

# **Ruth**

## **A Story of Redemption**

**A Study Guide  
Scott Hathaway**

**Table of Contents**

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Page</b>
Introduction		3
1. Where Sin Leaves You	1:1-5	5
2. No Turning Back	1:6-18	8
3. Is God Sovereign?	1:19-22	11
4. The Favor of the Lord	2:1-17	14
5. Surrounded by Blessings	2:18-23	18
6. The Kinsman Redeemer	3:1-18	21
7. Redemption Accomplished!	4:1-22	24

Note: All Scripture in this study guide are from the New American Standard Updated Edition (Copyright 1995, Zondervan).

## Introduction

### Ruth: A Story of Redemption

The book of Ruth is without a doubt one of the greatest love stories ever told. God, in His wisdom, relates a story of love and redemption to teach us about the love between a man and a woman, and in so doing, to teach us a much deeper, more important truth about Jesus and His chosen Bride. The providential care and love of God is seen on every page.

### Background Information and Comments

#### *Interesting Facts about the book of Ruth:*

- The book is one of two books in the Bible named for a woman
- The book is the only book in the Bible to carry the name of an ancestor of Jesus

#### *The Author and Date of the book of Ruth:*

- Date is between 1011-971 BC, between the time during the reign of the Judges and just before the reign of David
- Author might have been Samuel, but no one is sure

#### *Background:*

The book takes place during the time of the Judges. Some think that it took place during the time of Gideon, but no one is certain. The time of the judges was a time when everyone in Israel “did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6; 21:25) and this meant that there was no standard of conduct by which people lived, making the setting of the book very relevant in America today.

The land of Moab was settled by Moab who was the son of Lot's incestuous encounter with his oldest daughter. The Moabites did not worship God, but worshiped the idol Chemosh. Therefore, God cursed the Moabites.

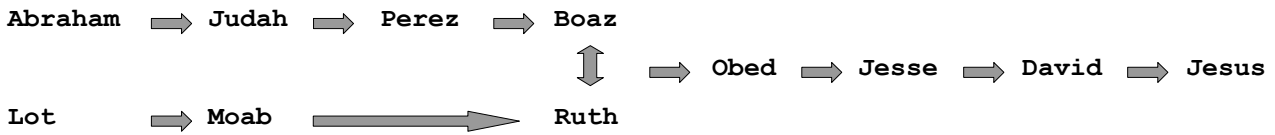
#### *Major Themes:*

- Redemption
- Providence of God
- Friendship and Loyalty
- Decisions
- Hard Work
- Character

#### *Life Lessons from the Book of Ruth:*

- Salvation is for all kinds of people, regardless of race, gender, social status, or creed
- The value of seemingly insignificant times and insignificant people
- The providential care and guidance of God, even during difficult times

*The Lineage of Jesus:*



*The Kinsman – Redeemer \**

In Hebrew, the word is Goel and it means “close relative.” The redeemer was a kinsman who protected and guarded the family. God is called the Goel of Israel (Is. 60:16) and Jesus is the Redeemer of all who believe (1 Peter 1:18-19). Some of the duties of the Goel included:

1. To buy back property that the family had sold
2. To provide an heir for a deceased brother by marrying that brother's wife and having a child with her.
3. To buy back a family member who had been sold into slavery.
4. To avenge a relative by killing the one who murdered the relative.

O.T. Qualifications	Christ's Fulfillment
1. Blood Relationship	Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 2:16-17
2. Necessary Resources	1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19
3. Willingness to Buy	John 10:15-18; 1 Jn. 3:16

\* The Kinsman – Redeemer section was taken from The MacArthur Bible Handbook by John MacArthur, pages 74-75.

## Lesson 1: Where Sin Leaves You

### Ruth 1:1-5

**1** 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.

### Background Information and Comments

The way that we live our lives says a great deal about what we think of God. When you look at Elimelech's decisions in this text, it tells you how he felt about God. The sinful decisions that he made left him and his family in Moab, apart from God's people and so Naomi has no one to help her once all the men in her life are dead.

### Tearing It Apart – “What does the text say?”

1. What caused Elimelech to move his family to Moab?

2. Use a Bible Dictionary or Concordance and look up the meaning of the following names:

Bethlehem	
Elimelech	
Naomi	
Mahlon	
Chilion	
Orpah	
Ruth	

3. Read Deut. 23:3-6; Neh. 13:1-3; Ezra 9:1-4. What are these verses teaching? What, according to these verses, was God's attitude toward Moab?

