

# Part 2: judges of Israel

## Lesson 7: The Redemption of Ruth - Ruth 1-4

3. **THE WORD TRANSLATED “KINSMAN” [HEB. modah]** is only used in Ruth 2:1 and Prov 7:4. Who is the kinsman of Naomi? (Ruth 2:1) What does his name mean? (OPTIONAL: What part of the temple of Solomon is later named Boaz? [1 Kgs 7:21; 2 Chron 3:17] Do you think that there is a connection? Why, or why not?)
  
4. What law had God given Israel in Lev 19:9-10? How does the interaction between Boaz and Ruth demonstrate the virtue of Boaz? (Ruth 2:2-17) How does Naomi respond when she finds out about the kindness of Boaz? (Ruth 2:18-23) (OPTIONAL: In your own words, describe what the word **TRANSLATED “KINDNESS” [HEB. chesed]** means in 1:8, 2:20, and 3:10—the three places where it is used in Ruth?)

5. **THE WORD TRANSLATED “CLOSE RELATIVE” (HEB. goel) in Ruth 2:20 is RENDERED “REDEEMER” (ESV) OR “GUARDIAN” (NET) IN OTHER VERSIONS (CF. 3:9, 12, 13; 4:1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 14).** What was the obligation of a redeemer, and what was the punishment for one who failed to obey to the Levirate Law? (Deut 25:5-10; cf. Gen 38:6-10)
6. Naomi concocts a plan to provide for her daughter-in-law (i.e., the marriage of Ruth and Boaz). She tells Ruth to approach Boaz in what way(s)? (Ruth 3:3-4) How does Ruth reply? (v. 5) Compare this plan with Deut 25:5-10. **(OPTIONAL: BOAZ REFERS TO RUTH AS “A WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE.” THIS SAME PHRASE IS FOUND IN PROV 12:4 AND 31:10. WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT RUTH?)**

7. Ruth 4:1-12 provides insights into redemption laws and cultural **DEALINGS OF THE TIME. (NOTE: THE EXPRESSION “FORMER TIMES” [v. 7], ALONG** with the genealogy at the end of the chapter [vv. 18-22], suggests that Ruth was composed during or after the period of the United Kingdom.) After Boaz redeems Ruth, the people pray that Ruth will become like which patriarchal wives? (vv. 11-12) Why?
8. Who was the great-grandson of Boaz and Ruth? (Ruth 4:17-22) Compare the books of Judges and Ruth—their purposes, their tone, etc.?



1. The love of Ruth for Naomi is demonstrated by her loyalty to her and her God (Ruth 1:16-17). God later rewards Ruth for her kindness (2:11-12). What New Testament scriptures show that this same level of commitment is necessary for Christians and that God likewise rewards his faithful ones?
2. Boaz may serve as a type (preview) of Christ. He uses the affectionate **DESCRIPTION “DAUGHTER” OF RUTH (2:8; 3:10, 11) AND JEOPARDIZES HIS** inheritance to redeem and marry a foreign but faithful bride (4:6, 9-10). What New Testament scriptures show that Jesus does the same?

3. Explain how the hometown of Boaz, the allusion to Perez and Tamar, and the descendants of Boaz and Ruth connect to Christ (Ruth 4:11-12, 18-22; Matt 1:1-18; Luke 2:1-21).

Challenge: Ruth begins with tragedy and ends with hope. Naomi loses her husband and her sons and has little assurance that she will be cared for thereafter. She doubts that God is with her. Yet, the Lord blesses her with a kind daughter-in-law, a sacrificial kinsman, and a redeemed inheritance—all of which results in the companions of Naomi praising God (and probably Naomi doing the same). If you are going through trials, set a time this week to connect with your loving (spiritual) family, to commune with your redeemer Jesus Christ, and to meditate on your inheritance.

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