feet are uncovered.

Cover them...and me lying here by your feet...with your robe.

You are my near kinsman.

Will you marry me?"

In what is a less-than-clear custom of Jewish culture, this is a marriage proposal...

Ruth asking Boaz

Boaz first loved Ruth...but Ruth “popped the question”

“You are under no obligation to redeem me.

Are you willing to redeem me?

Will you save me?

Will you protect and provide for me?

Will you marry me?”

v10 Blessed...showed more kindness:

Boaz’ reaction...

- is to bless her!
Husbands – bless your wives EVERY chance you get! (Jesus is!)
- is delight from his soaring heart!
“Oh, this is even greater evidence of your love and devotion than that you have given to Naomi.
You could have easily chosen a younger man...any man.
But you want me, you chose me!”

When we are faithful/devoted to Jesus, the Word of God, He is delighted!

“You could have embraced the ear-tingling doctrine floating around to gather a much larger and wealthier congregation.

You could have been seduced by the smooth things being spoken far and wide.

You could have gone in lock-step with others following after the latest marketing gimmick instead of trusting and following Me.

You could have implemented that program that is all the rage in pursuit of church growth using man’s ways and wisdom.

You could have taken the easy way and given My people sermon-ettes rather than the hard way of teaching the entire counsel of God, studying to rightly divide the Word.

But instead, you wanted the old paths...to finish in the Spirit that which was begun in the Spirit.”

Jer 6:10-16

- v10 Christianity despises the Word...neglect or reject
- v13 given over to covetousness...material things/wealth
torture each other with tortured Scripture
- v14 man's peace vs Prince of Peace...
unity at the expense of truth
- v15 shameless
- v16 John 14:6, 1 Cor 2:2
"not interested"

Rather than walk on the broad way, we will walk on the narrow path following
the Man of sorrows acquainted with grief

Gal 3:3 we will not be foolish

In our society that values fleeting beauty, men and women trade in the old
model for a newer model...boy toys and trophy wives

In God's eyes, what is true beauty?
Humility, holiness, faithfulness

v11 I will do...virtuous woman:

Boaz' response to Ruth's marriage proposal – "I accept!"

I am able and willing to redeem you.

I will save you.

I will protect and provide for you.

I will marry you.

I will do all that you ask of me.

I and everybody in town know you are a woman of noble character."

Prov 31:10-31

Speaking of the espoused Bride of Christ who gets her virtue from her
Bridegroom

John 14:13-14

The Bridegroom is delighted to do whatever His espoused Bride asks...
in His character and authority

v12-13 kinsman nearer than I:

But it seems nothing is ever easy...and every good love story has an element of suspense

“I am your near kinsman...perhaps a nephew of Elimelech.
There is a nearer kinsman...perhaps a brother of Elimelech...
who has the first right of refusal.”

Ruth is speechless...no reaction is recorded.
But I think Ruth’s heart leaps....and then she groans.

In his promise to do all Ruth has requested, Boaz will

- take no shortcuts
- will do the right thing the right way
- not violate or compromise the Word of God for self-gain
- not manipulate people or circumstances for self-gain...
the ends do not justify the means
- when everything is in place...and not until then...he promises to redeem Ruth

Rom 8:16-26

“Come quickly, Lord Jesus!
Take us off this planet!”

Like Boaz who is a shadow of Him, Jesus will

- take no shortcuts
- will do the right thing the right way
- not violate or compromise the Word of God for self-gain
- not manipulate people or circumstances for self-gain...
the ends do not justify the means
- when everything is in place...and not until then...He promises to redeem us (Luke 21:28)

Back to the Love Story...backing up just a bit

v13-14 Tarry this night...lie down until the morning.”

Boaz’ heart: He urges Ruth to stay at his feet until morning
Only whores roamed around at night – he was very concerned for her reputation

Ruth’s heart: Before daybreak, Ruth gets up to go –
she is very concerned about his reputation

Therefore, she will be above reproach and avoid even the appearance of evil
(1 Thes 5:22)

Husbands and wives:

- diligently protect the reputation of your spouse...as you would yours!
- do not bash and trash him/her by complaining to anyone

v15-17 six measures of barley:

Before she goes, Boaz pours out his favor on Ruth...6 (undetermined) measures of barley in her shawl/apron.

