

**RUTH 3-4**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Ruth chapter 3 as we continue our study through the Word of God, and we finish looking at this story of the Kinsman Redeemer this evening!

Last time, in our study of the book of Ruth we saw Elimelech pack up his family and move them from Bethlehem to Moab because of the famine that was affecting the area of Bethlehem.

In doing so he was moving out of God's will, the land of Canaan.

As we said before, Elimelech was moving out of the House of Bread, Bethlehem, and heading down to the toilet bowl, Moab.

What is interesting is that we don't see him seek God's counsel in this matter, he takes the situation into his own hands, he may have been "*sick*" and "*tired*" of the situation he was in, and by the way that was the meaning of the names of his two sons, Mahlon and Chilion.

And it is there, in the world, that "*My God is king*" dies.

What do I mean by that?

That is the meaning of Elimelech's name and that is what happens as we go into the world and away from God!

Not only did Elimelech die but so did his two sons and now Naomi was left with her two daughters-in-law, and they were in a desperate situation. Widows did not have any income and Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem, to the House of Bread and she was encouraging her two daughters-in-law to remain in Moab and get married again, start a family.

Ruth refused; she wanted to go with Naomi and serve her God, the God of Israel, to follow her and the only thing that would prevent her from doing this was death.

On the other hand, Orpah wanted to go but she was not sincere, and she ended up staying in Moab.

And listen again to what transpired as they came to Bethlehem. In Ruth 1:19-21 we are told, **“Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, ‘Is this Naomi?’ But she said to them, ‘Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?’”**

Remember, Naomi has been gone for ten years and those were some tough years, she probably did not look the same anymore!

You see, the woman that left was not the same one that was returning. Sin had its toll on her life and what was taking place on the inside, her heart, had now overflowed outwardly, in her flesh. She was an empty shell of the woman she once was.

As the people looked, they were astonished and even questioned themselves if this was truly Naomi!

That is what sin, that is what running away from the Lord will do in our lives!

What is interesting to me is that Naomi’s name means, *“pleasant”* but she tells them not to call her pleasant, but to call her *Mara*, which means bitter!

Naomi and her husband left Bethlehem because they thought they had nothing; they were empty, and they went looking for something in the world.

But, in the end, when Naomi evaluates her life, she realizes she had much in the House of Bread, living where she should have lived than living in the world!

And it is there in Bethlehem, that Ruth found her kinsman redeemer, Boaz. He was the one who could redeem her and the property of her husband back.

Now looking at this situation, you might think that if Elimelech did not go down to Moab, Ruth would not have found out about the true and living God. Ruth would not have come to Bethlehem, and she would not have met and married Boaz.

And thus, she would not have been in the lineage of King David, his great grandmother, and in the lineage of Christ.

Make no mistake about it, Ruth had to get to Bethlehem, but I don't think God needed help with His plan.

He did use the actions of Elimelech and his family to bring Ruth to Boaz, but that does not mean what Elimelech did was right.

God does use our failures many times for His glory. Many times, as we try to assist God with His plans, we just get in the way and mess things up.

With that as our introduction to our study tonight, let's begin reading here in Ruth chapter 3, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

### **RUTH 3**

#### **VERSES 1-2**

Remember that Naomi and Ruth came to Bethlehem at the time of the barley and wheat harvest.

Now it is over, and it was now time to thresh the crop that they had brought in.

What that means is that they would beat or roll over the grain, thresh it and separate the grain out.

Then they would toss it in the air and the heavier grain fell to the ground and the lighter chaff would be blown away.

Then they would gather up the grain.

They would also sleep by the grain they had threshed because they were protecting it from those who would come by and steal it.

That is what Boaz would be doing as he finished threshing the grain.

And Naomi is not interested in the grain but in Boaz, as she is now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and that is marriage for Ruth with Boaz!

We see here that she tells Ruth that she wants her to find security, and it speaks of rest, she wants Ruth to find rest in marriage.