**Thinking It Through** – “What does the text mean?”

4. Why did God feel the way He did about the Moabites?
  
5. How did Elimelech violate what is taught in these three passages?
  
6. List 5 ways that what Elimelech did (leaving God's people because of the famine) was wrong or foolish. Focus on how this decision would affect his wife and children. What about the potential for worship in their lives? What about the potential for godly friends? What about the potential for future mates for their children?
  
7. Elimelech left to try to save the lives of his family, yet, despite his best intentions, what happened to him and his sons? What does this teach us?
  
8. Why is the meaning of Elimelech's ironic when compared to how he lived in these verses? How do you think it affected his testimony in Moab?
  
9. Elimelech originally went only to sojourn in the land of Moab, or only to stay temporarily. What ended up happening to him and his family? Does this remind you of anyone else in the Bible?
  
10. What kind of parents do you think that Elimelech and Naomi were? Why do you think this?

11. Who is the focus of verse 5? Why is this important?
12. Make a list of all the people that were affected directly by Elimelech's sinful choices.

**Taking It Out** - "How does the text apply to my life?"

13. What can you learn from Elimelech's sinful decisions about consequences for your actions? How will you live differently in light of what God has shown you concerning this man?
14. Elimelech's name meant one thing and his life demonstrated another. What name do you wear? Why is it important for you to not act against that name?
15. Where did Elimelech's sin leave him and his family? Was it worth it for them? Is sin worth it in your life?
16. Do you ever live like Elimelech did, leaving God out of your decisions? If so, how does this story encourage you to wait upon God and not jump to your own solutions to life's problems? If not, how did you learn to wait upon the Lord?
17. Elimelech meant to stay in Moab for just a short time, but ended up staying there a long time. In what ways have you been seduced by Moab and stayed there instead of being in the will of God in your life?

## Lesson 2: No Turning Back

### Ruth 1:6-18

- 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.

### Background Information and Comments

Some people have religious experiences and they say that they have become Christians. They know enough lingo to fool people and they pass themselves off as true Believers. Yet, when things get hard, or maybe just too boring, they drop the facade and abandon the faith that they claimed to have. Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of Heaven." John said it like this, "They went out from us because they were never part of us, because if they had been part of us, they would have remained with us." This is what happened with Orpah. She was given the chance to leave Naomi and return to her former manner of life and former gods, and she took it. She went back to Moab, back to her father, and back to Chemosh, the god of Moab. She was a false Believer. She looked good for a while, but there was no root. Not so with Ruth! There were no lovers of God in Moab. There was no way she was going back to live with godless

people and worship a demon that paraded as a god. She was going to move to the land where people worshiped the true God. She was sticking with a friend who knew this God and going to be where she could find a husband that loved the true God. For Ruth, there simply was no turning back. That is the testimony of every true Believer in Jesus Christ.

**Tearing It Apart** – “What does the text say?”

1. Why does Naomi go back to Bethlehem?
2. According to v. 14, what are the responses of Orpah and Ruth to Naomi's advice to stay in Moab and return to their father's houses and to their former gods?
3. Underline, in the text above, the sections of the passage that show the affection between Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth.

**Thinking It Through** – “What does the text mean?”

4. Why does Naomi try to get her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab?
5. List all the promises that Ruth makes to Naomi in v. 16-17.
6. What kind of character is communicated about Ruth when she says what she says in v. 16-17?
7. Why do you think that Orpah returns home instead of going on to Bethlehem?
8. Why does Naomi keep quiet in response to Ruth's words?

9. Read the Parable of the Soils in Luke 8. How does this passage from Ruth tie into the parable that Jesus tells?

10. What are the chances of Ruth staying faithful to God if she had stayed in Moab? Why?

**Taking It Out** - "How does the text apply to my life?"

11. What can you learn from your answer to the last question about your own life?

12. What can you learn from Orpah and Ruth in this passage?

13. Use the space below to write out a prayer of worship and commitment to the Lord stating how you will not turn back from following Him.

