

2-5-2026

Boaz, Naomi, and Ruth - Our Kinsman-Redeemer

Opening Prayer:

**Heavenly Father,
We come before You humbly, thankful
for Your Word which is living and active.
As we open the book of Ruth today, we
ask that Your Holy Spirit would open our
hearts and minds. Reveal Jesus Christ
to us in this beautiful story of
redemption. Encourage the weary,
restore the broken, and draw the lost to
salvation. May Your Word bear fruit in
our lives for Your glory alone.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Introduction: God at Work in Ordinary Lives

The book of Ruth is only four chapters long, yet it is one of the most powerful pictures of **redemption, grace, loyalty, and the love of God** found anywhere in Scripture.

At first glance, Ruth appears to be a simple love story. But when read carefully, we discover something much greater:

 **It is a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ and His redeeming work for sinners.**

Ruth answers some deep questions:

- Can God redeem loss?
- Can God restore broken families?
- Can outsiders be brought into God's covenant?

- . Can grace overcome famine, failure, and death?

And the answer is clearly... **yes.**

Historical Background ... The Days of the Judges

Ruth 1:1 (NIV) In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab.

👉 “In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land...”

This sets the tone. The book of Ruth takes place during one of the **darkest spiritual periods in Israel’s history.**

Judges ends with:

Judges 21:25 NIV²⁵ In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Spiritually speaking:

- . Israel was rebellious
- . Leadership was unstable
- . Morality was collapsing

And famine followed...often a sign of **spiritual drought** in Scripture.

Naomi From Fullness to Emptiness:

Ruth 1:2–5 (NIV) ² The man's name was Elimelek,  eh-LEE-meh-lek his wife's name was Naomi,  nay-OH-mee and the names of his two sons were Mahlon  MAH-lon and Kilion  KIL-ee-on. They were Ephrathites  EF-ruh-thyts from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

³ Now Elimelek,  eh-LEE-meh-lek Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon  MAH-lon and Kilion  KIL-ee-on also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

In **Ruth 1:2**, when Scripture says Elimelek and his family were “**Ephrathites**”,

👉 **EF-ruh-thyts** it’s telling us **where they were from and what clan they belonged to.**

1. What is an *Ephrathite*? 👉 EF-ruh-thyts

An **Ephrathite** 👉 **EF-ruh-thyts** is:

- A native of **Ephrathah** 👉 **EF-ruh-thuh**
- Which is another ancient name for **Bethlehem** in the region of **Judah**

So “Ephrathites 👉 **EF-ruh-thyts** from Bethlehem, Judah” means:

They were long-established families from Bethlehem, not outsiders or recent settlers.

This signals **heritage, land connection, and covenant identity.**

2. Where does the name *Ephrathah*

👉 EF-ruh-thuh come from?

Ephrathah (or Ephrath) is an **older name** for Bethlehem and appears throughout the Old Testament:

- ***Genesis 35:19 (NIV)*** ¹⁹ ***So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).***
- ***Micah 5:2 (NIV)*** ***“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah...”***
- ***Psalms 132:6 (NIV)*** ***“We heard it in Ephrathah...”***

The name **Ephrathah** 👉 EF-ruh-thuh likely means:

“fruitful” or “place of abundance”

That’s important....Bethlehem itself means **“house of bread.”**

3. Why this matters in the Book of Ruth:

By calling them **Ephrathites**, 👉 **EF-ruh-thyts** the writer of **Book of Ruth** is making a theological point:

- This family **belonged in the land**
- They had **covenant rights and inheritance**
- Yet famine drove them **away from the House of Bread**

That tension sets up the whole story:

- Leaving Bethlehem → loss and death
- Returning to Bethlehem → redemption and life

And from **these Ephrathites**

👉 **EF-ruh-thyts** would eventually come **David**, and ultimately **Jesus Christ**.

Note: This is recorded in Matthew Chp 1
“The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah”

In simple terms

Ephrathites 🖐️ **EF-ruh-thyts** =

An old, respected Bethlehem family line from Judah....deeply rooted in God's covenant promises.

Elimelek 🖐️ **eh-LEE-meh-lek** takes his wife Naomi and their two sons from Bethlehem (“House of Bread”) to Moab... enemy territory.

There:

- **Elimelek** 🖐️ **eh-LEE-meh-lek** dies
- Both sons die
- Naomi is left with two Moabite daughters-in-law

Naomi's story teaches us something painful but honest:

👉 Leaving God's provision always leads to loss.

