

Ruth 4:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.

Analysis

The women's blessing of Naomi—"Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer"—celebrates God's covenantal faithfulness through the kinsman-redeemer system. The Hebrew *go'el* (redeemer) refers to the family member responsible for protecting vulnerable relatives by redeeming land, marrying the widow (levirate marriage, Deuteronomy 25:5-10), and preserving the family line. Boaz's redemption of Ruth and Naomi's property, producing Obed (David's grandfather), demonstrates God's providential reversal: from emptiness (1:21) to fullness, from bitterness to joy, from barrenness to fruitfulness. Typologically, Boaz prefigures Christ, our kinsman-redeemer who paid the price for our redemption, taking us as His bride (the Church) and securing our eternal inheritance (Ephesians 1:7, 14).

Historical Context

The genealogy concluding Ruth (4:18-22) connects her to David, Israel's greatest king and Messianic prototype. This Moabite widow's inclusion in the royal line demonstrates God's sovereign grace transcending ethnic boundaries. The redeemer laws protected vulnerable widows in patriarchal society, showing God's covenant concern for the marginalized. Boaz's honorable conduct contrasts sharply with the judges era's typical corruption, revealing that even in dark times, God preserves godly individuals. The narrative's placement in the Hebrew canon

(among the Writings) highlights David's lineage; in Christian Bibles it transitions from Judges to Samuel, preparing for the monarchy.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Christ as my kinsman-redeemer deepen my appreciation for His incarnation and atonement?
2. In what ways can I tangibly demonstrate redemptive love toward vulnerable people in my community?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר יְהִי הָבָר וְגַם יְהִי נָעָם וְתָאָם רָבָה
said And the women unto Naomi blessed be the LORD H834
H559 H802 H413 H5281 H1288 H3068

וְאֵין אֲתָּה שָׁפֵךְ יְהִי זָמָן לְאֵין גָּאֵל
which hath not left without a kinsman thee this day may be famous H7121
H3808 H7673 H0 H1350 H3117

בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: שֵׁם
that his name in Israel H3478
H8034

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:58 (References Lord): And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

1 Corinthians 12:26 (Parallel theme): And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Genesis 12:2 (Blessing): And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

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