**The Doctrine of Redemption in the book of Ruth**

**Ruth 3:10-18**

**Ruth 3:10-18** – “(10) And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. (11) And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman. (12) And now it is true that **I am thy near kinsman:** howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I. (13) Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, **then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning.** And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. (14) And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor. (15) Also he said, Bring the vail that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city. (16) And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her. (17) And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law. (18) Then said she, **Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day**.”

In **Ruth 3:1-18** Ruth requests Boaz to fulfill the part of near-kinsman to redeem her and Naomi from the terrible plight in which they found themselves.

In so doing she was left at the mercy of Boaz to do so **(Ruth 3:6-13).**

God had made provision within the law for the redemption of those who had lost or forfeited their covenant blessings.

In the case of Ruth, she never possessed any of the covenant blessings which belonged to an Israelite. In fact she was a Moabitist and a Moabite was forbidden to enter into the presence of God until the tenth generation.

**Ruth 1:1-4** – “(1) Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. (2) And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. (3) And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. (4) **And they took them wives of the women of Moab**; the name of the one was Orpah, and **the name of the other Ruth**: and they dwelled there about ten years.”

**Deuteronomy 23:3** – “An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:”

**Question**: Is Ruth just a book about a portion of the history of one of the families of Israel? Or is there more here than just history?

**Answer**: All the Old Testament – the Law – the History – the Poetry – is profitable for us in the New Testament as types, pictures, and spiritual instruction as to the work of God in the salvation of sinners.

**Luke 24:27** – “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

**Romans 15:4** – “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

**I Corinthians 10:11** – “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

**Question**: What lessons can we learn from the book of Ruth?

**Answer**: Ruth’s condition is a picture of every sinner. Boaz acting as the redeemer is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Ruth reveals the doctrine of redemption is revealed in an interesting and amazing way.

**First: The teaching of the near kinsman – the one with the ability to Redeem**

Under the Law of Redemption God made provision for those who had forfeited or lost their covenant blessings to be able to regain those blessings. Through the work of **the near kinsman**, the covenant blessings could be regained by a proper payment being made in behalf of the one who had lost the blessings.

In **Deuteronomy 25:5-6** provision was made for the **regaining the loss of an heir** to the blessings. A man’s brother – near kinsman - would raise up seed for his brother by marrying his deceased brother’s wife.

**Deuteronomy 25:5-6** – “(5) If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. (6) And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother”

Compare: **Ruth 4:5** – “Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, **thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance**.”

In **Leviticus 25:24-25** provision was made for **regaining lost property** (land). The land represented the God-given inheritance gained because of their covenant relationship with God. The loss of land meant the loss of covenant blessings and covenant inheritance.

**Leviticus 25:24-25** – “(24) And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land. (25) If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.”

Again, compare: **Ruth 4:5** – “**Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi**, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.”

Ruth submitted herself to the God of these laws. In so doing, she was at His mercy to do for her that which she could not do for herself. She understood that only God could bring her into covenant relationship with Himself – only God could bestow upon her the blessings of a covenant relationship with Himself.

**Second: The teaching of Redemption.**

In the book of Ruth, God unfolds His doctrine (teaching) of redemption. It is consistent with the Old Testament Scriptures and a picture for how spiritual redemption takes place in the New Covenant through our near kinsman – the Lord Jesus Christ.

**The Condition of Ruth:**

**She is a Moabites**, a descendent of Lot **(Genesis 19:37)**, condemned by the Law **(Deuteronomy 23:3)** and, like all Gentiles, a stranger to the covenants of Israel **(Ephesians 2:12).**

**Genesis 19:36-37** – “(36) Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. (37) **And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day**.”

