

GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED

A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth


Boaz Marries Ruth Ruth 4

"May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah." Ruth 4:11a

Read Ruth 4:1–10.

1. While Ruth is at home telling Naomi all about her night at the threshing floor, what is Boaz doing? (v. 1) Why? (3:13)

2. "The town gate was where personal business and civic affairs of the people were transacted."¹
 - a. Who does Boaz ask to be present on this occasion? (vv. 1–2, 9)

 - b. Why do you think Boaz calls over the town elders? ( Deut. 25:5–10)

3. What matter did Boaz explain to the close relative of Naomi? (v. 3)
 - a. What suggestion does he make to this close relative? (v. 4)

 - b. Why is this transaction initially attractive to the kinsman-redeemer?

4. Boaz then introduces the second part of the transaction. What expectation goes along with the purchase of the widow's land? (v. 5)

5. Why does the unnamed closer relative decline to redeem Elimelech's land and marry Ruth? (v. 6)

6. Boaz stepped up to do so. How do both parties legalize this transaction? (vv. 7-8)

7. What reason does Boaz give for taking Ruth as his wife? (v. 10)

Read Ruth 4:11-22.

8. The elders bless both Ruth and Boaz by linking them to Israelite ancestors. What are they praying for Ruth and Boaz? (vv. 11-12)

9. The witnesses invoke the name of Perez (the son of Judah and Tamar, a Canaanite woman). What parallels do you see between the stories of Tamar (Gen. 38) and Ruth?

10. As the women bless the Lord in verses 14 and 15, what are they desiring for Naomi?

11. Professor Doug Green defines life in ancient Israel as a continuum from being “most alive” (having descendants and being in the land) to being “most dead” (when one is buried outside the land without descendants). “[Ruth 1:1-5] describes the death of a family. Father and sons dead, buried outside the land of promise, with no descendants. Elimelech is ‘terminally dead.’ The line is ended. Naomi herself is in a living death.”²
 - a. How does Boaz as kinsman-redeemer bring life back to Elimelech and Naomi? (v. 13)

 - b. How is Jesus, our Kinsman-Redeemer, a restorer of life” to us? (v. 15; Eph. 2:4–9, 13)

12. The genealogy at the end of the chapter points forward and continues the theme of blessing.
 - a. How is God going to ultimately bless Israel through Ruth? (vv. 17, 22; Matt. 1:16)

 - b. As Naomi wanted “rest” for Ruth, Jesus provides us with that ultimate rest. Read Hebrews 4:9-10 and reflect on how you have now entered into that rest.

This study was adapted from a previous study on Joshua, New Life Women’s Bible Study, 2000-2001.

 Denotes ‘for further study’.

¹ The Bible Knowledge Commentary (Old Testament) by Walter L. Baker, Craig A. Blaising, J. Ronald Blue, and Sid S. Buzzell, (Colorado Springs, CO; David C. Cook, 1985), 426.

² Douglas Green, Lecture: Ruth. Given in Old Testament History and Theology 2 at Westminster Theological Seminary, April 4, 2001, pp 13-14.