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*Kinsman
Redeemer!*

A STUDY OF RUTH

KINSMAN REDEEMER
PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT
A STUDY OF RUTH

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Greek Word Study Tools

Commentaries on Ruth

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

BAXTER, J. SIDLOW

Explore the Book

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1960

WOOD, LEON

Distressing Days of the Judges

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981

GAEBELEIN, FRANK E., ed.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 3

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992

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LESSON ONE

Ruth One through Four

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES Observation Worksheets of Ruth, located in the Appendix
Word studies
Cross-references

When all seems lost, and your future seems to offer nothing but the rubble of ground zero, how do you go on?

Will anyone be there to take your hand and help you rebuild a life that can triumph over the tragedies, defeats and failures of the past?

Yes, Beloved, because God has given you a Kinsman Redeemer.

DAY
ONE
AND
DAY
TWO

1. The book of Ruth is far more than a poignant love story; it's a precious truth of redemption that shines even brighter because it is set against the dark days of the period of the Judges.

It's a timely book that presents timely truths for the days in which we are living; a book that causes us to look forward to the rising of the bright morning star and to understand better the day of our redemption. So why don't you take a moment to commit this study to the Lord, asking Him to draw you into the riches of its truths in such a way that its precepts will grip your heart and cause you to walk in a greater confidence in His love and provision for you.

Since history unfolds one event at a time, we are going to move through Ruth only one chapter at a time. As you observe Ruth 1 on the Observation Worksheets found in the Appendix:

- a. Mark every reference to *Ruth* in one color and every reference to *Naomi* in another.
- b. Carefully mark any reference to time.
- c. Double underline in green every geographical reference so that you know where the events take place. Then locate these on the map at the end of this lesson.

2. Good beginning. Now list all the characters mentioned in this first chapter. Then look up their names in a concordance to see what they mean and record your information next to the name.

3. As you know when you observe anything, you want to answer as many of the 5 Ws and an H as is possible. Summarize the content of this first chapter by answering the 5 Ws and an H. Since you already have listed the *who*, now simply list your insights below on *what* with respect to the events, with the *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* if this is given. Your observations need not be detailed.

If some of the questions seem redundant because you answered them in a previous question, then let them go. We ask the questions we do because we don't want you to miss anything.

- a. What is happening?
- b. When is this happening? Look at the references you marked, because the timing of all this is so significant. Don't forget the *when* in verse 22.
- c. How long had Naomi been out of her land, away from her people?
- d. Why is this happening?

- e. Now look at the *where(s)* in this first chapter.
 - 1) Trace the journey on your map. Note where the characters are when the chapter opens, when it ends, and where events happen in between the opening and closing of the chapter.
 - 2) Look up the meaning of *Bethlehem* and record it here.

4. In Ruth 1:6-14, you find Naomi telling her daughters-in-law to leave her and return to their mothers' homes.
 - a. Why does Naomi tell them to do this? What is her reasoning in sending them away?

 - b. To understand what Naomi is saying in verses 11-13, you need to study Deuteronomy 25:5-10 printed below. Observe the text carefully. Mark every reference to the husband's brother.

DEUTERONOMY 25:5-10

- 5 “When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be *married* outside *the family* to a strange man. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.
- 6 “It shall be that the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.
- 7 “But if the man does not desire to take his brother's wife, then his brother's wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, ‘My husband's brother refuses to establish a name for his brother in Israel; he is not willing to perform the duty of a husband's brother to me.’
- 8 “Then the elders of his city shall summon him and speak to him. And *if* he persists and says, ‘I do not desire to take her,’
- 9 then his brother's wife shall come to him in the sight of the elders, and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face; and she shall declare, ‘Thus it is done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.’
- 10 “In Israel his name shall be called, ‘The house of him whose sandal is removed.’

- c. Summarize what the husband's brother is to do and the circumstances under which he is to do it. This will help you remember it better. Think about why God would have such a law. Does it tell you any value that He places on family, on a person's roots?

Now, just a bit of information to tuck away. When you read commentaries, you will see that some refer to this as the law of the Levirate. *Levir* is a Latin translation of the Hebrew word for brother-in-law and, as you have seen, has to do with performing the duty of the next of kin.