What is she speaking of when she says that this rest will be found in marriage?

Like I have said, Naomi is speaking of Boaz, that he would make this possible because Boaz was a “**relative**” or a **GOEL**, a kinsman redeemer!

What does that mean?

The Scriptures speak of this role in several different ways, and all are important.

We are told,

- The kinsman-redeemer was responsible to buy a fellow Israelite out of slavery (Leviticus 25:48).
- He was responsible to be the “**avenger of blood**” to make sure the murderer of a family member answered for the crime (Numbers 35:19).
- He was responsible to buy back family land that had been forfeited (Leviticus 25:25).

- He was responsible to carry on the family name by marrying a childless widow (Deuteronomy 25:5-10).

Thus, the kinsman redeemer was responsible to safeguard the person, the property and the posterity of the family.

Morris reminds us, *“Words from the root g’l are used with a variety of meanings in the Old Testament, but the fundamental idea is that of fulfilling one’s obligations as a kinsman.”*

Why was this such a big deal?

David Guzik puts it into perspective for us as he tells us,

*If Boaz did not fulfill this duty towards Elimelech (though he was now deceased), then the direct family and name of Elimelech would perish.*

*Perpetuating the family name of Elimelech (and every man in Israel) was thought to be an important duty.*

*These protections showed how important it was to God to preserve the institution of the family in Israel - and that it is also important to Him today.*

- David Guzik, Ruth 3

May we not forget that!

As we read on, we are going to see how this not only plays out in the life of Ruth and Boaz, but also how this plays out in our lives because it relates to our relationship with the Lord.

#### VERSES 3-5

We see here that Naomi instructs Ruth how she is to approach Boaz.

She must wash herself, anoint herself, and change her clothes. Then and only then could she approach Boaz.

She was to make herself pretty, not to bother Boaz until he had finished eating and was laying down and then she should go into his tent, uncover his feet, and lie down.

Now that sounds strange but as we will see, it is a beautiful picture of a person who comes to the Lord.

Let me explain.

You see, before we can approach the Lord we must be washed in His blood and cleansed from our sins.

Paul put it like this in Ephesians 1:7, **“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”**

Secondly, we must be anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit.

John tells us in I John 2:20, 27, **“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. . . . But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”**

Yes, the Holy Spirit indwells us and guides us and impowers us for the work. The problem today is many try to accomplish the work of God by their own efforts, their own power, and in the end, it is not fruitful.

A. W. Tozer said, ***“If God were to take the Holy Spirit out of this world, much of what the church is doing would go right on; and nobody would know the difference.”***

The early church depended on the power of the Holy Spirit working in them and then through them and so must we!

And thirdly, you must put on the new garment or the robe of righteousness. You cannot enter in before the presence of God with your own filthy garments.

Paul once again tells us in Philippians 3:9, “**And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.**”

You see, it is then and only then that we can approach the Lord and fellowship with Him, when we are washed by His blood, anointed by the Holy Spirit, and righteous in His robes!

There is one more point here that I believe is important. The way that Ruth approached Boaz was in humility. She did not come before him demanding her rights.

The same is true for us. If we come before the Lord demanding our rights, we deserve death and how many of us want what we deserve? I am sure none of us.

Thus, in humility we approach the Lord and He extends to us grace, we don't deserve eternal life, but He freely gives it to us.

It is as James 4:6 tells us, “**But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’**”

And what a beautiful picture it is of how we are to approach the Lord!

Sandy Adams put it like this,

Here's Naomi's plan . . . Ruth needs to doll herself up – take a bubble bath – dab on some Chanel # 5, put on a designer dress, and go down to the threshing floor.

After Boaz eats dinner, and settles down to sleep, Ruth needs to slip up quietly, uncover his toes, and lie at his feet until he awakes. Exposing his toes to the night air will insure that eventually his cold toes will wake him up, and he'll notice Ruth.

Hey, I like this strategy because it's also how we can abide and rest in Jesus.