**Deuteronomy 23:3** – “An Ammonite or **Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD**; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:”

**Ephesians 2:12** – “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers from the covenants of promise**, having no hope, and without God in the world:”

**She is a widow** **(Ruth 1:5)** without the safety and shelter of a husband's home **(Ruth 1:9)**.

**She is without hope for the future** **(Ruth 1:12-13)**.

**She is poverty stricken** **(Ruth 2:2)**.

**Note:** Ruth is a picture and type of every sinner in this condition: Every sinner is (1) condemned by the Law of God, (2) A stranger to the covenant blessings of God, (3) Without God and without a Saviour in the world, (4) Without hope of eternal life, and therefore, (5) Spiritually poverty stricken so that they are not able to do any thing about their own spiritual condition.

**The Law of God made provision for Redemption:**

**The redemption of person and property** -- **Leviticus 25:24-25** -- “(24) And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land. (25) If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.”

**The redemption of a widow and the family name -- Deuteronomy 25:5-6** – “(5) If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. (6) And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother”

**Ruth submits herself to the God of these laws** -- **Ruth 1:16 –** “And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and **thy God my God**:”

**Note:** Redemption means to be bought with the intention of procuring (obtaining). It may also mean to purchase with the intent to free the one which has been bought.

A person is bought (redeemed) because another pays the debt that is owed by the first.

The person who is bought is automatically loosed (set free) from the obligation or bondage which bound him.

Redemption may also mean **the payment of a ransom**. One makes the payment of a ransom to release the one who has been taken captive.

In Ruth, the first definition is in view. Boaz purchases her so that he might obtain her for his wife!

**There are four requirements of the Redeemer (near kinsman)**

**He must be a close relative (near kinsman)**

**Leviticus 25:48 –** “After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; **one of his brethren** may redeem him:”

**Ruth 2:1 and 20 –** “(1) And Naomi had **a kinsman** of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz … (20) And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.”

**Note:**  The New Testament teaches this same truth concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 2: 9 & 14 – 17 –** “(9) But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man … (14) **Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same**; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (15) And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (16) For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but **he took on him the seed of Abraham**. (17) Wherefore **in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren**, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”

**Galatians 4:4-5** – “(4)But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, **made of a woman, made under the law**, (5) To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”

**He must be willing to act as the Redeemer**

**Ruth 2:20 and 3:11 –** “And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen … (**3:1**) And now, my daughter, fear not; **I will do to thee all that thou requirest**: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.”

**Note:**  The New Testament teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled this requirement for His sheep.

**Out of Love -- Ephesians 5:2** – “And walk in love, as **Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour**.”

**With great Joy -- Hebrews 12:2** – “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who **for the joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

**According to the will of His Father - Hebrews 10:9-10 –** “(9) Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God … (10) By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

**Freely and willingly -- John 10:11 and 15 and 18** – “(11) … the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep … (15) … I lay down my life for the sheep … (18) No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”

**He must be able to pay the required price for the redemption**

**Ruth 2:1 –** “And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, **a mighty man of wealth**, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.”

**Ruth 4:9-10 –** “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. Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have **I purchased** to be my wife, 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.”

**Note:** The New Testament teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ was well able to fulfill this requirement.

**I Peter 1:18-19** – “(18) Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; (19) But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

**Hebrews 7:25 –** “Wherefore **he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him**, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

**He must make the actual payment**

**Ruth 4:10 –** “Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, **have I purchased to be my wife**, 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.”

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**I Peter 1:18-19** – “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

**Hebrews 10:12-14** -- “(12) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; (13) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. (14) **For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified**.”

**Ephesians 1:7** – “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”

**Jesus Christ is God’s appointed Redeemer:**

* He became man so that as a man He could pay the necessary price for man’s redemption.
* He was willing to take upon Himself all that was necessary to redeem His people from their sins
* He was able to take upon Himself all that was necessary to redeem His people from their sins
* He actually redeemed His people from their sins.

**Questions:**

Do you see that you cannot redeem yourself?

Do you see that if you are to be redeemed that another must do it for you?

Do you see that there is no other redeemer that is willing and able to redeem sinners from their sins?

Will you have Jesus Christ as your redeemer?