

## Ruth 4 Observations

### **Ruth 4:1-6. Boaz offers Naomi's property to the nearer relative-redeemer.**

V. 1 Who? / What? / Where? Boaz seating himself at the City Gate of Bethlehem. 1 Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there.

Who? What? The arrival of the nearer redeemer: And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by.

What? The invitation of Boaz. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here."

What? The compliance of the nearer redeemer: And he turned aside and sat down.

V. 2. Boaz' acquisition of ten witnesses;

Who? Ten of the elders of the city. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city

What? His asking them to sit down at the gate: and said, "Sit down here."

The compliance of the 10 elders: So they sat down.

V. 3 Boaz' speech to the redeemer: 3 Then he said to the redeemer,

What? Naomi is selling Elimelech's land: "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech.

V. 4. What? Boaz' informing the nearer relative of the land: 4 So I thought I would tell you of it and say,

What? His invitation to buy the land: 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.'

What? His giving the man the option to redeem it: If you will redeem it, redeem it.

What? His willingness to buy it if the other man is unwilling: But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it,

What? The precedence of the other man: and I come after you."

What? The decision of the nearer redeemer to redeem Naomi's land: And he said, "I will redeem it."

What? Boaz' informing of the man also of his obligation to marry Ruth, the Moabite: 5 Then Boaz said,

When? The day you buy the field: "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi,

What? Who: You also marry widow Ruth the Moabite: you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order Why? to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance."

What? – the change of mind of the redeemer – 6 Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself,

Why? lest I impair my own inheritance.

What conclusion? Take my right of redemption yourself,

Why? for I cannot redeem it."

So what? I admire Boaz' efforts the very next day, first thing in the morning, to make good on his efforts to redeem Naomi's land and redeem Ruth as his wife. That took some real effort and planning on his part!

**Ruth 4:7-10. Boaz legalizes his purchase of Elimelech's property and his compliance with the Law in marrying Mahlon's widow, Ruth.**

V. 7. What? The explanation of the custom in former times: 7 Now this was the custom

When? in former times

Where? in Israel

In regard to what? concerning redeeming and exchanging:

For what purpose? to confirm a transaction,

What? the one drew off his sandal

What? and gave it to the other,

What conclusion? and this was the manner of attesting in Israel.

V. 8. What occasion? 8 So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,”

What action? he drew off his sandal.

V. 9. What did Boaz say? 9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people,

What was the role of all those at the gate? – They are witnesses: “You are witnesses this day

Witnesses of what? – the real estate transaction: that I have bought

From whom? from the hand of Naomi

What real estate? all that belonged

To whom? to Elimelech

To whom else? and all that belonged to Chilion

To whom else? and to Mahlon.

What else? – his marriage:

V. 10. Who was his bride? 10 Also Ruth

What was her national identity? the Moabite, (better, “Moabiteess”)

To whom had she been married? the widow of Mahlon,

What was his present action? I have bought to be my wife,

Why? to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance,

Why? that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers

Why? and from the gate of his native place.

What was the function of all the people gathered? You are witnesses this day.”

**Ruth 4:11-12. The Elders and people of the gate attest to Boaz' real estate purchase, and bless his union with Ruth.**

Who were those who responded?

V. 11. The people at the gate: 11 Then all the people who were at the gate

The elders: and the elders said,

To What did they agree? – to their function as witnesses: “We are witnesses.

What blessings did they wish upon Ruth? That God might make her like Rachel and Leah: May the Lord make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel.

What blessing did they wish upon Boaz?

That he might act worthily in Ephrathah: May you act worthily in Ephrathah

That he might be renowned in Bethlehem: and be renowned in Bethlehem,

V. 12. That his house might be like the house of Perez: 12 and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah,

In what way? because of the offspring that the Lord will give you by this young woman.”

**Ruth 4:13-17. Boaz Marries Ruth, who gives birth to a son!**

V. 13. What? Who?

Who? 13 So Boaz took Ruth,

What? and she became his wife.

What happened? And he went in to her,

What did the LORD do? and the LORD gave her conception,

What was the result? and she bore a son.

V. 14 What did the women say? Then the women said to Naomi,

What? Blessed be Yahweh: “Blessed be the Lord,

Why? who has not left you this day without a redeemer, (i.e., Obed)

What else? May he be famous! and may his name (i.e., Obed) be renowned in Israel!

V. 15. What is to be his destiny?

What? A restorer of life: 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life

A nourisher of your old age: and a nourisher of your old age,

Why could they pray this?

Because of her daughter-in-law, Ruth: for your daughter-in-law

What about her? who loves you,

How valuable is she? who is more to you than seven sons,

What has Ruth done? has given birth to him.”

V. 16. What did Naomi do?

Who? 16 Then Naomi

What? took the child

What did she do? and laid him on her lap

What was Naomi’s function? and became his nurse.

V. 17. What did the women do?

What? They gave the child a name: 17 And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name,

How did they characterize the baby? saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.”

What else did they do? They named him Obed.

What was his surprising progeny?

He was the father of Jesse,  
the father of David.

**Ruth 4:18-22. What Became of Perez through Boaz and Obed.**

V. 18. Who? What? 18 Now these are the generations of Perez:

What was the action of Perez? Perez fathered Hezron,

V. 19. What was the action of Hezron? 19 Hezron fathered Ram,

What was the action of Ram? Ram fathered Amminadab,

V. 20. What was the action of Amminadab? 20 Amminadab fathered Nahshon,

What was the action of Nahshon? Nahshon fathered Salmon,

V. 21. What was the action of Salmon? 21 Salmon fathered Boaz,

What was the action of Boaz? Boaz fathered Obed,

V. 22. What was the action of Obed? 22 Obed fathered Jesse,

What was the action of Jesse? and Jesse fathered David.

So what? We have no idea of the blessings that proceed from us and our obedience to and faith in God down through the years, even after we are gone!