

Ruth 4:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's:

Analysis

The proposition: '**And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's**'. Boaz reveals that Naomi has property rights to Elimelech's land, which she's selling (likely due to poverty necessitating liquidation). The phrase 'our brother Elimelech' emphasizes family connection and redemption responsibility. Boaz presents this first without mentioning Ruth, testing whether the kinsman will fulfill redemption duty for property alone. This strategic presentation shows wisdom in negotiations—presenting information sequentially to reveal true motivations.

Historical Context

Israelite inheritance law (Leviticus 25) forbade permanent land sales outside families. When poverty forced selling, nearest relatives had first rights and responsibility to redeem (buy back) property, keeping it within clan. Naomi's selling of Elimelech's land created redemption obligation. The land had likely been worked by others during her decade in Moab and her subsequent return. Its sale would provide resources for survival but meant losing family inheritance. The kinsman-redeemer law protected vulnerable family members while preserving tribal land allotments God had originally assigned.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the kinsman-redeemer law teach about God's design for family and community responsibility toward vulnerable members?
2. How does property redemption illustrate Christ's redemption of our lost inheritance through sin?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	לְגֵאֵל	חֶלְקֶת	מִשְׁדֵּה	אֶשֶׁר	
And he said	unto the kinsman	a parcel	of land		H834
H559	H1350	H2513	H7704		
לְאָחֵינוּ	לְאֵלִיעֶזֶר	מִכָּכָה	נָעֻמִּי	הַשָּׂרָה	
which was our brother	Elimelech's	selleth	Naomi	that is come again	
H251	H458	H4376	H5281	H7725	
מִשְׁדֵּה	מוֹאָב:				
of land	of Moab				
H7704	H4124				