

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

אֶשֶׁר	יְהוָה	בָּר וְנָ	אֶל	הַנָּשִׁים	וַתֹּאמֶר רָחֵל
H834	H3068	H1288	H5281	H802	H559
unto Naomi	Blessed	be the LORD		And the women	said
וְיִקָּרֵא	הַיּוֹם	לֹא	לִי	הַשֵּׁב יָד	לֹא
H7121	H3117	H1350	H0	H7673	H3808
may be famous	thee this day	without a kinsman		which hath not left	
בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל	שְׁמוֹ				
H3478	H8034				
in Israel	that his name				

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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