Ruth 1:20–21 (NIV) ²⁰ “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

Naomi means *pleasant*

Mara means *bitter*

She feels:

- Empty
- Forgotten
- Judged

Yet God is still working....even when she cannot see it.

Ruth - Grace for the Outsider:

Ruth is a **Moabite**, a people group historically hostile to Israel and excluded from the assembly (**Deuteronomy 23:3**³ **No Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, not even in the tenth generation.**).

Yet Ruth makes one of the greatest faith confessions in Scripture:

Ruth 1:16-17 (NIV) ¹⁶ **But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."**

This is **transformation language**.

Ruth turns:

- From idols to the true God
- From her past to God's promises

👉 Ruth represents **the Gentile believer**, brought near by faith.

God's Divine Intervention - "As It Turned Out"

Ruth 2:1–3 (NIV) Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek,

👉 eh-LEE-meh-lek ***whose name was Boaz.***

² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."

Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.”³ So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

👉 eh-LEE-meh-lek

There is no such thing as coincidence with God.

Ruth just *happens* to land in Boaz’s field.....
But God has been arranging redemption all along.

Boaz - The Kinsman-Redeemer:

Ruth 2:1 (NIV) Now Naomi had a relative on her husband’s side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek,

👉 eh-LEE-meh-lek whose name was Boaz.

“Boaz... a man of standing”

Boaz is introduced as:

- . Wealthy
- . Righteous
- . Compassionate
- . A near relative

This matters because of the **kinsman-redeemer law** (Leviticus 25).

A redeemer had to:

1. Be a **near relative**
2. Be **willing**
3. Be **able** to pay the price

Boaz as a Type of Christ:

Boaz is a **type of Christ**...a foreshadowing.

Boaz

Near relative

Jesus Christ

God became flesh

Boaz

Willing redeemer
Able to redeem
Redeems a Gentile
bride
Provides protection
Restores inheritance

Jesus Christ

“I lay down my
life”
Paid in full
Saves all nations
Our refuge
Gives eternal life

Grace, Not Law

Ruth 2:8–9 (NIV) ⁸ So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. ⁹ Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.”

Boaz goes far beyond the law:

- . Protection
- . Provision
- . Favor

Ruth responds in humility:

Ruth 2:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?”

 ***“Why have I found such favor...?”***

That is the response of anyone who truly understands **grace**.

Redemption at the Threshing Floor:

Ruth approaches Boaz at the threshing floor...symbolically:

- . A place of separation
- . A place of decision

Ruth 3:9 (NIV) ⁹ “Who are you?” he asked.

“I am your servant Ruth,” she said.

“Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family.”

👉 “Spread the corner of your garment over me...”

This is a request for **redemption**.

Boaz does not take advantage.

He responds in righteousness.

The Legal Redemption:

Ruth 4:6 (NIV) ⁶ At this, the guardian-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.”

The nearer redeemer refuses....he cannot pay the price.

👉 The law **cannot** redeem.

👉 Only grace can.

Since the “nearer redeemer” refuses to take Naomi and Ruth in fear of messing up his estate... “Boaz” steps forward who is next in line to legally redeem Ruth though Naomi.

Restoration Beyond Expectation:

Ruth marries Boaz.

They have a son...**Obed.**

Ruth 4:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

And from David comes **Jesus Christ**.

What began in famine ends in **Messiah**.

The Gospel in Ruth:

- Naomi = Israel, empty but not abandoned
- Ruth = the sinner, saved by grace
- Boaz = Christ, the Redeemer

This story whispers what the New Testament shouts:

Romans 5:8 (NIV) ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Closing InvitationCome to the Redeemer:

Just like Ruth:

- . You may feel like an outsider
- . You may feel unworthy
- . You may feel empty

But Jesus Christ is our **Kinsman-Redeemer**.

He became flesh.

He paid the price.

He invites you into His family.

John 1:12 (NIV) ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

Prayer of Salvation:

If you do not know Jesus Christ today, you can come to Him right now.

Pray from your heart:

Lord Jesus,

I know I am a sinner and cannot save myself.

I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again.

I turn from my old life and place my trust in You alone.

Be my Redeemer, my Lord, and my Savior.

I receive Your grace and Your forgiveness.

Make me a new creation.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Let us close in Prayer:

**Father God, thank You for Your redeeming love. Thank You that You restore what sin has broken and bring life out of death. Seal Your Word in our hearts. Strengthen Your people and draw the lost to Yourself. May we live as redeemed people, walking in humility, faith, and obedience.
In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.**