

The Kinsman Redeemer – The Book of Ruth

- Boaz is the ‘*Goel*’, the Kinsman-Redeemer
 - The "nearest kinsman" or "kinsman redeemer" is a *Goel*
 - The Hebrew word *gâ'al*, is translated as both kinsman and redeem (*Ruth 4: 6*)
 - The word means to redeem, receive or buy back

- By the Law of Redemption – land for Naomi redeemed
 - The Law of the kinsman redeemer is found in *Leviticus 25: 47-55*
 - The redeemer must be a kinsman; "one of his brethren may redeem him...or any that is near of kin...may redeem him" (*Leviticus 25: 48-49*)
 - The idea of a kinsman redeemer in Old Testament times was to help someone in poverty who was unable to redeem their inheritance and redeem his relatives from slavery (*Leviticus 25: 23-25*)
 - The kinsman redeemer could also preserve the family line of a deceased male relative by marrying his widow and providing an heir (*Deuteronomy. 25: 5-10*)

- By the Law of Levirate Marriage – Ruth, the gentile bride (*Deuteronomy 25: 5-10*)
 - Dying without a son to continue both his name and his life was considered by the Hebrews a particularly terrible tragedy. A brother or cousin could inherit the deceased's property only by marrying his widow and offering her a chance to produce a son with genes as close as possible to those of her husband. Monogamy was the ideal but polygamy was acceptable; thus a prior marriage was not a hindrance, but the kinsman would need both the resources and the desire to support a new wife.
 - We need not bemoan the misfortune of a woman forced into marriage with a man who could have been a stranger. It was the widow who initiated the proceeding, not the kinsman, and the marriage not only gave her the opportunity to have children but it also meant food, clothing and shelter that might otherwise have been hard to find. The widow first had to claim her right to what was called a Levirate Marriage.
 - There was, of course, an order of precedence with the oldest brother of the deceased first in line. If he refused then the second brother could accept. Then came the opportunity of other male relatives in their turn.
 - The widow made the decision to marry, but then had to accept the first man on the list who said yes.
 - In Chapter Three, following the instructions of her mother-in-law, Ruth went to the Threshing Room where Boaz had fallen asleep. She turned back the blanket at his feet and lay down. This was how a widow claimed her right to a Levirate Marriage. When Boaz awoke, he praised Ruth's devotion to Naomi and agreed to act on her behalf.
 - In Chapter Four Boaz followed the traditional procedure. He went to the city gate (where important business was conducted) and called for ten elders of the town to sit with him as witnesses. Then when the man who was actually the closest kin and the first in line to inherit passed by, Boaz called him over and in the presence of the elders reminded him of the Levirate rule and asked if he wished to inherit both Ruth and the land belonging to her deceased husband. The kinsman declined and handed one of his sandals to Boaz.
 - Contracts today have a red seal next to the signature as a symbol of the legally binding nature of the agreement.

- The sandal exchange was the ancient Israelite equivalent of the red seal.
 - This left Boaz free to marry Ruth.
- To be a Kinsman-Redeemer:
 - Have to be a kinsman (Boaz – Naomi : Christ – Adam)
 - Have to be able (Boaz – wealth : Christ – sinless)
 - Have to be willing (Boaz – love for Ruth : Christ – love for us)
 - Have to assume all the obligations of the beneficiary
 - Boaz – redeems Naomi’s land / marries Ruth
 - Christ – became sin for us
- Redemption is sealed - Christ (the Lamb) has prevailed and is worthy to open the scroll
 - He has overcome sin *1 Peter 2: 24, 3: 18*
 - He has overcome death *2 Timothy 1: 10; Hebrews 2: 14*
 - He has overcome the grave *Revelation 1: 18*
 - He has overcome Hades *Acts 2: 27; Hosea 3: 14*
 - He has overcome all His enemies *Psalms 110: 1; Matthew 2: 24; Hebrews 1: 13*
 - He is exalted and worthy *Philippians 2: 5-11*
- Sealed Scrolls (Books) in Scripture
 - *Daniel 12: 4-9* The book sealed until the time of the end
 - *Revelation 10: 4* The Seven Thunders words are sealed
 - *Revelation 10: 8-11* John eats the little book
 - *Ezekiel 2: 10* A scroll of lamentation
 - *Zechariah 5: 1-4* The flying scroll...a curse over the whole earth
 - *Isaiah 29: 11-24* The sealed book...prophetic of the destruction of evil and the redemption of Israel
- Our Kinsman-Redeemer is Jesus Christ - fully qualified to be our Kinsman-Redeemer
 - A kinsman of Adam (*Genesis 3: 15; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 45*)
 - Able to redeem...a spotless (sinless) sacrifice (*Hebrews 10: 11-14*)
 - Willing to be our redeemer – love for us (*John 3: 16*)
 - Assumed all the obligations of us (the beneficiaries)
 - Christ – became sin for us (*2 Corinthians 5: 21*)
 - Christ – died in our place (*Romans 6: 23*)
 - The Lamb is worth to open the scroll (*Revelation 5: 5-7*)
- Prophetic Aspects of the Book of Ruth
 - Boaz is the kinsman redeemer (Christ)
 - His relation is Naomi (a Jewess)
 - Naomi leaves her land and becomes destitute in a foreign land
 - Ruth (a gentile) refuses to abandon Naomi (a Jewess)
 - Ruth (a gentile) comes to her kinsman redeemer through Naomi (a Jewess)
 - Boaz (Christ) takes a Ruth (a gentile) as his bride (the Church)
 - It is through Ruth (a gentile) that Naomi (a Jewess) has her land and her heritage restored
 - It is through Ruth (a gentile) that Naomi (a Jewess) is restored to relationship with Boaz (Christ)