

Truth and Consequences (Part 2)

0613Ru4.3-8(15)

Ruth 4:3-8

1 Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there, and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz spoke was passing by, so he said, "Turn aside, friend, sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. 3 Then he said to the closest relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the land of Moab, has to sell the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. 4 "So I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it before those who are sitting here, and before the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if not, tell me that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it." 5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of the deceased, in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance." 6 And the closest relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I jeopardize my own inheritance. Redeem it for yourself; you may have my right of redemption, for I cannot redeem it." 7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning the redemption and

the exchange of land to confirm any matter: a man removed his sandal and gave it to another; and this was the manner of attestation in Israel. 8 So the closest relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." And he removed his sandal. 9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses today that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon. 10 "Moreover, I have acquired Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, to be my wife in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance, so that the name of the deceased may not be cut off from his brothers or from the court of his birth place; you are witnesses today." 11 And all the people who were in the court, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel; and may you achieve wealth in Ephrathah and become famous in Bethlehem. 12 "Moreover, may your house be like the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah, through the offspring which the Lord shall give you by this young woman." – Ruth 4:1–12 (NASB)

The Passage is Also Found on Page 200 of the Old Testament Section of the Pew Bibles

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| I. Act One: The Royal Line with Hope in Ruin (1:1-22)
II. Act Two: The Royal Line with Hope Renewed (2:1-23)
III. Act Three: The Royal Line with Hope at Risk (3:1-18)
IV. Act Four: The Royal Line with Hope Restored (4:1-17) |
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IV. Act Four: The Royal Line with Hope Restored (4:1-17)

A. Scene One: Resolving Legal Matters (vv. 1-12)

1. Trusting in a Sovereign Loving God Who Controls the Hearts of Men

a. God is Glorified When We Follow Through and Follow the Rules (1-2)

b. God is Glorified When We Are a People of Integrity (3-4)

(1) Didn't Naomi know about this nearer relative?

(2) What about this field?

c. God is Glorified When We Are People of Wisdom (5)

(1) Boaz is following the Law as outlined in Deut. 25

5 “When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be married outside the family to a strange man. Her husband’s brother shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. 6 “It shall be that the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

7 “But if the man does not desire to take his brother’s wife, then his brother’s wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to establish a name for his brother in Israel; he is not willing to perform the duty of a husband’s brother to me.’ 8 “Then the elders of his city shall summon him and speak to him. And if he persists and says, ‘I do not desire to take her,’ 9 then his brother’s wife shall come to him in the sight of the elders, and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face; and she shall declare, ‘Thus it is done to the man who does not build up his brother’s house.’ 10 “In Israel his name shall be called, ‘The house of him whose sandal is removed.’ [NASB]

d. God is Glorified When We Trust Him Regardless of the Consequences (6-8)

(1) Why does he change his mind at this point (v. 6)?

Some background information on land within Israel

In Israel land was everything. They left Egypt to inherit the promised "land." Even within families land was important. You never wanted to lose the land of your inheritance. There was a provision in the Law (outlined in the book of Leviticus) that guaranteed this wouldn't happen: Year of Jubilee.

The Year of Jubilee was celebrated every _____th year in Israel.

During this year of joy and liberation the law stipulated three respects in which the land and people were to be sanctified:

- (1) The land and the people were to _____.
- (2) Every Israelite who had _____ himself into _____ was to be freed.
- (3) All land that had changed hands was to revert to the original owner.

Verse 4 and the concept of the "go'el" (kinsman-redeemer)