5. Ruth is a Moabitess. You located Moab on the map, but what do you know about these people? If you have studied the Torah—the first five books of the Bible—with us, you've learned quite a bit about Moab and the people. However, by way of review, look up the following verses and note what you learn from them about the Moabites:
 - a. Genesis 19:30-38
 - b. Deuteronomy 23:1-4
6. The words of Ruth in verses 16-17 are so beautiful and often quoted in marriage ceremonies, although they are spoken by Ruth to Naomi. List each thing Ruth promises to do with respect to Naomi.
7. What does this tell you about Ruth's relationship to God? What is she telling Naomi?

8. Finally, stop and think about the relationship between these two women. Let us give you some questions to consider:

What do you see in both these women with respect to each other?

What are their concerns? What wins out? Why?

What do you see in this kind of a commitment; what would it bring into a relationship?

Are there any insights you can apply to your life? If you are a married man, what could you do to foster this kind of a relationship between your wife and your mother? If a married woman, do you gain any insights into how you might build your relationship with your mother-in-law or your daughter-in-law?

9. Sometimes when we stop and reflect on passages such as this, on relationships, we discover we are moved to express what we learn or how the Spirit of God has spoken to our heart in a poem, a song, or even a drawing. If you have the time, you might want to think about doing something like this.

DAY THREE

1. Do your Observation Worksheet on Ruth 2.
 - a. You may not want to mark references to Ruth and Naomi; however, in this chapter you might find it beneficial to mark references to *Boaz*.
 - b. Mark in a distinctive way every reference to *kinsman*, *relative*, and/or *close relative*.
2. Now, let's look at our story again.
 - a. What is happening in this chapter? What time of year is it? (Note how 1:22 sets you up for this.)
 - b. Who is Boaz? List everything you learn about him.

- c. Now look up every place you marked *kinsman*, *relative* and *close relative*. Note the Hebrew words used in each place, along with their meanings. You might want to mark them in your Bible, maybe using a pencil instead of a pen.
3. What is Ruth doing gleaning in fields that are not hers, fields that neither she nor Naomi had sown?
- a. Look up Leviticus 19:9-10. What do you learn?
- b. These are laws given by God. What does this tell you about God?
- c. Read Ruth 2:3. Whose field did Ruth “chance” upon?
- d. Had Naomi told Ruth where to go to glean?
- e. Is there any indication that this was a setup on Naomi’s part or that Ruth even knew about Boaz before this? Support your answer with Scripture.
- f. Where does God seem to be in all this? What does this tell you about God?

4. Once again take a few minutes to look at the relationship between Naomi and Ruth. How do they interact with one another? Does this give you any insights into a relationship between a mother-in-law and a daughter-in-law?

5. What do you learn about the people of Bethlehem from reading chapters 1 and 2? We'll get you started by referring you to 1:19. How is this confirmed in chapter 2?

6. The blessing given by Boaz to Ruth in verse 12 is so beautiful.
 - a. What does this verse tell you about Ruth?

 - b. You may want to memorize Ruth 2:12. It would be a nice blessing to share with others, wouldn't it?

When you did today's study, you looked up a very important word: gaal, to redeem, to act as a kinsman. There is a world of spiritual wealth wrapped up in the meaning of this word and we cannot wait to help you discover it. We believe that this course will be an encouragement, broadening your understanding and strengthening your soul as it introduces you in a new and fresh way to what it means to have a kinsman redeemer.

DAY FOUR

1. Once again you need to observe the text; this time it's the third chapter of Ruth.
 - a. Mark every reference to *kinsman* and *close relative*. Look up the Hebrew word for each so you know which word is being used.

- b. Mark the word *redeem*. You may want to mark it the same as *close relative* and *kinsman*. If you are in doubt, look up the Hebrew word for *redeem* and write the definition under question 2.
 - c. Mark all references to time so you know what is happening when.
2. Now look up the Hebrew word that was translated *redeem* and write it down.

3. List what you learn from marking *kinsman*, *close relative*, *relative closer*, and *redeem*. This will help you appreciate all we are going to see about the kinsman redeemer next week.