Eph 3:20...again and again

Phil 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (trust your Bridegroom!)

When she gets home, Ruth is very excited!

“It worked!

He said ‘Yes.’”

She told Naomi everything, concluding with the 6 measures of barley...

given to show Naomi that she is not “Mara” but that she is blessed too!

v18 Sit still...until he have finished:

Naomi is as excited as Ruth...but more knowledgeable of what is happening out of Ruth’s sight

“Calm down, Sweetheart.

There remains work to be done by the kinsman-redeemer.

Six is incomplete/unfinished...Seven is complete.

He has given you a down payment, an earnest, so you know he is serious about his promise!

He has his eyes on you, he wants this more than you do!

He is not lazy or forgetful.

He did not lie.

He is not procrastinating.

He will do whatever it takes to bring this matter to completion.

It is all in his hands now.

Wait upon him.”

And Ruth obeyed...sat still and waited for Boaz to do what only Boaz could do.

She would not be ashamed or confused.

She would wait in quietness and confidence, not doubting.

She would be strengthened while she waited.

Jesus has given us a down payment, an earnest, to tell us how serious He is.

2 Cor 5:5-9

Eph 1:13-14

Eph 4:30

Phil 1:6

Are you having a difficult time sitting still, being calm, waiting while the Lord does what only He can do beyond our scope of vision?

Is 40:28-31

Be encouraged all you who labor and are heavy laden!

Jesus

- take no shortcuts
- will do the right thing the right way
- not violate or compromise the Word of God for self-gain
- not manipulate people or circumstances for self-gain...
the ends do not justify the means
- will not rest
- when everything is in place...and not until then...He promises to redeem us
(Luke 21:28)

We are a part of greater things to come as God

- accomplishes His purposes
- in/thru His people
- in His time

Our faith does not grow by God's explanations but by His promises

We do not have hope in God's explanations but in God's promises..."I will do it."

Walk by faith and not by sight

Jesus said it, He meant it, He will do it

Wait for it.

But wait...faithfully (to the Word) and busily!

Jesus desperately wants to hear more "marriage proposals"

"You are under no obligation to redeem me.

Are you willing to redeem me?

Will you save me?

Will you protect and provide for me?

Will you marry me?"

It is given to us to make the introductions!

Ruth Chapter 4

Last time...

- a marriage proposal – Ruth pops the question
- Boaz accepted – “I will!”
- problem – nearer kinsman who could un-do everything

This time...the glorious end to this Love Story

v1-2 went Boaz up to the gate...sat down:

Ruth is sitting still and waiting...having done what was hers to do, she is powerless to complete the redemption
Out of her sight, Boaz is motivated, resolved, focused to take care of the business at hand (redemption of Ruth)

He goes straight to City Hall, Muni Court...the city gate

- elders gathered to hear issues and render decisions
- “congregation” of all passers-by

And what do you know about that!

The nearer kinsman Boaz must find was among the passers-by!

Coincidence?

Providence!

Fingerprints of the Sovereign God at work in the lives of His people

Boaz is not wasting time and is not going to waste this opportunity

“Come here, come here!

Please have a seat...you are just the guy I am looking for!

And you 10 honorable men, please take a seat and be witnesses for us in our business meeting.”

Boaz, who will take no shortcuts and will do the right thing no matter what it takes, conducts his business in a proper and orderly manner

v3-4 advertise...I will redeem it:
Not wasting any words, Boaz gets right down to business

“Our kinsman Naomi has come home from Moab.
We have to settle the issue of Elimelech’s land inheritance.
I need to give you notice of this and to get your intention regarding it,
since you are the nearer kinsman and you have the first right of
redemption.
If you will redeem it, redeem it.
If not, I need to know that...because I’m next in line.”

“I am able and willing to redeem.”

His interest is in the land inheritance
But Boaz’ interest is Ruth, not the land

v5 What day...Ruth the Moabitess:
“btw...just so all of us are clear, the day you redeem the land you must also
redeem Ruth the Moabitess.

