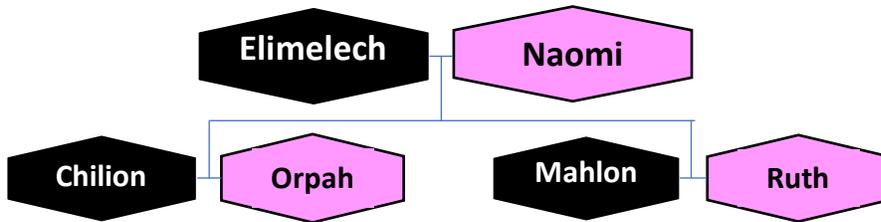


Ruth Chapter 4



Chapter 3 ended with a potential snag in the plan for Boaz to become the kinsman redeemer for Naomi & Ruth.

¹¹And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. ¹²And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. ¹³Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.”

Chapter 3 ends with a line of suspense: Naomi tells Ruth:

¹⁸... “Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man (*Boaz*) will not rest but will settle the matter today.”

“City Gate” in Israelite towns

- Open space
- Hub of activity
- Where meetings were held
- Where business was conducted (merchants, visitors, messengers, judges)
- Benches lined the whole area where people met
- Elders:
 - Served as a governing body for the city
 - Oversaw legal transactions; to assure all was done according to law & custom
 - Served as witnesses to transactions



Israelite Legal Customs found in Book of Ruth 3 Areas

Inheritance	Redemption (Leviticus 25)	Levirate Marriage (Deuteronomy 25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Family ownership of ancestral land ✓ Survival of families thru descendants 	<p>“Kinsman Redeemer” obliged to rescue family members:</p> <p><u>Can:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Restore property ✓ Buy back relatives enslaved in debt ✓ Avenge a relative’s murder ✓ Assist in a lawsuit ✓ Ensure legal justice is served 	<p>“Brother-in-law marriage”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ brother marries his dead brother’s widow; propagates heirs ✓ Heir carries deceased brother’s name and his share of the inheritance (the redeemer does not)

Guiding Principles:

- Not offering a comprehensive code for every circumstance
- Mirrors Israel’s (and God’s) treasured values
- Book of Ruth:
 - Contains extreme cases (old ages, no brother from Elimelech, foreigner involved)
 - Need stand-ins for Elimelech & Naomi to have an heir
 - Not exactly applicable to each law
 - Combines 3 practices normally treated separately
 - Is a Biblical narrative, not a court transcript or legal treatise

Boaz Redeems Ruth

4 Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, “Turn aside, friend; sit down here.” And he turned aside and sat down. ²And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down. ³Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. ⁴So I thought I would tell you of it and say, ‘Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you.” And he said, “I will redeem it.”

Good deal or bad deal?

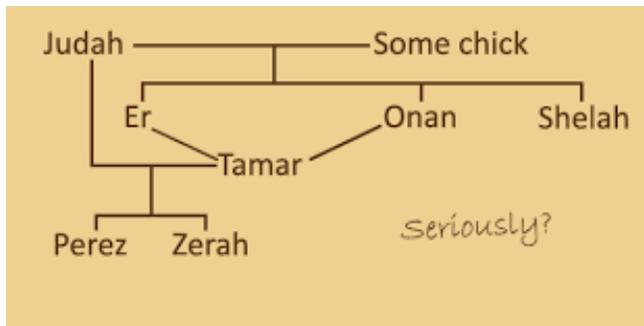
⁵Then Boaz said, “The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.” ⁶Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”

Contrast the two men

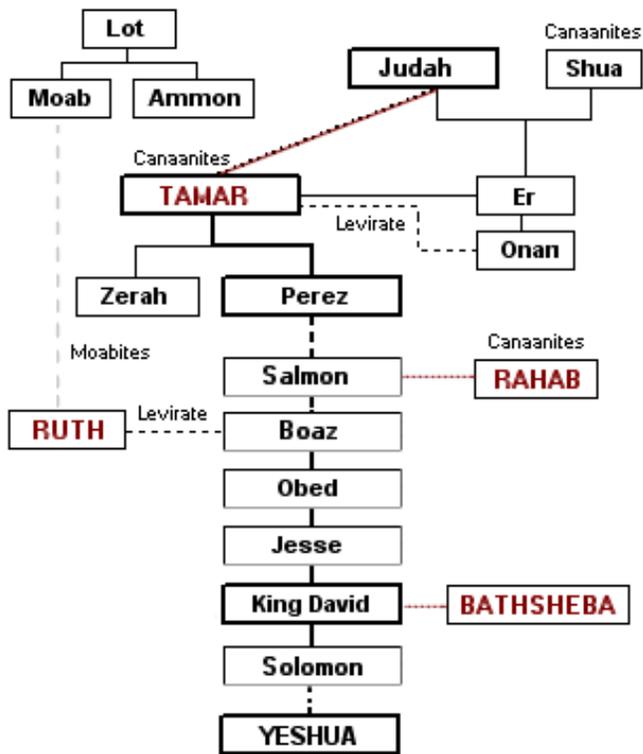
“So and So”	Boaz

A crowd was gathering. Let’s see how this transaction winds up

⁷Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,” he drew off his sandal. ⁹Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. ¹⁰Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day.” ¹¹Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, ¹²and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman.”



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¹²and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman.”

Ruth and Boaz Marry

¹³So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” ¹⁶Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

The Genealogy of David

¹⁸Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, ¹⁹Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, ²⁰Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered

Salmon, ²¹ Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, ²² Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.