

Timeline of Truth – Ruth 4:7-11a – Boaz Redeems Ruth

THEME (Overall Book Idea): God *always* rules:

- even when we cannot know what He is doing
- even when it takes many years
- even when God allows us to suffer

A rhyme that captures these ideas:

- God is *always* in control | Though we may be *unaware*.
- And God may work over *many years* | And allow troubles *hard* to bear.
- But God is *always* in control | We can *trust His loving care*.

Two Memory Verses:

4:14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!"

4:17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Ruth 1:1-5 – Trouble Comes with Life

We are impacted by cultural apostasy, large-scale adversity, and personal tragedy, but God is always actively in control.

Ruth 1:5-7 – Naomi Makes Difficult Decisions (A secondary lesson, but one that is evident here.)

We are to make wise decisions built from the truths of the Bible to honor God.

Ruth 1:8-18 – Naomi Seeks to Provide a Better Future for Her Daughters-in-Law

God wants us to make significant, permanent, often costly life choices for Him.

Ruth 1:19-22 – Naomi Enters Bethlehem (with Ruth) Greeted But Grieved

Circumstances that we cannot control (beyond our obedience) are controlled by God, and require us to trust Him.

Ruth 2:1-3 – Ruth Seeks to Provide, and God Works Out Details

God works through our choices of active obedience and wisdom to accomplish His will through us.

Ruth purposes to serve and provide for her mother-in-law, gleaning in the fields as allow for the poor and widows, and God works.

Ruth 2:4-17 – Boaz Rewards Ruth's Choices

Ruth works hard as a gleaner, and organized Boaz takes note and provides direction, provision, protection, and encouragement.

Ruth 2:18-23 – Ruth Returns Home from Gleaning, and Naomi Responds

Naomi begins to see the work of God amid her sufferings as He acts through the loyal, loving efforts of Ruth.

Ruth returns with a great quantity of grain and information on the field's owner. Naomi praises God for His care.

^{2:20} Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our **close relatives**." **2:20 | 3:9; 3:12 (2); 3:13 (4s) | 4:1; 4:3; 4:4 (5); 4:6 (4); 4:8; 4:14**

Ruth 3:1-5 – Naomi Guides Ruth to Approach Boaz

Naomi directs Ruth to approach Boaz with a marriage proposal based upon his kinsman-redeemer relationship (and their lengthy observation).

Ruth 3:6-18 – Ruth Approaches Boaz as Naomi Instructed

God works through the godly and biblical guidance, initiative, and obedience of His people.

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, for you are a **close relative**."

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."

^{NAU} "Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will **redeem** you, good; let him **redeem** you. But if he does not wish to **redeem** you, then I will **redeem** you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until morning."

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." ¹⁵ Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six *ephahs* of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city. ¹⁶ So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, **my daughter?**" Then she told her all that the man had done for her.

¹⁷ And she said, "These six *ephahs* of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" ¹⁸ Then she said, "Sit still, **my daughter**, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

Ruth 4:1-6 – Boaz Goes to the Gate to Secure Ruth's Future

Boaz promptly keeps his promise to pursue a Biblical solution for Ruth. When we know what we are to do, we do it, even if it means loss for us.

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**." 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**."

11/24	Ruth 4:11b-13	The Blessing of Children Spoken and Illustrated
12/1	Ruth 4:14-17	The LORD Accomplishes His Plan
12/8	Ruth 4:18-22	David's Genealogy Through Boaz
12/15	Ruth 1-4	Ruth Summary

Ruth 4:7-11a – Boaz Redeems Ruth

Boaz fulfills his duty as the closest relative and his promise to Ruth and redeems Ruth.

<p>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.</p>	<p>1. An _____ Explanation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Explains the Custom b. Suggests the Timing of the Writing of Ruth c. The Background of the Practice
<p>Deut. 25:5-10 "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be <i>married</i> to a stranger outside <i>the family</i>; 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 <i>that</i> 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 <i>if</i> 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.'</p> <p>Probably the practice of standing on land one possessed led to the custom of using the sandal as a symbol of possession in land transactions (v. 7; cf. Gen. 13:17; Deut. 1:36; 11:24; Josh. 1:3; 14:9). Most scholars believe that it was the kinsman who removed his sandal to symbolize the completion of the transaction (v. 8). (Tom Constable, <i>Ruth</i>, p. 16)</p>	
<p>⁸ Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.</p>	<p>2. The Closest Relative Removes His _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The close relative relinquishes the right (v.6) b. The close relative formally gives the right to Boaz (here)
<p>⁹ And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You <i>are</i> 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.</p> <p>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 <i>are</i> witnesses this day."</p>	<p>3. Boaz Recites the _____ Before the Witnesses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Boaz addresses the witnesses (elders, people) b. Regarding Naomi: I have purchased from her <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. All that was Elimelech's ii. All that was Chilion's and Mahlon's c. Regarding Ruth: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Her ethnic identity ii. Her marital identity iii. His formal commitment to marry Ruth ("bought") <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To perpetuate the name of the dead 2. To pass on the inheritance of the dead 3. To continue the influence of the dead d. Boaz again addresses the witnesses
<p>¹¹ And all the people who <i>were</i> at the gate, and the elders, said, "We <i>are</i> witnesses.</p>	<p>4. The Witnesses _____ the Transactions</p>

Gal 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to **redeem** those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might **redeem** us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

1 Pet 1:17-19 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.