

# Ruth 4:1-10

## *The Kinsman Redeems*

### 1. 4:1-2 – Boaz at the Gate

- a. *What time is it?* The time of winnowed barley (First fruits leading to Pentecost ~ Weeks)
- b. *Where?* The gate of the city where the elders ruled - Ex 18:25, De 16:18, Am 5:12,15
  - i. The place for govt & judgment in matters of law, property, business, habitation.
- c. *Who?* “*Ho, such a one!*” of 3:12, who is privileged but without blessing (and a name)
- d. Also, “*ten men of the elders*” - The required quorum for witness v.4, 9-10 (also *minyán*)

### 2. 4:3-4 – The Nearest Kinsman Redemption

- a. 3 - “*he said unto the kinsman*” - Laws of land redemption by kinsman - Lev 25:25-28
- b. “*Naomi ... selleth a parcel of land*” - The conversation is not (yet) about Ruth.
- c. “*our brother Elimelech’s*” - Boaz is family with nameless (brother-in-law or cousin)
- d. 4 - “*I thought...*” - This is not a trick. Boaz graciously informs this kinsman to save him.
- e. “*to advertise thee, saying, Buy it...*” - He is not talking about marrying anyone.
- f. “*if thou wilt redeem it, redeem it*” - He is kin, has right by law, but will he?
- g. “*tell me...*” - An answer is required (subpoena) - Job 34:34, 38:4, Mt 21:24, Ac 5:8
- h. This an unnamed Jew who has right to the land, and when presented with the law says...
- i. “*I will redeem it*” - A detail left out of the “love story”. He agrees to redeem the land.
  - i. Israel said “we will” at Sinai Exo 19:8 and at Shechem Josh 24:15-25, too.

### 3. 4:5-6 – Ruth Raising the Dead

- a. But they can’t, neither can this one. There are ten witnesses as to why not.
- b. Without an heir, there is no more redemption (no Jubilee) - Lev 25:23-24
- c. “*What day thou buyest... thou must buy it also of Ruth,*” but a seed remains, a remnant!
- d. He is buying the land to benefit himself, not for the ‘seed of the woman’ (Gen 3:15)
- e. “*Ruth the Moabitess*” - ‘Such a one’ doesn’t know her, her faith, her works. Boaz does.
- f. “*wife of the dead*” - She is not needing redeemed, but has power to raise the dead.
- g. “*raise up the name of the dead*” - Her son will have right to the land in Jubilee.
- h. 6 “*I cannot redeem it for myself*” Her children will receive inheritance of the redeemer
- i. The law alone cannot move him to redeem, because he will not sacrifice/trust the seed.
- j. There must be another kinsman redeemer to enter contract for the land (new covenant)
- k. B/c of Ruth, it can only be redeemed by grace. The law alone provides no incentive.
- l. Paul also taught of the promise to Israel being sure by grace/faith - Rom 4:13-17
- m. Performance of redemption falls on Boaz, Ruth, and their seed → 4:22

### 4. 4:7-10 – A Greater Kinsman Redemption by Grace

- a. 7-8 “*a man plucked off his shoe... to confirm*” - A different custom than Deu 25:5-10
- b. Boaz was not applying this obligatory law to a Moabitess w/o a brother-in-law.
- c. 9 - “*Ye are witnesses this day*” - They witnessed the failure of the first legal redeemer.
- d. “*I have bought all that was Elimelech’s, Chilion’s, Mahlon’s...*” ← he paid it all.
- e. 10 - “*Moreover Ruth the Moabitess*” - more than just the land of Israel – Isa 49:6,54:3-5
- f. Just like Boaz, the LORD redeems both Israel’s land and the people through Christ.
- g. Boaz gives riches, sacrifices his inheritance, and his son to redeem the land and people.
- h. “*purchased to be my wife*” - Speaking to dowry, redemption, grace, and Prov 31:10
- i. “*the dead be not cut off*” - A Jewish branch not cut off b/c of Boaz/Ruth (grace/faith)
- j. “*from the gate of his place*” - The promise of inheritance continues. Hope in Bethlehem.