

# JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Lesson 26: BOAZ, the Kinsman Redeemer

&

### The Inheritance

Aim: To see that Boaz's redemption of the inheritance and his marriage to Ruth is a Type of Christ's future redemption of an inheritance and marriage to His Bride for the purpose of rulership in the 7<sup>th</sup> Day.

Key Scriptures: Leviticus 25:23-25. Deuteronomy 25:5-10. Ruth 3:3-13; 4:1-10, 21-22. Revelation 5:1-7.

In our last lesson, we studied how **Joshua pictured Christ** on His return to the earth when He will take the nation of Israel back into the Promised Land to **receive their inheritance**. At that point, Jesus and His angels will totally destroy Gentile world power, and we saw that the **destruction of Jericho** and its inhabitants is a type for this.

**Q**: Where else do we see a type for the destruction of Gentile world power in the OT?

**A**:

Today we will be studying another OT individual who is a Type of Christ, one we should be very familiar with from a study of the **Book of Ruth**.

The Book of Ruth is about a piece of land – an inheritance. It is about the redemption of that inheritance. It's about marriage leading to royalty, and all for the purpose of rulership. Ruth is a type of the faithful Christian, who will one day inherit a land through marriage – a heavenly one – and earn the same rewards as Ruth.

In Ruth chapter 3, after following the instructions from Naomi about how to prepare herself, Ruth met Boaz on his threshing floor:

**Ruth 3:6** *So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.*

*7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.*

*8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.*

*9 And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing [lit. spread the corner of your garment over your maidservant], for you are a close relative."*

**Q:** What is this scene depicting and how do you know this?

**A:**

**Q:** By her actions, what two things is Ruth asking of Boaz?

**A:**

**Q:** What is the significance of him being 'a close relative' in the light of Ruth's request?

**A:**

Ruth was asking Boaz to redeem a piece of land that should have been inherited by her dead husband Mahlon, Naomi's son. Both Ruth and Orpah, Moabites, became members of a Jewish family through marriage to Naomi's two sons Mahlon and Chilion. But when all three male members of the family died, then all 3 women lost access to that inheritance, a piece of land belonging to Naomi's husband Elimelech. According to Jewish laws the field was now in the possession of another, and it required a male family member to redeem the property if ownership of the land was to return to Elimelech's family.

**Ruth 3:10** *Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.*

*11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.*

*12 "Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.*

*13 "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you-good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."*

**Q:** According to **v.11** why could Ruth make the request of Boaz, and what evidence is there of her behavior elsewhere in the book that put her in a position to make that request?

**A:**

Ruth was asking Boaz to redeem the piece of land that should have been inherited by her dead husband Mahlon. Following Elimelech's death, the family rights to the field passed to Naomi according to what we see in Ruth 4:1-5. But neither she nor Ruth (or Orpah for that matter), could redeem the property because only male family members are able to act as redeemers in that capacity. (See Lev. Chapters 25:23-25 on page 5).

Boaz was duty bound (*to 'perform the duty'*), and he agreed, to act in the capacity of a **kinsman redeemer**, as a result of his prior knowledge of Ruth's virtuous character. But he also knew there was a **closer kinsman** to Naomi than himself who must first be given the opportunity to redeem both Ruth and the land. A **kinsman** is a male relative who is of the same bloodline.

In the morning, having sent Ruth back to Naomi with 6 measures of barley, Boaz went to the city gate to meet with the nearer kinsman, because that was where all matters of business were carried out and **witnessed by the elders** of the city. The people could go there to consult with the elders for advice or judgment on a matter.

**Q:** Do you remember how many elders there were?

### **Redemption of Property**

***Ruth 4:1** Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.*

*2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.*

*3 Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.*

*4 "And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If*

*you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you." And he said, "I will redeem it."*

That which we see being outlined by Boaz to the closer relative in verses 3 & 4 is dealt with in Leviticus 25:23-25:

**Leviticus 25:23** *"The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.*

*24 And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land.*

*25 "If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.*

**Q:** What observations did you make concerning the redeeming of the land that Naomi had sold and Boaz's actions with respect to the Levitical laws concerning redemption of that previously sold land?

**A:**

### **Redemption Requiring Marriage**

To redeem the inheritance meant purchasing the land and doing all that was required of a next of kin. In this case, it would also include marrying Ruth in order to raise up a son to continue the family name connected to the piece of land. The nearer kinsman was indeed willing to redeem the land:

**Ruth 4:5** *Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."*

*6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."*

Boaz and the close relative were the only 2 in a position to act as a kinsman redeemer for Naomi and Ruth. The nearer kinsman's name is not given in the book, but because of what we know about **the antitypes of him and Boaz**, we know the reason he could not marry Ruth and redeem the inheritance is because he already had a wife.

**Q:** Who is the nearer kinsman a type of, and who is He already married to?

**A:**

Now let's read verses 7 to 10 of Ruth chapter 4:

***Ruth 4:7** Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.*

*8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.*

*9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi.*

*10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."*

**Q:** What does the close relative say and do in **v.8** to show he could not redeem the inheritance, and that Boaz should do so instead?