When Elimelech died, the land inheritance went to his firstborn son, Mahlon.
Mahlon had a wife, Ruth.
Then Mahlon died and the land inheritance went to Chilion...
but Chilion died too.
Only Mahlon’s wife, Ruth, returned with Naomi.
So, when you redeem Elimelech’s land, you must redeem it for Naomi and Ruth.
The complete/perfect right of redemption includes the land, Naomi, and Ruth.

Let me draw your attention to [Deut 25:5-6](#).
Therefore, to redeem Elimelech’s land you must also redeem/marry Ruth and
bear a son by her in order to keep Elimelech’s/Mahlon’s name alive in
Israel.
The complete/perfect right of redemption includes Ruth, the Moabitess.
And Elimelech/Naomi’s land will ‘belong’ to Ruth’s firstson so that the names
of Elimelech/Mahlon will be kept alive in Israel.
Keep in mind – redemption is all or nothing, no shortcuts or loopholes.
What say ye?”

v6 I cannot redeem it:
“Hold on...not so fast!
I had not considered that Gentile woman and her future son in my calculations.
I withdraw from this right of redemption.
I cannot perform the redemption without corrupting my inheritance.
I am no longer willing...you take my right of redemption.”

v7-8 to confirm...shoe:

Per the Law...[Deut 25:7-10]...the “seal” of the deal involved the shoe of the kinsman who was not willing to redeem his brother.

But here...a touch of grace

- no indignant widow
- no spitting in the face
- a cordial “handoff” from the near kinsman to the kinsman

But the nearer kinsman’s shoe nonetheless so there is no misunderstanding among the kinsmen or the witnesses that the nearer kinsman will NOT redeem Elimelech’s inheritance

Ruth...and the land...are now available to Boaz

And the near kinsman’s shoe is his marriage license!

v9-10 I have bought...I have purchased:

With the way of redemption cleared of all “competitors” and obstacles, Boaz pronounces to those in the city gate,

“All of you are witnesses that I am able and willing...and now have

- bought Elimelech/Naomi’s land
(subleased until Ruth’s firstborn son)
- purchased Ruth, the Gentile widow of Elimelech’s heir
(to bear sons to carry the name of our brother).”

v11-12 The LORD make that woman:

All gathered acknowledge the transaction...and bless Boaz and Ruth

“Mazel tov!

Congratulations!

May the Lord God of Israel

- make Ruth as Rachel and Leah, exceedingly fruitful
- build a house with Ruth as He built Israel a house with Rachel and Leah
- give you a name of virtue and renown

May your home be as blessed as Pharez’...filled with children, the fruit of another Gentile woman!”

Fade to black...the scene at the city gate fades from view

v13 Boaz took Ruth...Lord gave her conception:
Wasting no time, Boaz and Ruth consummate their marriage
And the Lord gave Ruth conception

Conception is a gift of God, not an act of man (male and female)

Ps 127:3 children *are* a heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward

James 1:17

Other beautiful gifts of God when He gave conception in His perfect time

- to Sarah – Isaac, the heir and son of promise, when she was 90 yrs old
- to Rachel – Joseph, the shadow of Messiah the Suffering Servant then Conquering King
- to Hannah – Samuel, the faithful prophet to anoint the king of Israel

Sometimes the Lord's gift of conception is given when we

- "plan" it
- least expect it – Surprise!
- don't want it
- have cried our eyes out while agonizingly waiting for it
- have given up and submitted to His will – Monica and me

But make no mistake...His gift, His timing for His purposes

v14-15 Blessed...restorer...nourisher:

Nine months after v13, the women of Bethlehem are gathered around Naomi,
rejoicing with her who is rejoicing exceedingly

"The Lord bless you, Naomi!

He has given you a redeemer and a descendant...and
what a kinsman-redeemer he is!
what a descendant he is!