## Lesson 3: Is God Sovereign?

### Ruth 1:19-22

**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

### Background Information and Comments

When we ask the question, "Is God Sovereign," all Christians will answer a resounding "yes!" Yet, we may mean different things by sovereign. By sovereign, we mean that God is in control of everything that happens. He reigns and rules over all the events of earth, every person, every circumstance, every government, every demon, and, even over Satan. God rules over everything. Part of the sovereignty of God is that He actively "works all things after the counsel of His will." (Eph. 1:11). He is in Heaven and He does whatever He pleases (Ps. 115:3). So, the Biblical picture is not that God simply allows evil, but that He governs over evil men and evil demonic forces, all the while, not participating in the evil that is done. He uses even the evil that happens for His own glory and the working out of His will. So, in this sense, everything that happens fits into the will of God.

### Tearing It Apart – "What does the text say?"

1. Make a list of the things in v. 21 that Naomi ascribes that she has done and things that she believes God has done.
2. Use a study Bible, Bible handbook, or other resource and explain what month(s) were the beginning of the Barley harvest.

### Thinking It Through – "What does the text mean?"

3. What word would you use to describe Naomi? Why is she like this?

4. Since Naomi says that “I went out full,” perhaps she believes that she did this apart from the leading of God. What phrases would lead you to believe that Naomi believes that the bad things that have happened to her are the divine judgment of God for her sin in leaving God's land and people?
  
5. Do you agree with Naomi (was this punishment from God)? Why or why not?
  
6. Is Naomi more preoccupied with her sinfulness and her situation or with God's grace? How does her preoccupation feed her attitude? What difference would it make in her life if she were focusing on God's purpose in her life (think of what God is just about to do)?
  
7. Was the timing of them coming right at the Barley harvest a coincidence? How do you know?
  
8. What is good about Naomi's view of God in these verses? In what areas does she need to grow in her understanding of God?



## Lesson 4: The Favor of the Lord

### Ruth 2:1-17

**1** 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.

### Background Information and Comments

Although Naomi returns from Moab a bitter woman, God is already at work in her life to bless and redeem her, but she does not recognize His work yet. In **v. 1** of this passage, it begins with the word "Now." Now, God had her in a place of blessing. She was out of Moab.

She was repentant and willing to admit that she never should have gone to Moab, and so, God is moving behind the scenes to redeem. God has planned more blessing than Naomi or Ruth can fathom. We, as Christians must learn this simple principle. Although we do not know what lies around the corner, God is at work and His favor rests on us because of the perfect life and perfect death of His perfect Son! We are first and foremost, a blessed people.

Charles Spurgeon called Jesus Christ, “our glorious Boaz.” We are all Ruth. We are Moabites, outside the covenant of God, wrath and curse deserving people. We are people who deserve hell and wrath, and instead, we will enjoy Heaven and mercy! We are those who will sing forever of amazing grace. Blessings lie just around the corner in Heaven, and, along the way, our glorious Boaz, the Lord Jesus Christ, is protecting us and dropping handfuls on purpose for our good. Rejoice, Christian, for we live in the Favor of the Lord!

**Tearing It Apart** – “What does the text say?”

1. What does Boaz's name mean?
2. What was the reputation of Ruth, according to Boaz?
3. List all the ways in which we see Boaz's protection of Ruth.
4. List all the ways in which we see Boaz's provision for Ruth.

**Thinking It Through** – “What does the text mean?”

5. Explain what Ruth meant by going out to glean. Include in your explanation the Scriptures that apply to this situation where God commands that the poor be able to glean in order to support themselves.

6. Why does Ruth need to go and glean? Why not Naomi?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What were some of the dangers for a young lady in Ruth's situation gleaning among the young men? Do you think that Ruth was afraid? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What kind of a worker is Ruth? How do you know?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What things about Ruth attract Boaz to her?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. According to v. 12, why does Boaz believe that Ruth has come to Bethlehem?

**Taking It Out** - "How does the text apply to my life?"

11. Take some significant time to meditate on how the Lord Jesus, our glorious Boaz, has worked for our protection and provision. Record your thoughts below. You can use the guides below to help you organize your thoughts.

*Some of the ways that Jesus protects me are:*

*Some of the ways that Jesus provides for my needs are:*

12. How do you identify with Ruth in the story? With Naomi? Why does this make the protection and provision of Jesus even more amazing?

13. Think about a situation in your past where you did not know what was around the corner and yet, God was already working in your life and providing redemption and blessing. Give Him praise for these times. How should these kinds of memories and the story of Ruth affect the way we live in the future?

