

Ruth's Romance of Redemption

by **Edward Boone**

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STUDY NINE BOAZ THE BUYER AND BRIDEGROOM

Ruth's Romance of Redemption would not be complete if we did not write a final chapter on Boaz as a type of CHRIST. As the reader sees CHRIST in the life of Boaz, may it strengthen his ambitions, enlarge his inspirations, centralize his attentions, increase his devotions, and quicken his aspirations. Note the sevenfold type --

- I. THE REDEEMER KINSMAN**
- II. THE BUYER AT THE GATE**
- III. THE RESTORER OF LIFE**
- IV. THE PROVIDER OF GRACE**
- V. THE GIVER OF REST**
- VI. THE REWARDER OF SERVICE**
- VII. THE LOVER IN MARRIAGE**

I. THE REDEEMER KINSMAN

The word "*kinsman*" means "*a relative*." In order that Boaz might be a redeemer, it was necessary that he be a relative of Ruth. In like manner, it was necessary that JESUS be born of a woman to take upon Himself the seed of Abraham, which gives us the mystery of the incarnation. We can now say with Naomi, "**The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen**" (2:20). The word "*kinsman*" is found fourteen times in the Book. (2x7=14. A double perfection). Boaz is given as "*one that has the right to redeem*." The Hebrew word "*goel*" which is translated "*kinsman*" in Ruth 3:13 is "*ransom*" in Isaiah 51:10 and "*redeemer*" in Job 19:25, where Job says, "**I know that my redeemer liveth.**"

In order for JESUS CHRIST to become our Redeemer, three things were necessary:

(1) He "**was made flesh.**" "**And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth**" (John 1:14). The flesh speaks of the mortality of man "**For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again**" (Psalm 78:39). This enabled CHRIST, the Holy SON of GOD, to die; He was "**put to death in the flesh**" (I Peter 3:18).

(2) He "**hath made him to be sin for us**" (II Corinthians 5:21). As the sins of Israel were laid upon the head of the scapegoat, which bore their iniquity, so our sins were laid on Him as Isaiah declared: "**The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all**" (53:6). This load of sin was so heavy that it crushed Him to the ground in the Garden of Gethsemane. The effect of the great weight of sin may be observed by the fact that He sweat great drops of blood.

(3) He was "**made like unto his brethren**" (Hebrews 2:17). The purpose of this was that He might be tempted in all points as we are, that He might be a faithful High Priest, and be able to succor those who are tempted.

Thus, He was made flesh, "**His incarnation**"; He was made sin, "**His Crucifixion**"; He was made like unto His brethren, "**His Intercession**" as HIGH PRIEST on the right hand of GOD.

II. THE BUYER AT THE GATE

In this verse, chapter 4:4, we find the words "*redeem it*" five times. The thought of the chapter is redemption. You will note --

(1) "**A Personal Redemption.**" Boaz, himself, had to buy it personally, and he had to redeem Ruth, herself, personally. From this we observe that redemption is individual. The clarion note of the Gospel is "**Whosoever will,**" may come.

(2) "**A Public Redemption.**" It was not done in the dark or behind closed doors but at the gate of the city in the presence of the elders. In the same manner, as Moses smote the rock in the presence of the elders (Exodus 17:5), so CHRIST was smitten in the presence of the elders of His time: "**Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said**" (Matthew 27:41).

(3) "**A Powerful Redemption.**" It was powerful enough to remove the near kinsman, the old man, and to buy back the lost property, which was in the hands of him who held the mortgage. Today the redemption of JESUS CHRIST is powerful enough to meet the needs of every sinner regardless of his condition.

(4) "**A Productive Redemption.**" "*And she bare a son*" (4:13). A profession of salvation which does not reproduce the life of CHRIST is not the salvation that JESUS offers. He saves us that we might bear fruit. A Christian is likened to "**a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper**" (Psalm 1:3).

