Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let’s pray…

[Rth 4:1-22 NKJV] 1 Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came 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 close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which [belonged] to our brother Elimelech. 4 "And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy [it] back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem [it], redeem [it]; but if you will not redeem [it, then] tell me, that I may know; for [there is] no one but you to redeem [it], and I

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[am] next 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 buy [it] from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance." 6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem [it] for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem [it]." 7 Now this [was the custom] in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave [it] to the other, and this [was] a confirmation in Israel. 8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy [it] for yourself." So he took off his sandal. 9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You [are] witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that [was] Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 "Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow

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of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You [are] witnesses this day." 11 And all the people who [were] at the gate, and the elders, said, "[We are] witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. 12 "May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman." 13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed [be] the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! 15 "And may he be to you a restorer

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of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. 17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He [is] the father of Jesse, the father of David. 18 Now this [is] the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; 19 Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; 20 Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; 21 Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; 22 Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

So, it has been about three weeks since we last looked at the book of Ruth.

We saw the video last week and the week before got canceled because I was on a jury.

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So let me refresh your memory of where we are at.

In chapter three, on the advice of Naomi, Ruth fixes herself up and heads to the fields to meet Boaz and let him know that she wants him to redeem her.

She does this after Naomi realizes that Boaz is in fact a kinsman, a close relative, who has already shown favor or grace toward Ruth, he is also indeed capable of redeeming Ruth.

So, we saw Ruth head out to where Boaz and the rest of his servants were winnowing barley at the threshing floor.

She waited for Boaz to finish his dinner and fall asleep and she sneaks underneath his blankets and curls up next to his feet.

Boaz wakes up in the middle of the night and finds Ruth at his feet and that is when Ruth declares that she wants Boaz to be her kinsmen redeemer.

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[Rth 3:9 NKJV] 9 And he said, "Who [are] you?" So she answered, "I [am] Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

And I mentioned that in those days, taking your maidservant under your wing or covering her with your cloak was very similar to what an engagement ring is today.

However, Boaz also declares to Ruth that yes, he is a close relative – however, there is a relative that is closer to Ruth – according to Jewish law, this other person has first right on redeeming Ruth.

And that is when Boaz tells Ruth that in the morning, he is going to see if that close relative will redeem her and if he will not, Boaz is more than willing to redeem Ruth.

So it will be a win – win situation for Ruth.

That is where we find ourselves at the start of Chapter 4.

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[Rth 4:1 NKJV] 1 Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

During those days, every city was surrounded by walls. That is how they kept protected themselves from invading armies and those that wished to do them harm.

The gate was not only the access point to the city, it was the place where business was conducted,

it was at the gate where trials were held and it was a place where the elders hung out.

Now, here in verse one, we are also introduced to the other kinsmen – the one that had first dibs on Ruth.

What is his name???

Notice it doesn't say. He is nameless.

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The scriptures only refer to him as close relative or friend.

Keep that in mind as we go on.

I am pretty sure that Boaz knew his name.

[Rth 4:2 NKJV] 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

Boaz as we have seen throughout the book of Ruth, he is a godly man, a man of character.

We have seen this through the way he treated Ruth, through the way he treated his own servants – remember in chapter two as he walks onto his field, he tells his reapers , “the Lord be with you and they responded with the Lord bless you”

Boaz wants to take care of this matter the right way.

He is not going to cut corners and take Ruth to Vegas in the middle of the night to get married.

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He wants to make sure that it is done according to God's will.

So here he brings these 10 guys as witnesses.

According to Jewish law, he only needed two or three, yet here he brings 10.

[Rth 4:3-4 NKJV] 3 Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which [belonged] to our brother Elimelech. 4 "And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy [it] back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem [it], redeem [it]; but if you will not redeem [it, then] tell me, that I may know; for [there is] no one but you to redeem [it], and I [am] next after you.' " And he said, "I will redeem [it]."

So Boaz cuts to the chase – you have first dibs in being the redeemer, if you don't want to redeem, I will gladly do it.

He first brings up the land issue.

Naomi had leased her land out. Remember, God didn't allow them to sell their land because it wasn't theirs in the first place it all belonged to God.

The only way she was going to get it back was to wait for the year of jubilee – or have someone pay off the lease.

The close relative is on board with the redeeming of the land, remember Naomi can't have any more children, when she dies that property will be added to in heritance of the close relative.

[Rth 4:5-6 NKJV] 5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy [it] from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance." 6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem [it] for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem [it]."

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The redeemer not only had the right to redeem the property, but also an obligation to take care of the family.

That is what we read in Deut 25 a few weeks ago.

If they refused to meet their obligation, the law said he would be spat upon for refusing to meet his obligations.

The close relative on hearing that Ruth was part of the package says – no way. I cannot do it.