## Lesson 5: Surrounded by Blessings

### Ruth 2:18-23

**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 Moabitess 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.

### Background Information and Comments

God is so good! He takes care of us in such wonderful ways. Ruth and Naomi have no idea how He is about to bless them. Once they are out of Moab, they are in a place of blessing from God and the blessings just keep on coming. Isn't He good?

Read **Psalm 23** and notice how the Psalmist ends this well-known chapter. He talks about God's care at the start of the Psalm, caring for us as a Shepherd cares for His sheep, and he ends by saying that he is being followed everywhere he goes by goodness and mercy. That is the Christian life. We are surrounded by God's goodness and mercy. Even during times of trial or times of discipline, God is watching over us as a loving Father and He is good!

### Tearing It Apart – "What does the text say?"

1. Reread **Ruth 2:17** and tell what it says about Ruth's work ethic.
2. How much (using today's measurements) did Ruth gather (glean)? Was this amount unusual? Why was she able to glean such a large amount of food?

**Thinking It Through** – “What does the text mean?”

3. Why does Naomi think that Boaz was showing Ruth such kindness? Do you think she is right?
  
4. Why was it kind of Boaz to have Ruth spend the day with his maids?
  
5. How long does Boaz give Ruth a temporary job for (approximately)?
  
6. Why is this significant?
  
7. Why is it important that Boaz is one of Naomi's closest relatives?
  
8. According to the story, does Boaz talk with Ruth throughout the time that she is working? What does this say about Boaz? Do you think that Ruth was wanting to talk to him again? Why or why not?
  
9. Why do you think that this passage tells us that Ruth lives with Naomi?



## Lesson 6: The Kinsman Redeemer

### Ruth 3:1-18

**1** 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."

### Background Information and Comments

This is a beautiful beginning of the redemption of Ruth and Naomi. God has been working on their behalf and He is about to give her the dreams of her heart. To properly understand this section, you might want to reread the section on the Kinsman Redeemer from the Introduction to this study guide.

**Tearing It Apart** – “What does the text say?”

1. What is the literal translation of the word “security” in **verse 1**? Is that a good translation?
2. Is Boaz the closest relative?
3. What is winnowing?
4. What is a threshing floor?

**Thinking It Through** – “What does the text mean?”

5. How long has it been since Ruth last talked with Boaz? How do you know?
6. Who does Naomi say she is helping by explaining how Boaz is a possible redeemer?
7. What is the advice that Naomi gives to Ruth (list each point with a number below)?
8. Is this smart and godly advice? Why or why not?
9. What does Ruth mean in **verse 9** by, “spread your covering over your maid?”

10. How does Boaz handle finding Ruth laying by him? Does he handle it in a wise and godly manner? Why or why not?

11. When Ruth asks to be redeemed, what is she really asking Boaz to do? Is she too bold in this?

12. Why does Boaz have her wait until morning to leave?

13. Why do you think he gives her grain as she leaves?

14. Why does Naomi say what she says about Boaz in **verse 18**?

**Taking It Out** - "How does the text apply to my life?"

15. Would you have done what Ruth did with Boaz? Why or why not?

16. How is the boldness of Ruth a picture of Jesus and the Church in prayer?

## Lesson 7: Redemption Accomplished!

### Ruth 4:1-22

**1** 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.

**Background Information and Comments**

Everyone loves a good ending. The ending to this story is the redemption of Ruth, and Naomi, too. Ruth goes from rags to riches, literally. She marries Boaz and the Lord now allows her to have children and she is placed in the lineage of the Messiah! God takes an unworthy, idol worshiper and transforms her into a godly woman. On top of that, even though Ruth's people are cursed, she is chosen, loved, and blessed. Redemption triumphs over the curse. What a beautiful story! What a wonderful picture of the Lord Jesus rescuing us!

**Tearing It Apart – “What does the text say?”**

1. What is the name of the close relative (the one closer than Boaz)?
2. How many elders did Boaz get to watch his business transaction?
3. Where did Boaz conduct the business transaction?
4. What was the sign of a successful business contract in those days?

**Thinking It Through – “What does the text mean?”**

5. Why did the men of the city listen to Boaz?
6. What do you think Boaz meant when he said that he had acquired Ruth?
7. Why did Boaz conduct business at the city gate? (you may need a bible dictionary or a book on customs, etc., to answer this question)
8. Why was Ruth able to have a child with Boaz, but not with her previous husband?
9. According to **v. 15**, what did the other ladies in the town think of Ruth?