**A:**

As we consider **verses 7 & 8**, it may sound like a very strange thing to do to confirm a transaction. However, the use of a shoe/foot was not uncommon in the OT to demonstrate ownership or authority. Let's look at

another OT Scripture that perhaps brings clarity to the nearer kinsman's actions:

**Deuteronomy 25:5** *“If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. 6 And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. 7 But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, ‘My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.’ 8 Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, ‘I do not want to take her,’ 9 then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, ‘So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.’ 10 And his name shall be called in Israel, ‘The house of him who had his sandal removed.’”*

When the closer relative told Boaz and the elders at the city gate that he could not redeem (purchase) the piece of property that had belonged to Naomi's husband and 2 sons, he took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz to show he was surrendering any claim to the inheritance. And therefore not ‘raise up a name to his brother’. The closer relative thereby made it possible for Boaz to act as a **Kinsman Redeemer**. He could then redeem the inheritance and Ruth, and in so doing she would become his wife.

**Q:** According to Ruth 4:10, why did Boaz acquire Ruth as his wife as part of the transaction to redeem the forfeited inheritance?

**A:**

### **A Future Redemption of an Inheritance**

The closer relative is a **Type of God the Father**, and Boaz is a **Type of God the Son**, Jesus Christ. They are the only Ones able to bring about

redemption, in the same way as only Boaz and the nearer kinsman were able to redeem.

The Book of Revelation tells us when a similar transaction will take place. However, it will not be a sandal that will pass between God and the Lord Jesus. Let's take a look at that future event:

**Revelation 5:1** *And I saw in the right hand of Him [God the Father] who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.*

*2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"*

*3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.*

*4 So I [the Apostle John] wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.*

*5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."*

*6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

*7 Then He [the Lamb] came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him [God] who sat on the throne.*

**Q:** What did the Lamb, Jesus Christ, take from God the Father who was seated on His throne?

**A:**

**Q:** Do you remember what the number 7 points to and what it might mean in this instance?

**A:**



The scroll is such an important document because it reveals what must be done to redeem the inheritance for Christ and His Bride. The redemption scroll has 7 seals, God's number of divine completion, so as to show that what is contained within it, God will thoroughly and completely execute. It will be a complete work of redemption resulting in rulership in the 7<sup>th</sup> Day.

**Verses 2 & 4** reveal what was necessary **if** someone was going to be able to open and read the scroll. They needed to be '**worthy to open the scroll**', to read it or let loose its seals. Initially no one was found who was qualified to do so, and because the Apostle John understood the significance of the scroll, he wept much.

**Q:** Who is it that tells the Apostle John not to weep in **v.5**?

**A:**

**Q:** According to **v.5**, who has prevailed and is therefore worthy to open the scroll?

**A:**

Jesus is from the tribe of Judah and a descendant of King David. David is the great grandson of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth.4:21-22)!

**Q:** How is the one found worthy described in **v.6**?

**A:**

The Book of Revelation is filled with figurative language such as metaphors. Clearly Christ, the Lamb, does not have 7 horns, 7 eyes and 7 spirits. But think about it this way: we have already said that 7 is a number representing Divine completion, and **horns** are a symbol of strength and power. Therefore Christ is completely all powerful. The 7 **eyes** would represent Christ's ability to be all-seeing, everywhere. The 7 **spirits** show that He is all-knowing.

In **Revelation 5:7**, as the Lamb takes the 7-sealed scroll from God the Father Who is seated on the throne, we are seeing **the antitype** of Boaz taking

the sandal from the closer relative. They are parallel events showing the same transaction, demonstrating that the right is being given to the One receiving it to redeem the forfeited inheritance.

Jesus is '*the Lamb as though it had been slain*', and as such He is worthy and has paid the price to purchase/redeem the land for His future Bride.

**Q:** What is the land that Jesus has the right to redeem, and is that land redeemed yet?

**A:**

### **Removing the Current Ruler of the Land**

So when will the process of redeeming the inheritance begin? In fulfillment of the type, once Christ's Bride is revealed at the JSOC, the process of taking the scroll and opening the seals will signal the beginning of the end for Satan's dominion.

However, that cannot happen until **all Christians are resurrected or raptured to the JSOC**, and the faithful - just like Ruth on Boaz's threshing floor - are identified as the Bride of Christ. Only then can the scroll be opened and the process of redeeming the land (the Earth) begin. There **MUST** be a bride to redeem it for **BEFORE** it can be redeemed. Once all 7 seals on the scroll have been opened then the redemption will have been completed.

Who would have thought that taking off a sandal could be so significant!

We had also mentioned at the beginning that the Book of Ruth is about Royalty and Rulership. Here are the very last verses of the book:

***Ruth 4:21** And Salmon begat **Boaz**, and Boaz begat Obed,  
22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat **David**.*

The union of Ruth and Boaz led to their descendants becoming royalty through their great grandson **King David**. The picture is very clear to see: the faithful

Christian will be taken alongside Christ as His Wife and together they will rule from the heavens over the newly redeemed earth in the Millennial Kingdom.

In the next lesson we will look to see how David and Jesus are connected.

Let's pray...