

Judges, Ruth
Ruth 1:15-17; 4:1-12, 18-21
March 1, 2023

I. Introduction

II. Judges

- A. Israel is loose confederation of tribes
- B. Dating
- C. Repeated literary cycle
 - 1. Israel forgets God and does evil
 - 2. God sends an enemy
 - 3. Israel cries to God in distress
 - 4. God sends a judge as deliverer
 - 5. Israel forgets God and does evil
- D. Downward spiral (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 12:25)
- E. God remains faithful
- F. Nineteen females as significant characters

III. Ruth

- A. Setting (1:1)
- B. Understood in terms of names
 - 1. Naomi: pleasant
 - 2. Mara: bitter
 - 3. Elimelech: my God is king
 - 4. Mahlon: sickness, Chilion: spent
 - 5. Orpah: back of the neck
 - 6. Ruth: friend
 - 7. Boaz: In Him is strength
- C. Important themes
 - 1. Redemption (and derivatives)
 - 2. Hesed/steadfast love/faithfulness
 - 3. The least as God's instruments
- D. Females: main characters, pronouns

IV. Passage: Ruth 4:1-12, 18-21

- A. The gate and the elders (4:1-2)
- B. Redemption (4:4)
- C. Levirate marriage (4:5; Deut. 25:5)
- D. The transaction (4:9-10)
- E. Blessing (4:11)
- F. Significance of a genealogy (4:21-22)

V. What else is applicable for us?

VI. LET US PRAY!

Next time: March 15 1 and 2 Samuel

Ruth 1 :15-17

So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

Ruth 4:1-12, 18-21

No sooner had Boaz gone up to the gate and sat down there than the next-of-kin^[a] of whom Boaz had spoken came passing by. So Boaz said, “Come over;^[b] sit down here.” And he went over and sat down. ² Then Boaz took ten men of the elders of the town and said, “Sit down here,” so they sat down. ³ He then said to the next-of-kin,^[c] “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our kinsman Elimelech. ⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and say: Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you^[d] will not, tell me, so that I may know; for there is no one prior to you to redeem it, and I come after you.” So he said, “I will redeem it.” ⁵ Then Boaz said, “The day you acquire the field from the hand of Naomi, you are also acquiring Ruth^[e] the Moabite, the widow of the dead man, to maintain the dead man’s name on his inheritance.” ⁶ At this, the next-of-kin^[f] said, “I cannot redeem it for myself without damaging my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”

Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging to confirm a transaction: the one took off a sandal and gave it to the other; this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸ So when the next-of-kin^[g] said to Boaz, “Acquire it for yourself,” he took off his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses today that I have acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain the dead man’s name on his inheritance, in order that the name of the dead may not be cut off from his kindred and from the gate of his native place; today you are witnesses.” ¹¹ Then all the people who were at the gate, along with the elders, said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you produce children^[h] in Ephrathah and bestow a name in Bethlehem; ¹² and, through the children that the LORD will give you by this young woman, may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.” . . .

¹⁸ Now these are the descendants of Perez: Perez became the father of Hezron, ¹⁹ Hezron of Ram, Ram of Amminadab, ²⁰ Amminadab of Nahshon, Nahshon of Salmon,^[i] ²¹ Salmon of Boaz, Boaz of Obed, ²² Obed of Jesse, and Jesse of David.