

# Ruth 4:11-22

## God's hand in our redemption

### *Intro*

Re-read Ruth 4 in its entirety. Answer the following questions on verses 13-17.

1. Look closely at the women's song of praise in verses 14-15.
  - i. Who is the goel or kinsman-redeemer referred to in these verses?
  - ii. According to the women, what will this goel do?
  - iii. What do you think the women might mean when they say Ruth was "better to [Naomi] than seven sons?"
  - iv. In what way were the women speaking prophetically to future generations?



## *The Significance of a Son*

2. The name Obed means “servant” or “worshipper” and is probably a shortened form of the name Obadiah, “servant/worshipper of the LORD.”
  - i. What is the connection between the child’s name and the role he fulfilled as he grew older? In what ways did Obed prefigure Christ?
  - ii. Ponder this seemingly obvious question: Whose son was Obed? Explain your answer.
  
3. The story of Ruth has a structure commonly known as a chiasm. See one explanation below:

A Naomi is emptied (Ruth 1:1-5).

Story begins in the days of the judges.  
Death of Naomi’s husband and sons.  
No future for the family.  
Ten years end in tragedy.

B The hopeless widows return to Bethlehem (Ruth 1:6-22).

Orpah lacks *hesed* (faithful love) and departs.  
Naomi and Ruth are committed.

C A temporary solution for the family (Ruth 2:1-23).

Beginning of the barley harvest.  
Ruth leaves Naomi to glean in the fields of Boaz.  
Ruth requests permission to glean.  
Boaz demonstrates *hesed* to Ruth.  
Ruth returns to Naomi with grain.  
The LORD shows present *hesed* to the family through Boaz.

\*\* CENTRAL FOCUS OF CHIASM \*\*

The LORD promises future *hesed* to the family through Boaz.

C' A lasting solution for the family (Ruth 3:1-18).

End of the wheat harvest.  
Ruth leaves Naomi to meet Boaz at the threshing floor.  
Ruth requests marriage and redemption.  
Boaz demonstrates *hesed* to Ruth.  
Ruth returns to Naomi with grain.

B' The hopeful widows are taken care of in Bethlehem (Ruth 4:1-12).

The nearer kinsman-redeemer lacks *hesed* and departs.  
Boaz and Ruth are committed.

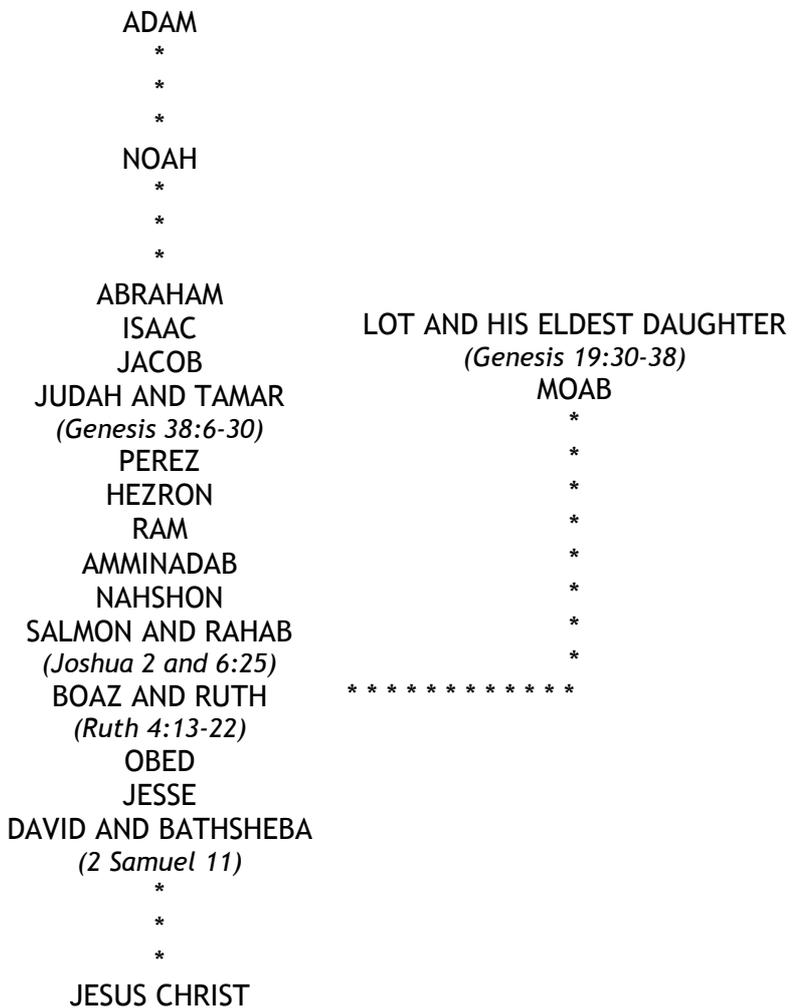
A' Naomi is filled (Ruth 4:13-22).

Story ends with David.  
Birth of Obed.  
Great future for the family.  
Ten generations end in triumph.

- i. Examine the chiasmic structure of the book of Ruth suggested above. Using examples from the text, describe how the four chapters of Ruth tell the story of the emptying and filling of Naomi.

***The genealogy of David***

- 4. The genealogies preserved in the book of Genesis are called *toledoth* in Hebrew (often translated in English versions of the Bible as “generations” or “account”). Genesis is in fact divided into ten distinct *toledoth* (Genesis 2:4, 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10, 11:27, 25:12, 25:19, 36:1, and 37:2). This same word is used in Ruth 4:18 where it is translated by the NIV as “family line.” Study the genealogies that begin in Genesis 5:1, Genesis 11:10, and Ruth 4:18. Read Genesis 3:15.
  - i. Based on Gen. 3:15, what is the purpose of the detailed genealogical records preserved in Genesis?
  - ii. What is the purpose of the genealogy at the end of the book of Ruth?
  - iii. Look over the genealogy of Christ recorded in Matthew 1. What is the connection between Matthew’s genealogy and the one that concludes the book of Ruth?



5. The table below, like the one in Question 135, illustrates some of the typological parallels between Boaz and Christ. Read the scriptural references and write a brief statement that summarizes the theological principle typified by Boaz and fulfilled by Christ.

<i>Boaz</i>	<i>Christ</i>	<i>Theological Principle</i>
Ruth 4:11a	1 Peter 2:5	
Ruth 4:11b	Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 5:12	
Ruth 4:12a	1 Corinthians 1:26-31	
Ruth 4:12b	Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14	

6. Let us conclude this study of Ruth with a final consideration of the concepts of the goel (the kinsman-redeemer) and redemption. Read the passages below. Explain what they teach us about Christ, our divine goel, and His work of redemption on our behalf. Show how these passages might also connect to the narrative of the book of Ruth.
- a. Isaiah 54:4-8.
  - b. Job 19:25-27.
  - c. Titus 2:11-14.
  - d. Hosea 13:14.
  - e. John 1:29.
  - f. Psalm 71:22-23.