4. Summarize what transpires in this chapter. List who does what and when, why it is done, how it is done, and what the outcome is.

5. What is Ruth asking Boaz in verse 9? Does he understand? To answer this more fully, let's compare it with Ezekiel 16 where God speaks allegorically about His relationship to Jerusalem, Israel. Read Ezekiel 16:1-8. Also look at verses 20 and 32 which help solidify your understanding of their relationship.

6. Once again, what do you learn about Naomi and Ruth's relationship?
 - a. Are there any new insights from this chapter?

 - b. Think of the meanings of their names and blend them together and what do you get? Interesting, isn't it—the significance of the names of people? In biblical times, people were not usually named before their birth, unless it was done in a prophetic way, as with Jesus.

It's quite a story, isn't it! You never can tell what will happen when you decide God will be your God and you will follow Him fully, even as Ruth made that choice with respect to Naomi's God. Have you thought about how much God wants to do for and with His children who will simply follow Him one step at a time?

It would be wonderful to find out, wouldn't it? And we can if we will but follow Him fully...day-by-day, step-by-step, one act of obedience after another.

6. Part of the blessing was that Boaz's house would be like the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah. Although you may have studied Genesis with us, let's go back and look again at Genesis 38 and the birth of Perez.
 - a. Read Genesis 38:1-30. Explain how Perez happened to be born to Tamar, Judah's daughter-in-law.

 - b. Do you see any parallel between what Naomi said to Ruth and Orpah in Ruth 1:11-13 and Tamar's situation and what you studied from Deuteronomy on Day One and Day Two?

 - c. What do you see in the genealogy given in 4:18-22? In whose genealogy do you find Ruth and Boaz?

 - d. And in whose genealogy do you find King David? Read Matthew 1:1-6.

7. Now read Ruth 4:14 again.
 - a. When is this blessing being pronounced? Look at verse 13.

 - b. What is the Hebrew word for *redeemer* in this verse?

 - c. Who is the redeemer the women are referring to?

 - d. What do you learn about his name?

 - e. In verse 15 what do you learn about him with respect to life?

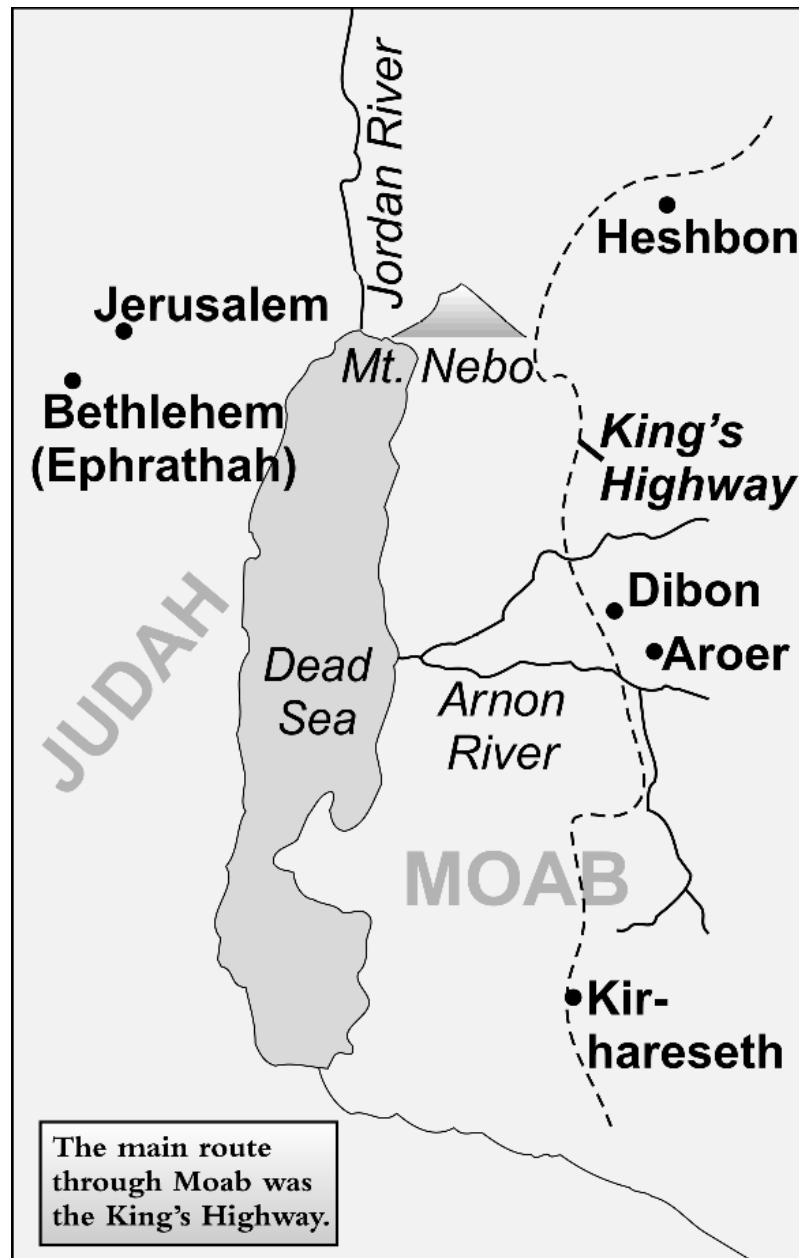
- f. Now think beyond Obed to Jesus. Do you see any parallels?
- g. Finally, let's go back to Matthew 1:5. Maybe you have already seen it, but who was Salmon's wife? What does that make her, if she was living, to Ruth? And what do these two women have in common? Think about it and stand in awe of God—and the benefits of studying His Word precept upon precept, observing the text carefully!
- h. Doesn't it make you want to worship your sovereign God who, in all these difficult circumstances in Naomi's and Ruth's lives, worked out such an incredible plan? Why don't you finish your study in quiet meditation and praise...and know that in every circumstance of your life, God is working out His sovereign purpose. Through Jesus' incomprehensible life-giving name He restores *your* life and sustains *you* all your days.