Notice four things concerning the Christian in this verse. He is --

1. **Planted** - "**By the rivers of water.**"
2. **Productive** - "**Bringeth forth his fruit in his season.**"
3. **Perpetual** - "**His leaf also shall not wither.**"
4. **Prosperous** - "**Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.**"

(5) "**A Pleasing Redemption.**" (4:11-12). Just as this redemption pleased the women of Ruth's

day so redemption is pleasing today. It pleases the heart of GOD, and the angels of GOD, the Church of GOD, and the redeemed of GOD. Eternity alone will tell how many homes have been made happy because of this redemption.

(6) **"A Perfect Redemption."** **"So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife"** (4:13). The redemption of Boaz set aside every hindering cause and reclaimed all that was lost, even the name of the dead. In like manner the redemption of JESUS CHRIST is so perfect and complete that all that was lost in the fall of man shall be regained, and after the Marriage of the LAMB has taken place, the millennium has run its course, and the Ages of Ages has set in, there will be no possibility of the world being ruined by another fall.

(7) **"A Prophetic Redemption."** The redemption of Boaz was a type and figure of a great redemption, which was to take place. This, the redemption of JESUS CHRIST, we are enjoying today. The plan of GOD has been that He might obtain a bride for His SON JESUS just as Boaz obtained Ruth for his own. By the many signs around us, it appears that the marriage of this bride to CHRIST is not far distant.

III. THE RESTORER OF LIFE

"He shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life" (4:15). Christianity can be summed up in one word, and that is *"life,"* new life in CHRIST JESUS whereby old things pass away and all things becomes new. JESUS said, **"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"** (John 10:10). The reader will note it speaks of both *"life"* and *"the more abundant life,"* which refers respectively to the birth of the Spirit and the baptism of the Spirit. The trouble with many professors of religion today is that they have never been born again. There is no Divine life functioning their lives; real life is always manifested. There's also dispensational teaching in the above verse, for as Boaz was to be a restorer of life to Naomi so JESUS is to be a restorer of life to the Jewish nation in the last days when the fig tree shall bud, blossom, and bear fruit (take on life). They will then return to their own land, Palestine, followed by a thousand years of peace on earth.

IV. THE PROVIDER OF GRACE

The word *"grace"* is found three times in the second chapter.

(1) **The minister of grace.** **"In whose sight I shall find grace"** (v. 2). Just as Boaz was a minister or giver of grace, so CHRIST is the One Who bestows this unmerited favor upon us. The closing verse of the Bible contains the benediction -- **"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, Amen"** (Revelation 22:21). His grace has been with us thus far throughout this dispensation and shall continue until its close.

(2) **The marvel of grace.** **"Why have I found grace in thine eyes?"** (v. 10). She marvels why she, a Moabitish damsel, should have his unmerited favor. Many a child of GOD has felt the same way when he sees scores, with whom he has formerly associated, still without GOD while he is enjoying the rich blessings that grace bestows.

(3) **The merit of grace.** Ruth found favour in Boaz' sight. She acknowledges that it was through

his grace she had been comforted even though she, unlike his own handmaidens, was a stranger in Israel. She, in this verse, is showing her appreciation for what Boaz has done. We have received, in like manner, the comfort that grace bestows.

V. THE GIVER OF REST

Boaz is a type of CHRIST in relation to rest. As he provided rest for Ruth so CHRIST provides soul rest for the Gentiles of this age. There are four things required to obtain constant and perfect soul-rest:

- (1) A revelation of our own hearts by the Word of GOD. If we do not see ourselves in the light of GOD's Word, we will remain in darkness.
- (2) An emancipation from the life of sin by the power of GOD. He is the only One Who can raise us from the mighty grip and power of sin.
- (3) A sanctified life for service in the Kingdom of GOD. GOD does not want lazy Christians; they were not found in Gideon's three hundred or in the one hundred and twenty tarrying in the upper room. GOD's purpose in saving us is that we should be of service to Him and others.
- (4) A testimony of the mighty grace of GOD. A man will soon lose his communion with GOD, by failing to testify of what GOD has done for him, thus forfeiting his soul-rest. The first letter of these four words -- Revelation, Emancipation, Sanctified and Testimony -- make an acrostic for the word "rest."