- his name will be greatly honored in Israel
- he will restore your life
 - take away all the sorrow and "Mara"
 - give you newness of life
 - joy
 - comfort
- he will nourish/sustain/care for you in your old age
 - you will not be alone...ever

v16-17 Naomi took the child...nurse...Obed:

Naomi takes this precious gift, this beautiful life, and loves him tender

Naomi is not feeding Obed but is

- nurturing him...loving him
- overseeing his raising
- pouring the love of God into him as she did into Ruth

Grandparents – your role in the lives of your grandchildren is beyond measure

v18-22 the generations:

The Book of Ruth concludes with a genealogy

1. Pharez...illegitimate son of Judah by Tamar, Gentile woman (Gen 38)
2. Hezron...went down into Egypt with Jacob (post-rise of Joseph)
3. Ram...lived in Egypt
4. Amminadab...father-in-law of Aaron (Ex 6:23)
5. Nahshon...tribal leader during the Exodus (Num 7:12)
6. Salmon...father of Bethlehem (1 Chron 2:11, 51)
7. Boaz
8. Obed
9. Jesse
10. David...king

Why 10?

Deut 23:2 A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD.

To establish the veracity and legitimacy of Gen 49:10

EVERY Word of the Bible is true, God makes no mistakes!

Fall in love with the Word of God...the Living Word of God

Let's look at another genealogy...[Matt 1:1-6](#)...a genealogy rife with

- Lawbreakers
- Gentile wives

The genealogy of Jesus the Messiah,

- The Seed of the Woman, Immanuel, God with us (Is 7:14)
- Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Is 9:6-7)
- the Son of David (2 Sam 7)
- the Living Word of God (John 1:1, 14)

<u>Matt 1 “forefathers”</u>	<u>Reference</u>	
v2 polygamists deceiver	Gen 2:24 Ex 20:15-17	
v3 bastard Gentile woman	Deut 23:2	10 th generation = David
v5 Gentile prostitute Moabitess	Ex 20:14 Deut 23:3	Rahab of Jericho David is 1/8 th Gentile
v6 adulterer murderer idolater	Ex 20:14 Ex 20:13 Ex 20:3-5	

Before, during, and after the great apostasy of the time of the Judges...
the hand of God is on His people to preserve the line of the

- Seed of the Woman
- Lion of the Tribe of Judah

History of Israel – His Story

And our history is all wrapped up in His Story and in this Love Story rife with shadows

- Naomi: Israel, a widow
“pleasant”...land made desolate by unbelief (Mara)
Jer 3:5-14
Is 54
- Ruth: Church, Gentile Bride
Eph 5:32
- Nearer Kinsman: Moses, the Law
Gal 3:11-12a But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is*
evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith
James 2:10
The Law condemns the guilty, cannot justify/redeem the guilty without violating
the Law

- Boaz: Jesus Christ, Descendant, Kinsman-Redeemer, King
What the Law could not do, Grace can

Gal 3:22 Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe

John 1:17

Matt 5:17-18 no shortcuts, no loopholes

Jer 31:31-33 with Heb 12:24 and Matt 26:28

John 19:30 fulfilling the requirements of the Law, the nearer kinsman

Eph 2:8-9

Rom 1:16-17

- the unnamed servant who introduces Ruth & Boaz: God the Holy Spirit
- The Redemption: All or nothing
- The Descendant: Jesus Christ, the promised Son given, the Divine Child born of man Restorer of life to Israel and those grafted into Israel...by grace thru faith

With our focus on Boaz and Ruth, what Ch 4 means to us

- v10...purchased
 - 1 Cor 6:19-20
 - Eph 1:14
- v10...name of the dead upon his inheritance
 - Adam's race on earth
 - redemption for all mankind...by grace through faith in Jesus Christ
 - NOT just those chosen for salvation
 - Warning: Calvinism, Reformed, New Reformed
- v11...build the house
 - 1 Peter 2:4-10

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.
 - 1 Cor 10:32 the Jews, the Gentiles, the church of God

- v15...restorer (newness) of life
 - Rom 6:4

- v15...nourisher/sustainer
 - Col 1:16-17
 - John 5:24
 - 1 Cor 14:3....vs discourage like the devil does

- v15....loveth thee
 - anti-Israel Christians are NOT Ruth!
 - Ruth does NOT replace Naomi
 - Gen 12:3 is unconditional to all peoples...including “Christians”
 - Matt 25:31-46

Acts 14:17

The Holy Spirit is gathering a Bride for the Son

Luke 21:28

Rev 19:7

Are you ready to meet your Bridegroom?