

Hello! This is Dorothy -

We are looking at the last chapter of the **Book of Ruth**. Here we have Boaz, who knows that he has the opportunity to take the widow, this lady who had come as the daughter in law of Naomi, and to make this lovely, precious, clean, pure woman His own wife. He was doing it according to the kinsman-redeemer relationship. She had appealed to that relationship, because Boaz was related to Naomi through marriage to Elimelech, who is now dead.

We read in **chapter 4 -**

5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabite, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance. You see, there was one problem between Boaz being able to be the kinsman and that one other person, who was blocking that line of rights. So he went to that person and therefore explained that it was not just that he could have the land of Elimelech. The purpose of God was that the land, even if it was sold because of desperation, which Elimelech had obviously done in order to leave the land in famine and take his family outside of the country, to Moab, but it was because of the land that they still had the right, as a kinsman redeemer, to go and buy back

that land. That land was given of God and they had a right to buy it back or a relative had a right to buy it back. But there was one who stood before Boaz in that right. Of course, the man said he would love to have the land and he could go and buy it, because these people could afford it. Boaz then said, “Yes, but with that land, also, you have to take on the wife and raise to her a family to take the name of Elimelech. The first child was usually called to do with the previous person, who had died. However, this is an amazing story! The man could not do this. He could not meet this requirement; he obviously had his own family being raised and his own inheritance. So, of course, he could not take on this extra wife. Therefore, Boaz, as the bachelor, was in that position. As Boaz spoke, he was able then to prove this. They had this ancient custom, which goes back actually to **Deuteronomy 25**. They took off a shoe and passed the shoe to the other one. if they couldn’t do this. There is quite a story behind this in **Deuteronomy 25**, where it explains if somebody did not do this, they even had the right to spit in their face! It is a sign of a legal or non-legal transaction. (That would be interesting for you to follow up on your own sometime.) But the beautiful thing, in this Scripture, there was Boaz and he could be that one.

8 Therefore the kinsman said to Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech’s.

and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.
Those are the two children of Naomi.

10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife . . . In other words, he bought into the land; he bought the right; he settled and covered all points that were legally necessary . . . **to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.** So, it was a legal transaction.

And then — we all love a wedding, don't we? And what do you think - there was the wedding and, with the wedding, there came the blessing of the people.

11 And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel, and do thou worthily in Ephratah -that is Bethlehem-Ephratah - and be famous in Bethlehem. Little did they know when they said those words that that is exactly what God would do! Of course *Bethlehem-Ephratah*, because that is where Jesus was born. So we read on and it goes on to tell us —

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife . . . And God blessed them . . . **And she bare a son.** The son - and this is most amazing - was not just a blessing to her, but because Ruth shared her life and

was such a wonderful daughter in law to Naomi, Naomi was blessed. She was called a **nourisher** in her old age and she cared. There was out from that womb of Ruth, one who was called Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David, and from the long lineage of David. Jesus has the blood link through Mary, but Jesus was born the spotless Son of God. That is God tying these amazing timings of a person saying, Yes, and, in love, letting God work through their life.

Would you do that with your life and say, *Blessed Redeemer, work these details out for Your glory through me. I am willing for what You will say.*

In Jesus' Name. Amen.