Isn't this awesome to see? Just wait—it is going to get so-o-o-o good, you'll have spiritual goose bumps. You are going to be awed to be a child of God—especially as we unfold all that it means to have Jesus as our Kinsman Redeemer.

8. Record the theme of each chapter of Ruth on the “Ruth at a Glance” chart and you will be finished with a good week of study.

Blessings to you, faithful student. Don't let anything keep you from completing this study. You may know much about redemption, but what about the awesome role of the One who brings it?

*Ruth's
Journey
from
Moab to
Bethlehem*



RUTH AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Key Words:

Segment Divisions	Chapter Themes
	1
	2
	3
	4

RUTH 1
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the land of Moab with his wife and his two sons.

- 2 The name of the man *was* Elimelech, and the name of his wife, Naomi; and the names of his two sons *were* Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. Now they entered the land of Moab and remained there.
- 3 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons.
- 4 They took for themselves Moabite women *as* wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years.
- 5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband.
- 6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the land of Moab, for she had heard in the land of Moab that the LORD had visited His people in giving them food.
- 7 So she departed from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.
- 8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me.
- 9 "May the LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.
- 10 And they said to her, "*No*, but we will surely return with you to your people."

- 11 But Naomi said, “Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?”
- 12 “Return, my daughters! Go, for I am too old to have a husband. If I said I have hope, if I should even have a husband tonight and also bear sons,
- 13 would you therefore wait until they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters; for it is harder for me than for you, for the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me.”
- 14 And they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.
- 15 Then she said, “Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”
- 16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you *or* turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people *shall be* my people, and your God, my God.
- 17 “Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if *anything but* death parts you and me.”
- 18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.
- 19 So they both went until they came to Bethlehem. And when they had come to Bethlehem, all the city was stirred because of them, and the women said, “Is this Naomi?”
- 20 She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.
- 21 “I went out full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?”
- 22 So Naomi returned, and with her Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, who returned from the land of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

RUTH 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW Naomi had a kinsman of her husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.

