

# The Redeemer is Revealed

Ruth 2:18-20

## 1. The Kindness of God Turns the Tides

- a. v18 - transition between two "scenes"
  - i. Fields to city
  - ii. Boaz to Naomi
  - iii. Day to evening
  - iv. Foodless to Burdened with Food
    1. -roasted grain leftovers, too
- b. Due to the Lord's "kindness" (v20)
  - i. Kindness is the word *chesed*, and is a covenantal word
    1. Merciful, Faithful, Loving-kindness
    2. Used in 1:8, where Naomi prays that the Lord would deal kindly with Ruth and Orpah
  - ii. This is a key word regarding YHWH's dealing with His people
    1. He is faithful to His promise
    2. He is merciful to His people
    3. He is loving
    4. He is kind
- c. The Lord has not forgotten Naomi and has not ignored Ruth
  - i. The crust of Naomi's self-pitying bitterness is about to crack.

## 2. The Gracious Provider is Revealed

- a. MIL and DIL indicate relational ties again
  - i. possibly pointing to Naomi's childlessness being answered in Ruth/Boaz?
- b. Naomi shoots off a few quick rounds of questions in her shock and awe:
  - i. "Where did you go?"
    1. "Where" is *epoh*, and sounds a lot like *ephah*
  - ii. "Where was your work?"
  - iii. Stumbling over her questions in her awestruck sight of Ruth's productive day
- c. Naomi blesses the one whom took notice of Ruth
  - i. She doesn't even let Ruth answer before she pronounces a blessing upon this unknown man!
  - ii. She is flabbergasted and excited
- d. Ruth informs Naomi that she worked with Boaz
  - i. interestingly Boaz is the point, not the place
    1. the man was the import, not merely the locale
    2. it is he that has been gracious in his provision
  - ii. Boaz is placed last in the sentence, almost hanging out there for the reader to see: Boaz has finally become revealed to Naomi
    1. There is a sense of anticipation: get to it already!!
    2. Boaz, introduced to the reader in v1 of chapter 2, introduced to Ruth throughout the chapter, has now been introduced to Naomi in this verse
    3. This will bring about the even greater news of v20: YHWH has not forgotten them for this gracious Boaz is a redeemer.

## 3. Hope Springs to Life in the Redeemer

- a. Naomi reverses her opinion of the LORD
  - i. from despair and fatalistic resolve to joyful praise of the covenant faithfulness of God
    1. Ruth 1:11:13
    2. 1:20-21
    3. Rom 15:13
- b. Naomi reveals that Boaz is their kinsman-redeemer

- i. *Goel* - kinsman redeemer
  1. close relative, usually within a circle of relatives who held the responsibility of redeeming kinsman in desperate need
  2. Three major responsibilities:
    - a. Redeem land due to debt or severe loss (Lev 25:24-27)
    - b. Redeem relative who has sold himself into slavery (Lev 25:47-55)
    - c. Redeem blood: Avenge the murder of one in the family (Num 35:9ff; Deut 19:1-6; Josh 20:1-6)
  3. Seemed to be an office for a select few, known as the “goels” of a family or clan
    - a. Hence, Boaz knows of a closer goel than he that must first be given the responsibility to redeem
    - b. Order of responsibility based upon nearness of relationship
  4. The goel was a *covenantal loyalty* institution, reflecting the covenantal loyalty of YHWH with His people
    - a. Exodus 6:6-8
    - b. Isaiah 40-55
      - i. Ex. “Thus says the LORD your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel...” (43:14)
    - c. The goel and the levir both are focused upon loyalty to kinship groups: family, clan, tribe, nation
    - d. Ultimately, they are given to show how YHWH relates to His people by faithfulness to His covenant promise
- ii. *Levir* – “brother – in – law with duties”
  1. Deut 25:5-10
    - a. The brother of a deceased brother would father a son with the deceased brother’s wife in order to keep his brother’s name continuing in Israel
    - b. The son would receive all the inheritance of the deceased father
    - c. Though commanded only for “brothers dwelling together”, the institution seems to have extended beyond this to be the responsibility of the *goel* (Ruth 3:9)
  2. Genesis 38 – Judah’s family
    - a. Judah had three sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah
      - i. Er died and Onan was commanded to “perform the duty of the brother-in-law”
      - ii. Onan didn’t want any children to raise an offspring in his brother’s name, so he avoided getting Tamar pregnant
      - iii. Onan died and Judah wouldn’t give Tamar his third son to fulfill the duty, so Tamar took things into her own hands
- iii. THIS is the real reason that she sees that the LORD has not forgotten them.
  1. The *goel* was their salvation, their hope, their future
    - a. He was to redeem Elimelech’s land in the midst of their poverty
    - b. He was to redeem Naomi’s childlessness through Ruth’s marriage to Boaz
    - c. She is seeing the continuing of her husband’s line as a real possibility again
    - d. Hope is a powerful agent of joy
  2. Naomi starts planning the wedding

#### 4. Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer

- a. The NT reveals Jesus as our Kinsman
  - i. **Rom 8:3** - "sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh"
  - ii. **Phil 2:7-8** but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant,<sup>1</sup> being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
  - iii. **Heb 2:14-15** Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,<sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.
- b. The NT reveals Jesus as our Redeemer
  - i. **Acts 20:28** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
  - ii. **Rom 3:25-26** whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
  - iii. **Gal 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us - for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree" -
  - iv. **Eph 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
  - v. **1 Pet 1:17** And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
  - vi. **Rev 1:5** and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood
- c. He is worthy to receive all that we can give because He is our Kinsman-Redeemer
  - i. **Rev 5:9-10** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, <sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

#### Conclusion:

Boaz is revealed to Naomi as the gracious giver of blessing and salvation. He is the one in whom they have hope for redemption. In the same way, Jesus Christ is the giver of our blessing and salvation, graciously heaping upon us mercy upon mercy and overflowing in His kindness towards us. It is He who redeems us from the curse of sin and of the law by becoming the curse for us, pouring out His holy blood in our place. It is He who has obtained us and made us a kingly nation of priests, sons and daughters of God, and holy and blameless in His sight. He is worthy to be praised for saving such weak, impoverished, and idolatrous wretches like us. To think that our Kinsman-Redeemer is the King over all creation is even more incredible, that the KING would die for us to redeem us. Wow! Come near to the King, you sinners. He redeems you by grace through His blood. Trust in Him, submit to Him for He loves more than you can even imagine. Fly to Jesus today.