A "**R**"evelation from the Word of GOD.

An "**E**"manicipation through the power of GOD.

A "**S**"anctified life by the Spirit of GOD.

A "**T**"estimony to the grace of GOD.

VI. THE REWARDER OF SERVICE

"Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour" (I Corinthians 3:8). In this chapter three things are mentioned concerning the service and the work man does.

- (1) **"Every man's work shall be made manifest"** (v. 13). This shows a record is being kept of what we do. Whether we are the laymen in the pew, the pastor in the pulpit, or a high official in the land, or the common laborer, a record is being kept of our services in the Kingdom.
- (2) **Every man's work shall be tried. "Fire shall try every man's work"** (v. 13). The motive back of our labor will be the test. If what we have done has been done in His name and for His glory we shall receive our reward. We are not rewarded because we are Christians, for we are saved by free grace, but the reward comes as a result of the good works we have done in His name. In Mark 9:41 JESUS states that **"For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to CHRIST, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."**
- (3) **Every man's work shall be rewarded** (v. 14). Some works shall be destroyed by fire with no reward for the labor bestowed. Many have worked in the name of their churches or that they might receive the applause of man. Others for a financial gain, not for the glory of GOD, have

preached the Gospel, written books, or performed some other sort of labor. Many hard tasks will be burned because the motive behind them was personal or ecclesiastical. Others will be rewarded in the eternal home for the works performed here because what they did was exclusively for the glory of GOD. Paul mentions that the foundation, which is JESUS CHRIST, has already been tried and has stood the test. Likewise, all who build upon it must be tried.

May the reader and the writer be so aided by the Spirit that what we do in word, thought, or deed may be for the exaltation of JESUS CHRIST and for the glory of GOD.

VII. THE LOVER IN MARRIAGE

"Ye are witnesses this day, that... Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife" (4:9-10). He did not buy her to be a housekeeper or to be a slave, but to be his wife, one whom he could love and cherish, one with whom he could have fellowship. Fellowship and communion have resulted in union. It points forward to the day when the Church of JESUS CHRIST shall sit down with Him at the Marriage of the LAMB. Boaz, the richest man in Bethlehem-Judah, took a stranger and an outcast and says, "**[I have] purchased[her] to be my wife.**"

Ruth had permission to glean in the fields of Boaz and had received handfuls on purpose and six measures of barley. Now she receives something even greater than a field of grain or a mansion on his estate; she receives Boaz, himself, as her lover in marriage. Likewise, JESUS said, "**I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also**" (John 14:3). What a great event that will be; every trial, misunderstanding, heartache, temptation, failure, and sorrow will be gone forever. There we will be in the presence of righteousness, holiness, peace, and joy forevermore. The Bride of JESUS CHRIST will never be satisfied until united in marriage with Him, our Heavenly Boaz.

A CLOSING THOUGHT

Well might Naomi now ask Ruth, "**Who art thou?**" as she did in Chapter 3:16. Ruth could now make the happy reply, "**I am the wife of Boaz.**" In like manner, if the world and those mocking and scoffing rejecters could ask the bride at the Marriage of the LAMB, "**Who art thou?**" she could reply in grace, splendor, and exaltation, "**I am the bride of CHRIST.**" No longer will we be, like Ruth, strangers and outcasts of Israel, but through the countless ages of eternity we shall be the happy companions of JESUS CHRIST. This marriage will be followed with a honeymoon of a thousand years, the millennial age, which will be short compared to eternity. This marriage will never be annulled by death or court or marred by strife, misunderstanding, or sin. Such are the prospects that are just ahead for those who will follow Ruth in surrender, separation, and service. The culmination of their Christian life will be no other than a marriage to JESUS CHRIST and a home in the place which is now being prepared for those who love Him.

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