First, make sure you're **washed**. Your spirit has been washed in the blood of His sacrifice.

We also need to cleanse our mind and thoughts with God's Word.

Second, make sure you're **anointed**. Dab on the oil of the Holy Spirit. Rely on the Spirit. Ask Him to fill you, and make you aware of God's presence and love.

Third, make sure you're **dressed** for success - *put on Christ*. Begin to form a new identity. Learn to see yourself as God sees you – *holy, righteous, blameless, a joint-heir with Jesus, a child of God*. Realize you're a new creation in Christ.

And fourth, make sure you **lie down at Jesus' feet**. Humble yourself before the Master. Spend time in His presence. Do whatever He tells you to do.

- Sandy Adams, Ruth 3

I like that and it is true. This story of Ruth is about our relationship with our Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus Christ!

Let me also say this. As some read this, they see Ruth's actions as provocative, that she was offering herself to Boaz in a sexual manner.

Maybe people feel that way today because that is the society we live in, but that was not Ruth's intentions at all!



As I have said, the behavior of Ruth, in the culture of that day, was an act of total submission to Boaz. A servant would lie at their master's feet and be ready for what the master tells them to do.

And again, isn't that what we are to do?

Of course it is. We are to be bondslaves of Christ, ready to do all that He tells us or as Paul put it in Romans 12:1, "**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service, [or spiritual worship].**"

Ruth was putting her life in the hands of her *GOEL*, her kinsman redeemer, just as we do with our *LORD!*

#### VERSES 6-9

Why did Boaz sleep by the "**heap of grain**" he had threshed?

Remember what I have said. That Boaz was there to protect the grain from being stolen. If you don't believe this was a problem, listen to what was happening in David's day in I Samuel 23:1, "**Then they told David, saying, 'Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors.'**"

That is why Boaz was protecting his grain by sleeping next to it!

As Boaz woke-up, maybe being a little cold from part of his blanket being removed, he was startled to find a woman lying at his feet.

Keep in mind he was there to protect his grain and now someone is next to him and his grain.

Also, it was dark and thus, he could not see who it was and then Ruth spoke up and she explained that she was coming to take refuge under the wings of Boaz in marriage.

That phrase, “**spread the corner of your garment over me**” was another way to say, “***I am a widow, will you take me as your wife?***”

In fact, Clarke tells us, “*Even to the present day, when a Jew marries a woman, he throws the skirt or end of his talith over her, to signify that he has taken her under his protection.*”

And Morris writes, “*The spreading of a skirt over a widow as a way of claiming her as a wife is attested among Arabs of early days, and Jouon says it still exists among some modern Arabs.*”

This was a common practice and some still use it today.

Now in Ezekiel 16:8 we see God speak in regard to Israel, “**When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,’ says the Lord God.**”

It is the same terminology that is used here in Ruth!

Why did Ruth do this?

Yes, she wanted to redeem back to the family of her dead husband what was theirs. You see, what that meant was if a man married and died before they had any children, it was the obligation for his brother or near relative to take her as a wife and their first-born son would be named after the dead brother to keep the family name alive.

They would also redeem any land back if it was lost.

Thus, Ruth is asking Boaz to take the part of the kinsman redeemer and to have a child through her so that Elimelech's name can continue on.

It was not mandatory, but you were honor bound to do it.

But there is more to it than that. I think that Ruth wanted a deeper and more intimate relationship with Boaz. She was blessed by all the abundant crops that Boaz gave her, but she wanted more than just the blessings.

What a picture this is of what Christians should be like today. They should want more of Jesus, wanting the One who blesses instead of just the blessings.

You see, many Christians today want the opposite, the blessings more than the deep intimate relationship.

God wants us to have more than just a shallow relationship with Him, He wants us to rise above the physical needs and draw deeper into a relationship with Him.

The gifts that God has given us are great, and He has blessed us so much, but we should desire that deeper relationship with Him.

