Boaz Marries Ruth
Ruth 4

Introduction

This chapter opens with Boaz going to the city gate in order to make contact with the relative who was the "nearer kinsman" (vv. 1-2). The gate of a city was the place where the legal matter of the redemption of the field of Elimelech and raising up of his descendants had to be settled. Naomi had either sold or was being forced by want to sell the inheritance of her husband and now there was a need to keep it or bring it back into his family (Lev. 25:23-28).

The book concludes with historical information about the genealogical beginning of David, who was the great-grandson of Ruth and Boaz (vv. 18-22).

Boaz Redeems Ruth (4:1-12)

1) Who did Boaz call to be witnesses to the procedure between himself and another near kinsman of Naomi? (v. 2)

2) What caused the near kinsman who at first was perfectly willing to redeem the field of Elimelech to change his mind? (vv. 5-6) How might such a transaction have "marred" *[KJV]*, "ruined" *[NKJV]*, or "jeopardized" *[NASV]* his own inheritance?

3) How was Ruth destined to become the owner of the property of her dead father-in-law?

4) By what custom did a near kinsman in Israel relinquish his right to redeem family property to another? (vv. 7-8)

5) What did Boaz agree to do before the elders and people of the city? (vv. 9-10)

6)   What blessing did they pronounce upon Ruth? (vv. 11-12) Why do you think they especially mentioned Perez? (vv. 12, 18; 1 Chron. 2:5)

The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz (4:13-22)

7)   What blessing did Ruth's marriage and the birth of a son bring to Naomi? (vv. 14-15,17)

8)   What did the women of Bethlehem say about Ruth? (v. 15)

9)   What well-known Bible character was descended from Boaz and Ruth? (v. 22) Who was their most important descendent? (Mt. 1:1-16, esp. vv. 2-6a)

10) In summary, how does this book add to our understanding of the period of **The Judges**, and what do you think is its *major* purpose?