

## **Ruth 4 New American Standard Bible**

### **The Marriage of Ruth**

Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there, and behold, the redeemer of whom Boaz spoke was passing by, so he said, "Come over here, friend, sit down here." And he came over and sat down. <sup>2</sup> Then he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has returned from the land of Moab, has to sell the plot of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. <sup>4</sup> So I thought that I would inform you, saying, 'Buy *it* before those who are sitting *here*, and before the elders of my people. If you will redeem *it*, redeem *it*; but if not, tell me so that I may know; for there is no one except you to redeem *it*, and I am after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem *it*."

<sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of the deceased, in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance." <sup>6</sup> Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem *it* for myself, otherwise I would jeopardize my own inheritance. Redeem *it* for yourself; you *may have* my right of redemption, since I cannot redeem *it*."

<sup>7</sup> Now this was *the custom* in former times in Israel concerning the redemption and the exchange *of land* to confirm any matter: a man removed his sandal and gave *it* to another; and this was the *way of* confirmation in Israel. <sup>8</sup> So the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy *it* for yourself." And he removed his sandal.

<sup>9</sup> Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses today that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. <sup>10</sup> Furthermore, I have acquired Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, to be my wife in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance, so that the name of the deceased will not be eliminated from his brothers or from the court of his *birth* place; you are witnesses today."

<sup>11</sup> And all the people who were in the court, and the elders, said, "*We are* witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel; and may you achieve wealth in Ephrathah and become famous in Bethlehem. <sup>12</sup> Moreover, may your house be like the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah, through the descendants whom the Lord will give you by this young woman."

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he had relations with her. And the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel. <sup>15</sup> May he also be to you one who restores life and sustains your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

### **The Line of David**

<sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her lap, and became his nurse. <sup>17</sup> And the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi!" So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

<sup>18</sup> Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, <sup>19</sup> Hezron fathered Ram, and Ram fathered Amminadab, <sup>20</sup> and Amminadab fathered Nahshon, and Nahshon fathered Salmon, <sup>21</sup> and Salmon fathered Boaz, and Boaz fathered Obed, <sup>22</sup> and Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

**We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

**Pauls Observations and insights**

1. Now – that means action is about to take place – someone is about to do something.
2. Boaz has to be the gentlest man in the bible. He demonstrates integrity, grace, compassion, mercy, generosity and favour. Boaz is one of the good guys in the bible.
3. Boaz takes his responsibility of fulfilling his promised obligations to Ruth to set things into motion and take her as his wife.
4. Now there was a relative that had first entitlement to buy land from Abimelech and along with the land came Ruth – to be his wife.
5. Polygamy had become at this time part of the Jewish custom in Israel but it was not God's original plan in the beginning.
6. Progressive revelation will take us back to God's original plan for man.
7. Boaz went to the gate of the town, this is where all the people's business was done.
8. He calls the close relative aside to ascertain if he is going to take responsibility for Ruth. He also arranged for ten witnesses to be in the city to verify proceedings.
9. Boaz presents to the close relative an invitation to buy the land and all of its contents, which included Ruth.
10. The relative is asked to redeem the land – this means to pay the right price to take ownership. This is exactly what Jesus done for sinners when he redeemed us and paid the full price to save us from the judgement to come.
11. Boaz also reveals his own personal interest in the purchase of the land and its contents – he is not wanting to be deceptive.
12. The objective and meaning of a lie is to have an intention to deceive.
13. To Boaz surprise the close relative agrees to take his responsibility and redeem the land.
14. How must of Boaz felt at this point – his worst fears must have been realised.
15. He strategically presents a conundrum to the close relative by informing him that when he purchases the land he gets Ruth as well. That meant taking responsibility of growing her family to retain the inheritance of Abimelech and the family name.
16. The name of the family is very important to the Israelites. This responsibility is a step too far for the relative so he declines the land and with it Ruth.
17. He declares, he cannot redeem it- he could of, but not without a cost to him and his own inheritance.
18. The relative relinquishes his right of redemption and releases Boaz of the responsibility for the land and in this process requires Ruth to be his wife.
19. Attestation in Israel took place by the removing of the sandals amongst witnesses, a man's word was his bond in those days, unlike today, no-one trusts anyone anymore.
20. How do you feel about the concept of acquiring Ruth as if she has no say in the process?
21. Boaz declares his full intention to establish the name of the family and the genealogy line.
22. A witness is one who can declare a true testimony of what took place.
23. All who heard your confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ at your baptism, are your witnesses to what took place in you.

24. The people gathered declare Boaz and Ruth a blessing of favour that reflects the foundation of Israel's own blessing.
25. To bring God's blessing is a good thing even when it represents financial wealth, having money is not a problem to God it is the management of that money that often becomes a problem.
26. It is the love of money that is the root of all kinds of evil. Who owns your money?
27. To become famous in 'Bethlehem's blessing' came to pass, as Jesus Christ is a direct descendant of Boaz.
28. When a man took a woman it meant that they came together in one in spirit, soul and body, a unity of love and commitment.
29. That is why God says in Malachi that He hates divorce.
30. The term 'he went in to her' means intercourse, the sowing of his seed.
31. Notice it was God who enabled her to conceive a child, now, whether there was a genetic issue in the line of Ruth or Abimelech we may never know, but it was God that allowed her to conceive this time.
32. Naomi gets the blessing of Ruth's blessing when God redeems He restores life and length of days.
33. Ruth had demonstrated many times her love for Naomi.
34. To be better than seven sons is a very great accolade.
35. Naomi became a nurse and took care of the baby.
36. It was the town who named the child Obed. How would you feel about that?
37. The genealogy of Jesus is declared.