

# **“The Messianic Line Revealed”**

## **Ruth 4:1-22**

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June 16, 2024

**Teaching Aim:** To examine the conclusion of *“the Book of Ruth”* as we see how God providentially worked out His will through the unlikely marriage of Boaz and Ruth to bring about the Messianic line. To realize Boaz is seen by many as a type of Christ, a type being *“an Old Testament foreshadow of something to be fulfilled in the New Testament.”* To understand the incredible sacrifice Christ paid on the cross to redeem us from our sin and to receive us as His bride.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)**

#### **Part I: Boaz calls a critical meeting at the main gate of Bethlehem (Ruth 4:1-6)**

1. Why did Boaz go to the city gates following his night of little sleep at the threshing floor (**vs. 1**)? What significant event had taken place on the threshing floor the night before? (See **Ruth 3**)
2. Who additionally showed up at the city gates early that morning (**vs. 2**)? What did Boaz call this man? Why? Note: The Hebrew word for *“friend”* can be an idiom for *“Mr. So and so.”* Why do you think this man’s real name was never shared in the Bible? (See **Deut. 25:5-10**)
3. Why did Boaz ask ten elders of Bethlehem to come to the city gates and sit down (**vs. 2**)? There is some debate as to whether Naomi had already sold this piece of property or if she was about to sell it, it all depends on which translation of the Bible you are reading from (**vs. 3**). This land was likely a piece of the common field in Bethlehem used for farming. Why do you think Naomi sold or was about to sell this property that belonged to her late husband Elimelech?
4. According to **verse 4**, what ultimatum did Boaz make to the relative who was first in line to be Ruth’s *“kinsman-redeemer?”* How did this close relative respond initially to the offer Boaz made?
5. After his initial positive response, what additional information was added by Boaz (**vs. 5**)? How did this affect the decision of the relative? Is there any significance to Boaz using title *“Ruth the Moabitess”* here? If so, why? What did the writer of *“the Book of Ruth”* mean when he said, *“to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance?”* What made this so important?

6. What caused the family member who was first in line to be kinsman-redeemer to change his mind about taking on that role (**vs. 6**)? (See **vs. 5**) What was his reasoning? Why? Note: So long as “*Mr. So and so*” was getting something for nothing he was happy to fulfill the role of kinsman-redeemer. What happened the moment he found out it would cost him? Are we ever guilty of doing the same in our own lives today? Do we do the same in ministry? Why did the close relative respond in the way that he did? (See Commentaries)

## **Part II: Boaz redeems Naomi’s property and Ruth the Moabitess (Ruth 4:7-12)**

1. According to **verses 8 & 9**, what custom was followed in ancient Israel when solidifying a contract? Was this practiced at the time of the writing of “*the Book of Ruth*” (**vs. 7**)? What symbolism, if any, was involved in one party handing over his sandal to the other? (See **Deut.11:24; Josh. 1:3; 14:9**) How would you feel about being handed somebody’s shoe? How do we finalize contracts today?
2. According to **verse 10**, what else did Boaz redeem besides the property of Elimelech? What made this act so gracious? Who were the official witnesses to the redemption of both the property and of Ruth (**vs. 11**)? In **verse 11** the elders expressed three blessings that they hoped Boaz would receive from God, what are they? Did their wish come true? If so, how? Why do you think Rachel and Leah are brought up and used as examples here? Why have the names been reversed from the usual order that we find in Scripture? (See **Gen. 35:19-20**)
3. What additional blessings did the elders hope for in **verse 12**? Who is Perez and why was he used as an example here? (See **Gen. 38:1-30**) What is the law of the levirate marriage? What was its purpose? (See **Deut. 25:5-10**) How did this law apply to both Perez and Boaz?

## **Part III: Boaz marries Ruth and the two have a son (Ruth 4:13-22)**

1. According to **verse 13**, Ruth had previously been barren during her ten years of marriage to Mahlon. What happened shortly after she married Boaz? Who can be credit Ruth’s womb after her marriage to Boaz? (See **Psa. 127:3**)

2. How did the women of Bethlehem respond to word that Ruth had given birth to a son (**vs. 14**)? What blessing were they hoping Naomi would receive? Did this blessing come true? Who was the "*goel*" (meaning "*close relative*" or "*kinsman-redeemer*") spoken of in **verses 14 & 15**? (See Commentaries)
  
3. According to the women of Bethlehem, how big of a blessing was Ruth to Naomi (**vs. 15b**)? Is there any significance to the number seven being used here? If so, what was it? (See Commentaries)
  
4. According to **verse 17**, what unusual act did the neighbor women do? Who usually names their own children? How could the neighbor women say that a son had been born "*to Naomi*" when the baby had been born to Ruth? (See **Gen. 30:3; Ruth 4:5**) What name did the neighbor women come up with for this baby boy? What is the meaning of this name? (See Commentaries) What significant information can we learn about this baby boy from **verse 17b**?
  
5. What important facts can we learn out about the individuals listed in the genealogy of King David (**vv. 18-22**)? (See Commentaries) Why did the writer of "*The Book of Ruth*" give us the genealogy of King David instead of simply giving us that of Obed? What does this teach us about the purpose behind "*the Book of Ruth*?"
  
6. What are some ways that you see Jesus Christ in the Book of Ruth? How do we see the Church in the Book of Ruth? What did you find the most interesting about your study through this tiny book of only 85 verses?
  
7. What can we learn about being "*a man's man*" as we study the character of Boaz? What can women learn about being "*a woman of virtue*" from studying the life of Ruth? What are some practical applications from this book that you can apply to your own life?

8. Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer? Have you wandered away from the Christian faith? If so, why not stop and get right with Him in prayer right now?

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- The name of the relative who refused to fulfill his responsibility as kinsman-redeemer was purposely left out of Scripture, he has disappeared from history.
- The "*lord of the harvest*" (Boaz) took the accursed Moabitess Ruth and graciously received her as his bride, in doing so she became heir of all that he owned.
- The Ultimate "*Lord of the Harvest*" (Jesus Christ) today receives repentant believers by grace through faith to be His bride (the Church) and makes them heir of all He has.
- God blessed Boaz and Ruth with a son, they named him Obed which means "*servant of God*" or "*worshiper*."
- Obed became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of King David.
- The greatest accomplishment of Obed was that he became an ancestor of the Messiah – Jesus Christ.
- If God could graciously bless the accursed Moabitess Ruth like He did, there is hope for each of us today, no matter what we have done in the past.