I asked you to underline, lest I ruin my own inheritance – you see, he is worried that the redemption of Ruth is going to ruin his name when, in fact, he is already nameless.

Now, why did he refuse to redeem Ruth.

- She was a Moabite – what will people say if he is married to a Moabite.

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- Any children through Ruth would have meant that his inheritance to his children – if he had any, would now be divided with any offspring he might have with Ruth.

I made the point a few weeks ago that this closer relative is a picture of the law.

The Law of Moses was never intended to redeem us - Because we are incapable of adhering to the law because of our human nature.

Jesus made the point that we have already violated the law by simply being angry toward our brothers – that is murder.

You have already committed adultery if you lusted after someone who is not your wife or husband.

You see church, the purpose of the Law was to point us to Jesus Christ.

To show us that we in fact, do need a redeemer.

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And apostle Paul points this out in the book of Romans.

Romans 8.

[Rom 8:1-4 NKJV] 1 [There is] therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God [did] by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

You see church, the law could not defeat sin; it could only detect sin. Only Jesus can defeat sin, and He did just that through His work on the cross.

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[Rth 4:7-8 NKJV] 7 Now this [was the custom] in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave [it] to the other, and this [was] a confirmation in Israel. 8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy [it] for yourself." So he took off his sandal.

The custom of removing the sandal probably relates to God's commandment to walk on the land and take possession.

We are going to see this on Sunday as we start the book of Joshua.

One of the commands that God gives Joshua is ““Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you,”

Removing the sandal indicated a refusal to "walk" on the land that was being offered.

[Rth 4:9-10 NKJV] 9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You [are] witnesses this day that I have bought all

that was Elimelech's, and all that [was] Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 "Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You [are] witnesses this day."

In years to come the ten witnesses would be able to testify that the transaction had been completed because they saw the nearer kinsman hand his sandal to Boaz.

He had forfeited his rights under the law to walk in the land of Elimilech.

And because of his refusal to meet his obligation, Boaz was now free to act as kinsman-redeemer and marry his beloved Ruth.

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Now, in chapter three it was Ruth that chose Boaz to be her redeemer and here in chapter 4, we see Boaz has chosen to redeem Ruth.

Ruth could not be redeemed unless Boaz chose to redeem her.

And also it was up to Ruth's free will to decide if she was going to allow Boaz to redeem her.

Church, this is the way it works for you and me.

We see God choosing us -

[Eph 1:3-6 NKJV] 3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ, 4 <u>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world</u>, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of

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the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

And then we see that God gave us free will to choose Him.

[Jhn 1:12 NKJV] 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

[Rth 4:11-12 NKJV] 11 And all the people who [were] at the gate, and the elders, said, "[We are] witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. 12 "May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."

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What we have here in verse 11 and 12 is the people and elders that witnessed the transaction are now offering a blessing upon Boaz and Ruth.

And there is a reason that these two examples are provides.

Rachel and Leah – we just read the account of their rivalry with one another. Jacob loved Rachel however; Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah so Jacob had to work another seven years for Rachel.

And we know how they tried to compete against each other in giving sons to Jacob. In fact, that is how Rachel dies – giving birth to Benjamin.

However, despite the chaos that occurred, God was able to turn their envy of one another and use it for His purpose – the birth of the nation of Israel.

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The same thing with Tamar and Judah, Judah did not want to give his youngest son to Tamar and he eventually sleeps with his daughter-in-law and she gives birth to Perez. It was a loveless relationship that again God used for His purpose as through Perez, we have the lineage leading up to Boaz.

You see the people saw fingerprint of God working in the lives of Boaz and Ruth.

[Rth 4:13 NKJV] 13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

The Lord blessed Boaz and Ruth, notice that it was the Lord who gave her conception.

Over and over again in scriptures we see the Lord close the womb of certain women. Sarah, Rachel, Hannah in 1 Samuel, Elizabeth – and it was all for His purpose.

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Think about poor Rachel struggling to have children, it wasn't until Joseph was born, but before Joseph was born, God had to put all the pieces together so that Joseph would be able serve His purpose.

[Rth 4:14-17 NKJV] 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed [be] the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! 15 "And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. 17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He [is] the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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These people sure know how to pronounce a blessing; the oldest becomes a blessing to Israel as Obed is the grandfather to King David.

A Moabite in the lineage of not only King David but our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our redeemer.

It is important to note the restoration that we find in the life of Naomi. Remember at the end of chapter one, she was telling the people to not call her pleasant to call her bitterness(Mara), because the Lord had brought her home empty handed and had testified against her and afflicted her.

However, we saw her get right with God, and we see the tremendous blessing that was bestowed upon her at the end.

We should learn that God's plan is perfect and filled with love, and even when we can't figure out what He is doing and it all seems so desperate, He still knows what He is doing.

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There is a chapter 4 waiting for us in His perfect plan.

Amen.

Let’s pray…