Here is a great illustration of what the Lord desires of us.

Thors Walden, a sculptor, has chiseled a glorious statue of Jesus Christ. But the way it is designed, the position of the Lord's body, it is impossible to see his face while standing.

So they placed a sign next to the statue that says this, ***"If you desire to see His face, you must first sit at His feet."***

That is the only way you can see the face of Jesus in this statue, by sitting at His feet and looking up.

And that says to me that if you don't take the time, sitting at the feet of Jesus, you will never understand His character.

If you don't humble yourself before Him, you will never see His face!

Ruth took the time to sit at the feet of Boaz in all humility, surrendering herself to him and we should do no less for the Lord!

### VERSES 10-11

I want you to see the character of Boaz. Because he was the *GOEL*, the kinsman redeemer, he had every right to force himself upon Ruth, but he didn't.

Then there is this age factor, he seems to be a lot older than Ruth. Because of that it caused him to sit back.

Yes, he loved her, but I don't know if he was sure that she loved him, but as we see, she did!

Now look at the character of Ruth. Her background is that she was a Moabite who came to know the Lord. And out of all that we see that her reputation, her virtues, have spread all around.

Yes, as I have said Boaz was a lot older than Ruth, and thus, during this time of celebration she could have gone out with any number of young men, but she stays faithful to Boaz, her kinsman.

You see, she was willing to marry an older man in order to fulfill her commitment to her first husband, Mahlon and the family name of Elimelech, when she could have gone after other men, younger men.

Like I have said, Ruth's reputation quickly spread, not because she flaunted it - but because she lived it!

What a great lesson for us. May others see that our character, the faith that we have is solid, not because we flaunt it, but because we live it out!

### VERSES 12-13

Again, look at the character of Boaz, his honesty.

Make no mistake about it, Boaz loved Ruth and wanted to marry her, but there is this problem!

What was the problem?

There was another relative that was closer, and it was his right to be the kinsman in this situation.

Thus, Boaz tells Ruth that if he would like to go through with this, fine, but if he refuses then he will be her kinsman, **“as the LORD lives!”**

We see Boaz manifest honesty, integrity and these are virtues that God desires from each of us to have. It may not be to our benefit, but it is the right thing to do, and God will bless us for it!

Keep in mind that this book takes place during the period of the Judges and the last five chapters of the book of Judges shows how ruthless, immoral the people of God can be. In other words, everyone did what was right in their own eyes because there was no King on the throne of their hearts.

But here with Boaz and Ruth, we see that it was the Lord that guided them, and they trusted in Him.

How do I know that?

Look at how Boaz speaks of who is in control of this situation, “... as the LORD lives!”  
Ruth 3:13.

Boaz would leave this situation in the hands of God and whatever the outcome, it was the Lord’s plan and purpose, and he was able to rest in that. What a great lesson for us.

Things may not work out the way we want but we need to rest in the Lord and allow His plans and purposes to come forth in our lives.

#### VERSES 14-15

Now if nothing went on between Boaz and Ruth, why does he tell her to leave before the sun comes up and people can recognize her?

It is simple - ***GOSSIP!***

You see, if people saw Ruth leave the place where Boaz was sleeping, the stories would start to spread, and even though nothing happened, that doesn’t matter!

Gossip is not a spiritual gift folks, and it is destructive. Don’t destroy people’s lives but learn to build them up in Christ!

As Ruth leaves, he gives her six ephahs of barley, even more than what she had gleaned before, kind of a down payment you might say of his intentions of marrying her!

Again, that is interesting to me because we are engaged to Christ and He is coming back for His Bride the Church.

And He too has left us with a down payment, you might say, of His intentions, showing us that He is coming back.

In Ephesians 1:13-14 Paul tells us, **“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”**

How do we know we are saved?

Because God has given to us His Spirit not only showing that we are saved but also, He is the guarantee that the Lord is coming to receive us into glory.