- 2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after one in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."
- 3 So she departed and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.
- 4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem and said to the reapers, "May the LORD be with you." And they said to him, "May the LORD bless you."
- 5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"
- 6 The servant in charge of the reapers replied, "She is the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from the land of Moab.
- 7 "And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' Thus she came and has remained from the morning until now; she has been sitting in the house for a little while."
- 8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field; furthermore, do not go on from this one, but stay here with my maids.
- 9 "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Indeed, I have commanded the servants not to touch you. When you are thirsty, go to the water jars and drink from what the servants draw."
- 10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

- 11 Boaz replied to her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband has been fully reported to me, and how you left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and came to a people that you did not previously know.
- 12 “May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge.”
- 13 Then she said, “I have found favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and indeed have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants.”
- 14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here, that you may eat of the bread and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.” So she sat beside the reapers; and he served her roasted grain, and she ate and was satisfied and had some left.
- 15 When she rose to glean, Boaz commanded his servants, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not insult her.
- 16 “Also you shall purposely pull out for her *some grain* from the bundles and leave *it* that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.”
- 17 So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.
- 18 She took *it* up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also took *it* out and gave Naomi what she had left after she was satisfied.
- 19 Her mother-in-law then said to her, “Where did you glean today and where did you work? May he who took notice of you be blessed.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, “The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.”
- 20 Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed of the LORD who has not withdrawn his kindness to the living and to the dead.” Again Naomi said to her, “The man is our relative, he is one of our closest relatives.”

- 21 Then Ruth the Moabite said, “Furthermore, he said to me, ‘You should stay close to my servants until they have finished all my harvest.’”
- 22 Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his maids, so that *others* do not fall upon you in another field.”
- 23 So she stayed close by the maids of Boaz in order to glean until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

RUTH 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?”

2 “Now is not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maids you were? Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight.

3 “Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself and put on your *best* clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; *but* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

4 “It shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go and uncover his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do.”

5 She said to her, “All that you say I will do.”

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law had commanded her.

7 When Boaz had eaten and drunk and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came secretly, and uncovered his feet and lay down.

8 It happened in the middle of the night that the man was startled and bent forward; and behold, a woman was lying at his feet.

9 He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth your maid. So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative.”

10 Then he said, “May you be blessed of the LORD, my daughter. You have shown your last kindness to be better than the first by not going after young men, whether poor or rich.

11 “Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence.

12 “Now it is true I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.

- 13 “Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until morning.”
- 14 So she lay at his feet until morning and rose before one could recognize another; and he said, “Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.”
- 15 Again he said, “Give me the cloak that is on you and hold it.” So she held it, and he measured six *measures* of barley and laid *it* on her. Then she went into the city.
- 16 When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “How did it go, my daughter?” And she told her all that the man had done for her.
- 17 She said, “These six *measures* of barley he gave to me, for he said, ‘Do not go to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’ ”
- 18 Then she said, “Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out; for the man will not rest until he has settled it today.”

RUTH 4
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there, and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz spoke was passing by, so he said, “Turn aside, friend, sit down here.” And he turned aside and sat down.

- 2 He took ten men of the elders of the city and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down.
- 3 Then he said to the closest relative, “Naomi, who has come back from the land of Moab, has to sell the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.
- 4 “So I thought to 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 that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem *it*, and I am after you.’ ” And he said, “I will redeem *it*.”
- 5 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.”
- 6 The closest relative said, “I cannot redeem *it* for myself, because I would jeopardize my own inheritance. Redeem *it* for yourself; you *may have* my right of redemption, for I cannot redeem *it*.”
- 7 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 *manner of attestation* in Israel.
- 8 So the closest relative said to Boaz, “Buy *it* for yourself.” And he removed his sandal.
- 9 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.

- 10 “Moreover, 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 cut off from his brothers or from the court of his *birth* place; you are witnesses today.”
- 11 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.
- 12 “Moreover, may your house be like the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah, through the offspring which the LORD will give you by this young woman.”
- 13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went in to her. And the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.
- 14 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.
- 15 “May he also be to you a restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”
- 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her lap, and became his nurse.
- 17 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.
- 18 Now these are the generations of Perez: to Perez was born Hezron,
19 and to Hezron was born Ram, and to Ram, Amminadab,
20 and to Amminadab was born Nahshon, and to Nahshon, Salmon,
21 and to Salmon was born Boaz, and to Boaz, Obed,
22 and to Obed was born Jesse, and to Jesse, David.