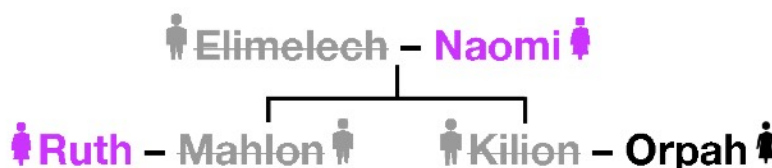


NAOMI & RUTH'S REDEEMER



Ruth 3:1-13 (Review)

1One day Naomi said to her daughter-in-law Ruth, “I will find a husband for you. I will find someone to take care of you. I will find a home for you. 2Isn’t Boaz one of our relatives?” 9So Ruth [went to Boaz and] said, “Put your wing over me – put the corner of your robe over me. You are our redeemer.” 10Boaz said, 11“I will do what you ask (I will marry you). Everyone in Bethlehem knows that you are an excellent, wonderful woman.” 12But Boaz said to Ruth, “It is true: I am a close relative. But you have another relative – he is closer than I am – he is the closest relative. 13In the morning I will ask him. If he wants to redeem you, he can redeem you. But, if he does not want to redeem you, I will redeem you. I promise God, I will do it.”

Ruth 4:1-17

1That morning Boaz went to Bethlehem’s town gate. [At the town gate, people did business – and the town leaders made decisions.] And Boaz sat down. Then the closest relative came to the gate. Boaz said to the closest relative, “So-and-so, please come here and sit down.” So the closest relative sat down. 2Then Boaz said to ten of the town leaders, “Please sit here.”

3Then Boaz said to the closest relative, “Naomi is selling the land – Naomi is selling her husband Elimelech’s land. Elimelech is our relative. 4You are the closest relative – so you have the first choice. You can buy the land from Naomi. Do you want to redeem the land for Naomi’s family?”

Boaz also said, “But I have the second choice. If you do not want to redeem Naomi’s land, I will redeem the land. The closest relative said, “I will redeem the land.”

5Then Boaz said, “You are buying the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabite. So, when you buy the land, you must also marry Ruth the Moabite. Ruth is Mahlon’s widow. You must continue Elimelech and Mahlon’s family name. And the land will stay in Elimelech and Mahlon’s family – [the land will go to your and Ruth’s first son].

6The closest relative said to Boaz, “Then, I cannot redeem the land. I cannot marry Ruth the Moabite – I will damage my own property.

8So the closest relative said to Boaz, “You buy the land.” And the closest relative took off his sandal – and he gave his sandal to Boaz. 7(In many countries we sign a contract – but) when selling land in Israel, one person gave his sandal to the other person. (Maybe, the meaning is: I give you my sandal – now you can walk on the land – the land is yours.)

9Then Boaz said to the leaders and all the people at the gate, “Today you are witnesses. Today I am buying Elimelech and Mahlon’s land from Naomi. 10And I am marrying Ruth the Moabite – she is Mahlon’s widow. Ruth and my first son will take Elimelech and Mahlon’s name. And, our first son will inherit Elimelech and Mahlon’s land. Then Mahlon’s name will not end – and Mahlon’s name will continue in the town records of Bethlehem. Today you are witnesses.”

11The leaders and all the people at the gate said, “We are witnesses. And God give Ruth many children – like Rachel and Leah, the mothers of Israel.” (Rachel and Leah, the first two mothers of Israel, had 12 children.)

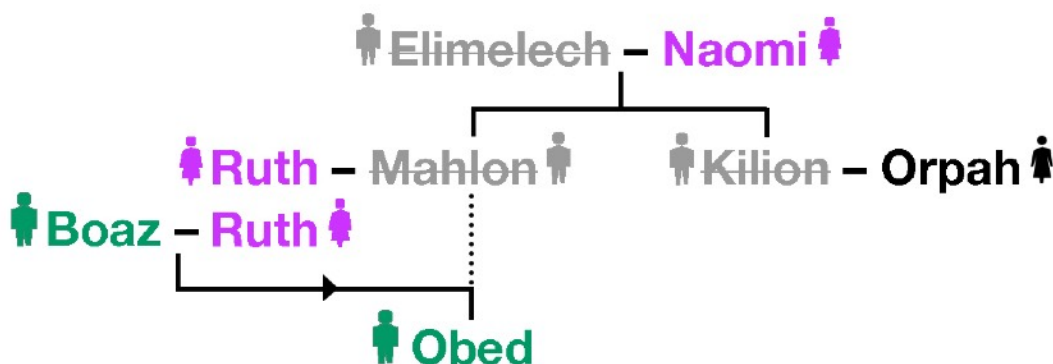
And God bless you, Boaz: God make you great in Bethlehem – and give you honor in Bethlehem.”

13So Boaz married Ruth – and God helped Ruth become pregnant. Ruth had a baby boy. 17They named the baby Obed. 14The women said to Naomi, “Praise God! God gave you a redeemer. 15Your daughter-in-law loves you – she is better than seven sons – and she gave birth to Obed. Obed will make your life happy again. And when you are old, Obed will take care of you.

16Naomi took baby Obed in her arms – and Naomi took care of Obed. 17The women in Bethlehem said, “Naomi has a son!”

Obed was the grandfather of King David!

19Perez’s son was Hezron,
 Hezron’s son was Ram,
 Ram’s son was Amminadab,
 20Amminadab’s son was Nahshon,
 Nahshon’s son was Salmon,
 21Salmon’s son was Boaz,
 Boaz’s son was Obed,
 22Obed’s son was Jesse,
 Jesse’s son was (King) David.



CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did Naomi decide to do for Ruth? (Ruth 3:1)
- Who did Ruth ask to marry her? (verse 9)

Why do you think Ruth asked Boaz?

Boaz was a good, important, successful man.

Ruth 2:1

What could Boaz do for Ruth?

What was a Redeemer?

- Who else could redeem Ruth? (verse 12)

Why could the other relative choose to redeem Ruth first – before Boaz did? (verse 12)

- Did Boaz want to redeem Ruth? (verse 13)

Which redeemer do you think Ruth wanted?

- Where did Boaz go to decide Ruth's redeemer? (Ruth 4:1)

Why did Boaz go to the town gate? (verse 1)

- What did Boaz ask the closest relative to do? (verse 1)
- What was the closest relative's name? (verse 1) (Hebrew language = "so and so")

Why does the Bible not tell his name? Do you think it is on purpose?

- What did Boaz ask the closest relative? (verses 3-4)

Did the closest relative want to redeem Naomi's land? (verse 4)

- Then, what else did Boaz tell the closest relative he must do? (verse 5)
 - Why would the closest relative have to marry Ruth? What is the purpose? (verse 5)
 - What did Boaz call Ruth? (verse 5)

In the story of Ruth, Ruth was called "Ruth the Moabite" 3 times until the first day she gleaned in Boaz's field (Ruth 1:22; 2:2, 21).

After that, she was not called "the Moabite."

But in today's story Boaz called Ruth, "the Moabite."
Why, do you think Boaz did that?

And why do you think Boaz asked about buying the land first – then he asked about marrying Ruth “the Moabite” second?

Do you think this was a good strategy?

- What did the closest relative decide to do? (verse 8)
- Why? What did the closest relative want to protect? (verse 6)
- Who was the closest relative thinking about? (verse 6)

What was the closest relative worried about? What was he thinking?

We don't know, but maybe he thought:

- I want to buy Naomi's land for myself.
- But I don't want to buy the land for Mahlon's heir – Ruth's 1st child.
- I don't want to pay to take care of Ruth and Naomi.
- Maybe Ruth and I will have more children – I don't want to pay to take care of more children.
- I want to give all my own land to my own son (if he already has a son) – I don't want to divide my land between more children.

- What did the closest relative call Ruth? (verse 6)

(We don't know why) but why do you think he called Ruth, “the Moabite”?

- Whose name is forgotten in Israel and in God's Word, the Bible? (verse 1)
- But who did the closest relative want to protect? (verse 6)
- But who did Boaz protect? (verses 9-10)

Jesus said, “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave. You must do what I [Jesus] did. I did not come to earth to be served, but to serve, and to give my life to redeem many people.” Matthew 20:26-28

Who did what Jesus did? Boaz or the closest relative?
Who sacrificed himself?

- What gift did God give to Ruth? (verse 13)

Did God accept Ruth into Israel? What do you think?

Ruth had not gotten pregnant for how many years? Do you remember:

1There was no food in Bethlehem, so Elimelech went to live in Moab. He went with his wife and two sons. 3But Elimelech died in Moab. 4Naomi's sons married Orpah and Ruth. Then Naomi's family lived in Moab for about ten years. 5Then Naomi's two sons also died.

Ruth 1:1-5

Do you think that God had a purpose for Ruth's and Naomi's suffering?

Did God have a purpose for Ruth not having children in Moab?

- Whose family line did baby Obed join? Whose land did Obed get? (verse 10)
- Why did Boaz do this? (verse 10)

Whose name was Boaz thinking about?

Was Boaz thinking only about himself?

- But whose name is still remembered in the Bible 3000 years later? (verse 11, 21)
- In Creator God's eyes (in the Bible), who is the father of Obed? (verse 21)
- Where was Mahlon's name remembered? (verse 10)
- Who is the father of Obed in the town records?

Which is more important, to be remembered by God or by people?

- How did the leaders and people of Bethlehem bless Ruth? (verse 11)
- Who did they compare Ruth to?

What happened to Ruth's status after Boaz redeemed her?

[At the beginning] 10Ruth said to Boaz, "I am a foreigner. Why do you notice me? 13 I am lower than your servant girls."

Ruth 2:10, 13

But now, the people compared Ruth to the first two mothers of Israel.

- What did the women of Bethlehem think about Ruth? (verse 15)
- What did God do for Naomi? (verses 14-15)

When Naomi came back to Bethlehem...

19Everyone in Bethlehem was excited. The women said, “Is this Naomi?” 20But Naomi said, “Don’t call me Naomi (‘pleasant’). Call me Mara (‘bitter’) – because Most Powerful God has made my life very bitter. 21I went away full. But God made me empty – I have come back to Bethlehem empty. Don’t call me Naomi (‘pleasant’). God has hurt me – Most Powerful God has made my life bad.”

22Naomi came back with Ruth the Moabite. When Naomi came back, the barley harvest was beginning.

Ruth 1:19-22

23Ruth gleaned in Boaz’s barley fields and wheat fields. She gleaned in Boaz’s fields until all the harvest was finished.

Ruth 2:23

When Naomi came back, she felt that she had nothing.
She thought that God had taken everything from her.

But about how long did it take for God to give her a Redeemer?

And what else did God give Naomi? (Ruth 4:17)
And did Naomi have many friends in Bethlehem?

What do you think Naomi should say to God?

NEXT TIME:

What other great plans will Creator God have for Naomi’s family ...
and for us today?