The word **“guarantee”** speaks of earnest money, or a down payment made which will ensure that He is coming back for us!

That word can also speak of an engagement ring, which I like.

The Holy Spirit is our engagement ring given to us by Jesus and as He goes and prepares a mansion for us, a new home that Jesus speaks of in John 14:2-3, for our spirit and soul to dwell in. And when the Father gives the command, He will return for His Bride, the Church and we will forever be with Him!

You can take that to the bank, it is going to happen!

### VERSES 16-18

Now Naomi was not confused about who was coming through the door, she knew it was Ruth.

The Hebrew expects an answer about the character or condition behind the name.

Naomi was asking her ***“Are you still Ruth the Moabite, or Ruth the future wife of Boaz?”***

And Ruth explains what Boaz had said and done and that he gave her six ephahs of barely.

And Naomi knows that Boaz will not rest until the work is completed.

I like that because our Lord will not rest until His work is completed.

Yes, His work in paying for our sins was completed on the cross of Calvary but now the Lord is working to redeem our bodies, to restore this earth to the way it was when He created it, and He will not rest until it is finished!

For Naomi, she recognized the great love that Boaz had for Ruth, and this woman who had come back home empty, was now full of joy once again as she resided in the House of Bread.

That is where we will find joy, fulfillment, satisfaction, as we rest in our House of Bread, the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ!

## **RUTH 4**

### **VERSES 1-2**

Ruth chapter 4 picks up where chapter 3 left off, as we will see the resolution of this matter of who will be the kinsman redeemer for Ruth and her deceased husband.

The gates of the city are where the elders would sit, and it was where personal business and civil affairs were carried out.

It was like a city council you might say at the entrance to the city.



Of this Huey makes these remarks regarding the gates of the city saying they were, *“A kind of outdoor court, the place where judicial matters were resolved by the elders and those who had earned the confidence and respect of the people . . . a place for business and as a kind of forum or public meeting place.”*

It is here that we see Boaz meet the man who was a closer relative to Elimelech than Boaz was.

What is interesting to me is that we don't know his name; it is not mentioned, why?

Poole makes this point as a possible reason. He tells us, *“Doubtless Boaz both knew his name, and called him by it; but it is omitted by the holy writer, partly because it was unnecessary to know it; and principally in way of contempt, as is usual, and a just punishment upon him, that he who would not preserve his brother's name might lose his own, and lie buried in the grave of perpetual oblivion.”*

That may very well be.

#### VERSES 3-4

When they left the land to go to Moab it seems that the land was sold, and I think the intention was that when they returned, they would buy it back.

But Naomi's husband has died, she is a widow now and she has no income of her own, she has no money to buy it back, and neither does her daughter in law Ruth, and thus, it was up to the kinsman redeemer to buy it back for her.

Yes, every 50 years, the year of Jubilee the land reverted back to its owner but that was too long for Naomi and Ruth to wait and thus God made a provision in His Law to redeem the land back before the 50 years were over.

We see this Law laid out for us in Leviticus 25:23-28, as we are told, **“The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me. And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land. If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold. Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession. But if he is not able to have it restored to himself, then what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year of Jubilee; and in the Jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his possession.”**

That is what is going on here.

And as we have seen, Boaz was a godly man. We see it in his actions, and he obeyed the Law of God, he followed what God had said.

So Boaz is giving this opportunity to this man to be the kinsman and redeem back the land for Elimelech.

And I am sure that Boaz, Ruth and Naomi are listening very carefully to what he is going to say, hoping that he will refuse, and she will marry Boaz. But no matter what, they will obey what God has said.

And the man answers and says, **“I will redeem it.”**

I bet their hearts sank as they heard this, but it is not over yet. He will redeem the land but there is more to it than that. I guess you can say that this man needed to read the fine print before he married Ruth.

Let’s read on and see what that is all about.

VERSE 5

Boaz now makes it much clearer what this will entail. It is not that he will just purchase the land and be done with it, but he must marry Ruth and raise a son for her dead husband's name to be carried on.

