

# Redemption Accomplished

Ruth 3-4

## I. Introduction

### A. Theme of God's *providence*

1. The Lord's sovereign (ruling power and will) in the ordinary working out or the everyday details of life.

### B. The theme that we will see today is *redemption*

1. To redeem is to deliver from some evil or doom through the payment of a price
2. Redeem/Redeemer is used 18xs in these two chapters.
3. See this redemption unfold and learn about God's redeeming heart and work (foreshadows of Christ).

## II. Seeking the Redeemer (3:1-9)

### A. Naomi seeks rest for Ruth (3:1-5)

1. Remember
  - a. The situation: poverty, childlessness, danger of being blotted out of the inheritance of God.
  - b. Boaz is a kinsman redeemer (see Lev. 25 and Deut. 25 for what this meant).
2. Naomi's plan seems strange to us, but this is a great time to propose to Boaz this idea.<sup>1</sup>

### B. Ruth seeks the redeemer (3:6-9)

1. "*who are you?*"
  - a. This idea has come up and will come up again (2:5; 3:16 where it literally says "who are you?")
    - (i) Obviously, these are legitimate questions in the context.
    - (ii) But, there is also a theological point we can glean.
    - (iii) What is most important for us, as those who need to be redeemed, is finding our identity in the redeemer – i.e., that we become his.
2. Ruth's response (v. 9b)
  - a. "*your servant . . . Spread your wings over your servant*"
  - b. She desires that he would redeem her by marrying her.
  - c. In redemption, the redeemer becomes the servant of his servants (see Mark 10:45)
3. She knew he was **a** redeemer, and she humbly requests that he become **her** redeemer.

## III. The Promise of the Redeemer (3:10-18)

### A. Boaz's character

1. His response begins with the LORD (10)
2. His response is focused on caring for Ruth - "*my daughter*"

### B. Boaz compliments Ruth's character (10b-11)

1. She has shown great lovingkindness to Naomi
2. She is a worthy woman – excellent character that is known to the town.
  - a. In the Hebrew Bible, Ruth immediately follows Proverbs.
  - b. What does Prov. 31 speak about? (see Prov. 31:10, 26-31 "excellent" = worthy)

### C. Plot twist – Why Boaz hasn't proposed to Ruth (12)

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<sup>1</sup> Some modern commentators have tried to argue that something sexual is being proposed by Ruth, but this interpretation simply tells us they do not know how to read a story, but rather only know how to read modern culture into the story. "How could Boaz, also a virtuous person, bless Ruth for her action (v. 10) and characterize her as a supremely noble woman (v. 11) if she was seeking sexual favors from him." (Daniel Isaac Block, Judges, Ruth, vol. 6, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 686–687). Their character has been thoroughly established. It is not to say there could be no temptation (hence the plan involved a semi-private, but not totally private, encounter).

- D. Boaz promises Ruth redemption (13).
- E. Note the redeemer's joy and delight in being a redeemer
  - 1. How do you think of Jesus, the great redeemer?
    - a. That he is begrudging your appealing to him for redemption? That you are a burden to him?
    - b. Or that he desires to redeem you? Delights in his role *for you*?
  - 2. He is full of joy in expressing his costly redeeming love to us (Heb. 12:2, Zeph. 3:17).
- F. Boaz sends the message back to Naomi (3:14-18)

#### **IV. The Work of the Redeemer (4:1-10)**

- A. Boaz goes to the gate (4:1-2)
- B. The redeemer who wouldn't pay the price (4:3-6)
- C. Boaz pays the price to redeem Ruth and Naomi (4:7-10)
- D. Characteristics of Boaz as redeemer that picture God's heart.
  - 1. He acts (4:1-4)
  - 2. He is willing to redeem at cost to himself (cf. 4:5-6)
    - a. The "other redeemer" asks "What is the least I can do?"
    - b. Boaz asks "how can I show her maximum love for her good?"
  - 3. He knows her past and still loves her (4:10).
  - 4. He makes a public promise / commitment (4:7-12)

#### **V. The Blessings of Redemption (4:11-22)**

- A. The witnesses offer a blessing to the couple (4:11-12)
- B. Blessings for Boaz and Ruth (4:13)
- C. Blessings for Naomi (4:14-16, cf. 1:20-21)
- D. Blessings for the nation of Israel & the world (4:17-22)
  - 1. Here we zoom out from the details of this story of love and redemption.
  - 2. God's providence in the lives of these three is leading to redemption through David.

#### **VI. Conclusion**

- A. Reflect on Jesus's costly redeeming work (2 Cor. 8:9)
- B. Learn godly character from Ruth and Boaz. Learn about God's providence so you can trust him.
- C. Be amazed by God's providence in bringing about redemption. Ruth is set during the time of the judges, when everyone did what was right in their own eyes. Humanly speaking, there was no hope of redemption. Was God up to something? Yes. Quietly, in the life of a Moabite widow, in a small town of Bethlehem, God was working out the details to accomplish redemption - Not only for Ruth and Naomi, but for his people.