

Ruth 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

Analysis

Transaction sealed: '**Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe**'. The kinsman transfers redemption rights through sandal removal, formally relinquishing claim. Boaz now legally holds exclusive redemption right. This simple act changes Ruth's fate, Naomi's future, and ultimately enables Davidic and messianic lineage. God's sovereignty works through ordinary human transactions and legal processes to accomplish extraordinary redemptive purposes. What appeared merely as property transaction becomes pivot point in redemptive history.

Historical Context

The sandal exchange before ten elders created legally binding transaction that couldn't be disputed. The kinsman's willingness to transfer rights suggests he recognized financial burden exceeded potential benefit. His loss becomes Boaz's (and Ruth's, Naomi's, and ultimately all humanity's) gain. Ancient witnesses would have understood both legal implications (property rights transferred) and social implications (marriage rights transferred), making this comprehensive transfer of all redemption responsibilities and privileges.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this transaction illustrate that our refusals or withdrawals can become God's providence for others?
2. What does the legal formality teach about God working through proper structures rather than chaotic randomness?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר
said Therefore the kinsman unto Boaz Buy it for thee
H559 H1350 H1162 H7069 H0
וְיִשְׁלַחְתָּ
So he drew off H8025

נִעְלָה:

his shoe

H5275

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