You see, Naomi was old, past the childbearing age and thus, he was not to marry Naomi and have a child but Ruth because she was younger and able to bear children.

Now the ball is back in this man's court.

What is he going to do?

Look at verse 6 and we will see how this all plays out.

VERSE 6

When it was just a matter of property, it was easy to decide on; but if he must take Ruth as a wife, that was another matter.

It is possible that this man was not a rich man and that he was already married.

And if he does buy the field, it would not be an asset to his family, but it would diminish his resources even more.

You see, he had to buy the field and yet it would not belong to him, his own family, but to the son of Ruth.

And so he refused to be the kinsman and asks Boaz to be the kinsman redeemer, not only taking the land but also Ruth to be his wife.

Now in our eyes having Boaz even offer this to this man would be foolish and yet, his honesty, his integrity God blessed, and it will work out.

And now can you imagine how Boaz felt!

VERSES 7-8

The nearer kinsman basically said, *“The land is yours to redeem, because you are also willing to redeem the posterity of Elimelech by taking Ruth as his wife, and this is something I am not willing to do.”*

This was an ancient way of saying that he was passing on to Boaz his right to the land and to marry Ruth.

We see this instituted for us in Deuteronomy 25:5-10, where we are told, **“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.’”**

We don’t know if Ruth did this, but that is what was to take place.

Now the man that refused gave his sandal to Boaz indicating that he did not want to be the kinsman, and he gave it to the man that did, Boaz!

Here is a question that I have for you.

***“Did Boaz need another field to purchase?”***

I think the answer to that question is ***“No!”***

He was a wealthy man who already owned a field.

Then why did he buy the field?

He bought the field so that he could obtain Ruth to be his wife.

Now again, I find that interesting because Jesus, in His parable of the Hidden Treasure, said, **“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid, and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”** Matthew 13:44.

Jesus redeemed the world out of the hands of Satan, not because he needed another world, but for the treasure that was in the world - the Bride of Christ - us!

What a beautiful picture of Christ that is seen in the actions of Boaz.

#### VERSES 9-10

Boaz acquires the land and Ruth as his bride before the ten witnesses and all the people who were standing at the gate and watching what was going on. (Ruth 4:2)

He joyfully proclaimed that he was going to be the kinsman redeemer and not only that, but his love for Ruth as he will take her to be his wife.

VERSES 11-12

Notice how the people responded to this situation, this redemption.

They were excited about what was taking place, and this showed me that they loved Boaz and Ruth, and they felt that this was a perfect match.

We are also told, **“We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.”**

First of all, Rachel and Leah had born to them eight out of the twelve sons who made up the tribes of Israel.

Also, we see that they did prosper in Ephrathah or Bethlehem.

Remember in Micah 5:2, **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”**

In other words, as we will see, the Messiah will be born from their lineage in Bethlehem!

They also said, **“May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the Lord will give you from this young woman.”**

In Genesis chapter 38 we see Judah arrange the marriage of his son Er to Tamar. But he dies without any children and so his brother marries Tamar to raise a child for his dead brother.

But he gets second thoughts and refuses to raise a child with Tamar and the Lord takes his life.

Judah has one more son and at this point he is getting a little nervous about losing this one also. So he doesn't allow this son to marry Tamar and encourages her to go home to her father.

Time passed by and we see that Tamar pretends to be a prostitute and has relations with Judah, who did not know that this was his daughter-in-law.

And news spread very quickly that Tamar was pregnant, and righteous Judah calls for her to be put to death for her actions.

That was until he found out that he was the father of this child.

You see, it was Judah that had done this to her.

The son of Judah and Tamar was Perez, and he became part of the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

And the blessing given here in Ruth is that her home may be like the home of Perez, kind of a strange blessing, but out of their lineage the Messiah would come!

