

Reference: RUTH 3

Church: GRACE

Date: 9/26/99

The Goel

Purpose: To show that Christ became our kinsman in order to become our redeemer.
To invite others to come to Him for that redemption

1. Introduction

Continuing to study this wonderful story - so much Gospel in it.

Have seen so far:

- 1) Elimelech & family should never have left Israel – repentance needed
 - 2) After Mahlon & Kilion die, Ruth & Orpah presented with a choice
 - 3) Ruth becomes a follower of the true God, Orpah returns to idols
 - 4) Back in Israel, Ruth shows changed heart by living godly in Christ
 - 5) God begins to show His provision for Ruth & Naomi
 - 6) Happens into the field of Boaz – he happens to be a Goel
 - 7) Began to draw out the parallels between Boaz and Jesus
- Now pick up the story in Chapter 3.

2. God's provision

2.1. Provision for the destitute in Israel 3000 yrs ago

Ruth and Naomi back in Israel

Property of Elimelech had been sold - maybe before Moab

Living in poverty - gleaning in fields (2:2)

Harvest drawing to a close. Now what?

Naomi growing older; What about Ruth when she had died?

A foreigner from an enemy country, living in Israel

No male heirs left in the family.

Line of Mahlon would die out.

The future looked bleak indeed for them both

Except, of course, for the providence of God - last time

Had provided for circumstances as desperate as theirs:

Deut 25:5-6 If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. ⁶ The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

Principle had been extended to the wider family

Redemption of property by a near member of the family

Lev 25:24-28 Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land. ²⁵ "If one of your countrymen becomes poor and sells some of his property, **his nearest relative is to come and redeem what his countryman has sold.**

Note - it had to be a member of the family in both cases

Seems that these two laws rolled into one at time of Ruth

Redeemer of property had to take widow too

But was there a near family member?

Was there a man who could perform this act for Naomi & Ruth?

A kinsman who could redeem the property?

Bring Ruth to security and rest by marrying a woman from MOAB?

Secure the name of Mahlon's family line?

Yes there was - it was Boaz! 2:19-20

The Goel - kinsman redeemer - has shown kindness to Ruth already!

Will he be a kinsman Redeemer to Ruth?

Ch 3 is about the approach Naomi and Ruth make to him

2.2. Provision for the spiritually destitute in 1999

That's AVWB, you say.

Nice story, good law. What's it got to do with me?

Bible tells us that we are spiritually destitute; paupers

We have sold our inheritance for a bowl of soup Esau

Pleasure of sin now rather than glory with God later

He was our husband,

In Eden He bound Himself to us but we broke away

Now we behave as though He is dead - we are like widows in his sight.

Our names have been blotted out of the Book of Life

We have been banished from God's presence in Heaven

God still provides for us out of love in this life - food etc.

As Boaz provided for Ruth during the harvest

But the harvest is ending! Our lives here will come to an end
Than what will happen to us?
Where will our rest and security come from?
No inheritance in Heaven - A bleak future indeed
Except that God has provided for this situation too!
He has found a husband for destitute sinners
Someone who will marry those who are His enemies
Someone who will redeem us and restore our inheritance
Who will write our names in the Book of Life
So that they will not die out.
Who will bring us into rest and security for all eternity
Who is this? Who will do this for us?
Jesus - He is our goel, our kinsman-redeemer!
He left Heaven to become a man Took flesh to become our kinsman
Died on the cross to be our redeemer - buy us back to Him
Right after Isaiah talks of Jesus dying on the cross:

Isaiah 54:1-8 "Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the LORD. ² "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. ³ For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. ⁴ "Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. ⁵ For your Maker is your husband—the LORD Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. ⁶ The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit—a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God. ⁷ "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. ⁸ In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

Will He be a kinsman-redeemer to you?

Chapter 3 is a picture to answer that question

Shows us how to approach Him

3. How to approach the kinsman-redeemer

3.1. *How Ruth approaches Boaz*

First, has great advantage of Naomi to direct her

She knows Boaz and where to find him
She knows the law and how it works
She knows the customs of the people
She tells Ruth exactly what she should do

3.1.1. Submit to the law of God

Doubtless there were younger men nearer Ruth's age (3:10)
The law, though, put the responsibility on an older man
Ruth had to submit to the law

3.1.2. Prepare yourself (3:3)

She was going to a wedding
She could not go scruffy or drab
Had to wash, go clean to her hoped-for husband
Prepare as a bride for a wedding - Put on perfume
Lay aside the garments of widowhood - put on clean clothes

3.1.3. Go to him and approach in humility (3:3-4)

Must go to him to state claim
lay at his feet; the position of a servant

3.1.4. Ask to come under his protection (3:9)

Spread your garment (lit. wings) over me
Means - marry me, take me into your care
As Boaz had said in Chapter 2:12 of God
Ruth now asks of him – knows he has authority and right to do it
Trusts her case to him alone

3.2. *How we should approach Christ*

A great advantage to be with those who know Him
Know where to find Him
Know His laws and how He will be approached
Can tell you exactly what to do:

3.2.1. Submit to His laws & Word

Can't run off after others
He is the Kinsman-Redeemer; Only He can do it.
He is the one we should marry
Forsaking all others, cleave to Him

3.2.2. Need to be prepared

We are coming to marry Him!
Can't expect Him to take us if we are not clean
Need to realize the horror of our sin wicked hearts
How can we clean our hearts for God? We can't!
He will do it for us
His blood, shed on the cross, will make us clean
Take away the filth of sin
Need the Holy Spirit to come upon us
To apply Christ's work on the cross to us
To mark us out as His own
And what shall we wear to approach Him?
To ask the Son of God to marry us?
We have nothing but rags to wear - sin!
But He will throw His own robe around us
He will give us His own righteousness!
What better covering?

3.2.3. In Humility (lie at His feet) - How else?

3.2.4. Ask to come under His protection

Take me under your wings; I leave the world behind
I know I'm a sinner, and I hate my sin
I turn away from it - Take me as your own, cover me, protect me
I trust in your death on the cross
This is an expression of saving faith
I know you are the only Savior and you are able to save to the uttermost
I humbly plead with you to save me

4. **The request answered**

How will Boaz react? Will He be angry? Turn her away, this foreigner?
No, he praises her for her kindness to him
He promises that he will give her rest
It will cost him dearly to redeem the land and prolong Mahlon's line
But he will do it - Another has a prior claim, but he will sort that out
How will Jesus react when you come to Him?
Will He be angry? Turn you away? No, never!

Luke 13:34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!
Matt 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

It cost Him dearly to redeem sinners
The Law, Death and the Devil had a claim on us already
But He sorted it out on the cross.....Sinners Jesus WILL receive!!

5. **The changed anticipated**

Naomi eager to here how the expedition went
But note what she asks (v16) – **Who are you**, my daughter?
Unaware of the other Goel – expecting Ruth to return as wife of Boaz
Likewise, when Christ takes us under His protection, we become new
May well ask “who are you” - the old destitute sinner,
or betrothed to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

6. **Conclusions**

Believers – your maker is your husband – praise Him!
Unbelievers - why not come to Him now?
He will provide your cleansing and wedding clothes, take under wings
He will accept you - bind Himself to you for all eternity
This faithful Goel will redeem you from sin
And return the inheritance that your sin has lost
Putting your name in the Book of Life
God willing will see the wonderful conclusion next week.