

Ruth Chapter 4 - Study Guide

“Redemption Complete”

Background Information

It all comes down to this. As Naomi and Ruth wait, Boaz will go to the gate of the city of Bethlehem and address the “nearer kinsman”. Will he be willing to perform the role of a kinsman redeemer for Naomi? Will he agree to marry Ruth? What is Boaz going to do? Chapter 4 in the Book of Ruth answers all of these questions and brings us the beautiful finality of Redemption Complete!

Basic Outline of Today’s Study

1. Intro: The Story within a Story
2. Meeting at the Gate (vs1-4)
3. Levirate Marriage (vs5)
4. The “nearer kinsman” responds (vs6)
5. Redemption Complete (vs7-12)
6. Happy Ending (vs13-22)

Something Helpful:

COMPARISON OF TWO KINSMAN REDEEMERS	
BOAZ	JESUS
Had to be a family member	God became man in the flesh so He could be our Kinsman and redeem us
Had the duty of buying family members out of slavery	He redeemed us from slavery to sin and death.
Had the duty of buying back land that had been forfeited	In the future He will redeem the earth that Adam forfeited control of to Satan.
Not motivated by self-interest but by a sincere love for Ruth the Moabitess	Jesus’ was motivated by the love of God
Boaz as Ruth's kinsman-redeemer took her as his bride	Jesus has redeemed us to be His bride
Boaz as kinsman-redeemer provided a glorious destiny for Ruth	Jesus, as our Kinsman Redeemer, provides a glorious destiny for us

Discussion Questions:

1. What have you learned about God's character throughout our study of the Book of Ruth? How does that impact your life today?
2. From the book of Ruth, we are reminded of God's compassionate provision for the stranger, widow, fatherless, poor, etc. God provided the gleaning laws, the kinsman-redeemer and the levirate marriage system to mention a few. Discuss how important these laws all were in the life and redemption of Naomi and Ruth.
3. Who are the "strangers, widows, fatherless, etc." in your life and community? In what ways has God provided you to care for them? What action could you take to make provision for those whom God cares about? Take some time to pray for someone or some people who represent the "Naomi and Ruth's" of our lives.
4. One aspect of Boaz's strong character was his determination to go beyond the "letter of the law" and yet not miss God's Spirit behind it. How does his example challenge you? What are some aspects of your life and character which need to develop beyond what is required or arrive at what is expected?

Reference Verses:

Israel called a wife

Isaiah 54:5 For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

Hosea 2:16 "And it shall be, in that day," Says the Lord, "That you will call Me 'My Husband,' And no longer call Me 'My Master,'"

Jeremiah 31:31-32 "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord.

The church is the bride

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Jesus: Our Kinsman Redeemer

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Levirate Marriage

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.' Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,' then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.' And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'