Now there is a problem. We are told in Deuteronomy 23:2, **“One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the congregation of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the congregation of the LORD.”**

Now here is the problem. Perez was the illegitimate son of Judah and Tamar, and so none of his descendants can enter the house of the *LORD* until the tenth generation, and we shall see how that plays out in a minute.

We should not be surprised how God does things, but it truly is amazing, as we will see!

#### VERSES 13-16

Remember what Naomi said back in Ruth 1:20-21, **“But she said to them, ‘Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?’”**

Why did she say that?

Because she did not know the end of the story and she did not believe that “**. . . all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**” Romans 8:28.

What a lesson for us to learn. We may be going through some tough times right now, but don't move away from the House of Bread, stay close to the Lord and He will see you through. And in the end, there will be a blessing as we see in the life of Naomi!

Now, from Boaz and Ruth she has a grandson, and his name is Obed.

#### VERSES 17-22

First of all, the name, “**Obed**” means “*servant*” and how interesting that is to me. You see, out of this lineage the Messiah would come and as Mark 10:45 tells us, “**For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**”

Now, remember the problem I spoke of that, “**One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the congregation of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the congregation of the LORD.**”

Well, if you count from Perez to David, he is the tenth generation and thus, he had the right to the throne!

What timing and the reality is, this is God's perfect timing!

Boaz and Ruth are the Great-grandparents of David, who became the King of Israel!

What a beautiful story this is, and keep in mind that it is taking place during very dark period in Israel's history, the time of the Judges.



As I close, let me leave you with this to think about because the story of Ruth is that of redemption, which means to, “*set free by paying a price.*”

Boaz was able to do that, and our Kinsman Redeemer has paid the price for our redemption on the cross of Calvary. He has purchased us to Himself, a Bride.

If you think about it, the Bible is a story of redemption from Genesis 3:15 through to Revelation 22:21. That is the primary focus or thrust of the Word of God, that, “**God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**” John 3:16.

And let me show you how Jesus fulfilled this role as our *GOEL*, our Kinsman Redeemer.

➤ ***HE MUST BE A NEAR RELATIVE OF THE ONE WHO HAD LOST THE INHERITANCE***

Jesus meets this requirement because He is of the root of David. He was born of flesh and blood and thus able to redeem us and this earth back.

Luke 3:38 links Jesus to Adam and thus a relative of man because He was born of the flesh.

John 1:14 says “**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**”

Also, Hebrews 2:14-15 says, “**Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the Devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**” (Also, Galatians 4:4-5)

➤ ***HE MUST BE WILLING TO ACT AS A REDEEMER***

Jesus said in John 10:18, **“No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”**

Jesus was willing to go to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

We are told in Colossians 2:14, **“Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”**

When Jesus cried, **“paid in full”** on the cross of Calvary, He was saying that all our sins have been paid in full.

Back in the times of Jesus they would write your transgressions down and after you paid the penalty you would be set free and given this document with the words written across it, ***“paid in full.”*** Or – ***TETELESTAI!***

That meant that no one could accuse you of not paying the penalty for the crime. (Also see Romans 3:24, 5:12-15, 18-21).

And in Hebrews 12:2 we read **“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.”**

➤ ***HE MUST BE ABLE TO PAY THE PRICE OF REDEMPTION***

Understand that the sacrifice for our sins must be perfect, without inherited or acquired sin.

I Peter 1:18-21 says, **“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”**

Christ met that requirement and thus Peter goes on to say, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit.”** I Peter 3:18.

Jesus met those requirements needed to be the Kinsman Redeemer.

He was born of the flesh and thus a relative of man.

He was willing to go to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

And He was without sin, perfect before God, and thus able to pay the price for our redemption.

I hope you leave here this evening encouraged and blessed because of what our Kinsman Redeemer has done for us and understanding that God is in control, and we must, even in difficult times, stay in the House of Bread, stay close to Jesus because there is a reason, there is a purpose in all that He is doing in our lives!

**“For God so loved . . .”** John 3:16.