



THE GOSPEL IN RUTH

RETURN AND REDEMPTION



UNION (RUTH 4:1-12)

“Ruth has come all the way from the land of Moab into the heart and home of Boaz. And we who were at one time strangers, far from God, without hope in the world, now have been made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

—J. Vernon McGee

I. THE KINSMAN REDEEMERS (RUTH 4:1-4)

- A. Meeting at the town gate (4:1, 2)
- B. Scrupulous settling of the estate (4:3, 4)
 - 1. Note Deuteronomy 23:3

II. THE REDEMPTION OFFER (4:5, 6)

- A. The dead man’s widow (v. 5)
- B. The offer rejected (v. 6)

“Redemption is a conscious choice to serve the Lord, and that act is a denial.” -- Philip Yancey

III. THE LEGAL DOCUMENTATION (4:7, 8)

- A. The strange sandal symbol (v. 7)
- B. The exchange of purchase (v. 8)
 - 1. Note Deuteronomy 25

IV. THE GRACE ACQUISITION (4:9, 10)

- A. Property exchanged (v. 9)
- B. Propriety fulfilled (v. 10)

V. THE HERITAGE BLESSING (4:11, 12)

- A. Prayer of the elders (v. 11)
- B. Prospects of destiny (v. 12)
 - 1. Note Genesis 38, Tamar and Perez



“The nobility and faithfulness of Boaz are clearly manifested in this story. It is hardly possible to read this Book without being convinced that Boaz had already found himself in love with Ruth, which accounts for the fact that he was ready and willing to take the responsibility of the next of kin. However, there was one who had a prior right and in loyalty to the law of his people Boaz gave him his opportunity.”—G. Campbell Morgan

FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION...

1. As we have noted spiritual parallels with the other personalities of the book, what or whom might the other kinsman represent? Do you think that his actions were wise or honorable? Why?
2. This unnamed kinsman was caught rather abruptly at the city gate. What might his immediate reservations have been? Can we blame him? Did he perhaps miss a claim for greatness?
3. Author Philip Yancey writes that “redemption is a conscious choice to serve the Lord”. Do you agree or disagree? What do you think he meant by the act being a *denial*?
4. Verification of the sandal symbol contract has been confirmed through the archaeological findings of the *Nuzi Tablets* in Iraq in 1925. How do such discoveries bolster our faith in the Bible? To what degree is our faith based on *apologetics*? (*The branch of theology concerned with defending or proving the truth of Christian doctrines*).
5. Why might we guess that Boaz’ intentions toward Ruth were far more than concern for the family inheritance? How does his love for the Moabite girl illustrate the love of the Lord Jesus Christ for the world?
6. Why do you think that Boaz called the ten elders and others from Bethlehem to witness the transaction? Are there any foreshadowings here of types of things to come?