

(2:1) – “And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.” Naomi and Ruth were poor and destitute and in dire need of redemption which they had no power or means to redeem themselves. This is a picture of our situation as fallen in Adam into sin, depravity, and spiritual death. By nature we have no power, no will, and no goodness to redeem or save ourselves from our sin. And, like Naomi and Ruth, in order to be redeemed, we must find a man who is: (1) a near kinsman, (2) a man of wealth who is able to pay the price of our redemption, and (3) a man who is willing to pay that price. Boaz, who was a kinsman of Naomi's and Ruth's from the family of Elimelech, was **“a mighty man of wealth”** who could redeem them if he were willing to do so. Boaz comes forth here as a type of the Lord Jesus Christ Who is the near-Kinsman of all of God's children. Christ is our near-Kinsman by the election and adoption of grace. Before the world was created, God chose a people to save by His grace and for His glory. He chose and adopted them into His family and gave them to His Son **(Eph. 1:3-7)**. Christ is the ultimate and supreme **“mighty man of wealth”** in that He took into union with His nature of deity a sinless humanity that enabled Him to pay the full price of our redemption **(Php. 2:5-10; Heb. 2:14-17; 10:14)**. As our Kinsman-Redeemer, Christ provided all that is necessary – perfect righteousness, blood atonement, and infinite worth – to secure our complete redemption unto glory forever and ever **(Col. 2:9-10)**.

(2:2) – “And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.” Ruth was humbled by God to see her need of grace. Ruth found grace in the eyes of the LORD. It is by the grace of God that Ruth saw her need to seek out Boaz in his fields. We know that God has chosen a people to save, and He saves them according to His sovereign power, grace, and mercy **(Rom. 9:15-18)**. But God has also sovereignly determined the means by which He saves them on the ground of the obedience unto death of the Lord Jesus Christ (His blood and righteousness for their redemption), and by means of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel message whereby He causes them to seek Him in His Gospel fields wherein He reveals the way of salvation by His grace that reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ the Lord **(Rom. 1:16-17; 5:21; 10:13-17)**. He brings them under the Gospel message, gives them spiritual life, faith in Christ, repentance from dead works and idolatry, and perseverance in faith **(John 6:37-45)**.

(2:3) “And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.” Ruth did not know exactly where to go to gather barley on

Boaz's field, but she "happened" to go to a part of the field belonging to Boaz. This was no accident or act of "luck." This was God's divine providence, as He had purposed and determined before the foundation of the world, to place Ruth exactly where she needed to be. This is the one true God Who works all things after the counsel of His own will (**Eph. 1:11; cf. Rom. 8:28**). This is how the Lord brings His people unto Himself. He puts them in His field of Gospel truth and makes it effectual to their salvation

(2:4-7) – "Boaz came from Bethlehem" – In His humanity, Christ came from Bethlehem as it was prophesied He would (**Micah 5:2**). Boaz was not only a mighty man of wealth but also a man respected by his servants. This also pictures our Lord and Savior Who is worshiped by His servants all who honor and respect Him as our ALL in salvation and glory. Boaz asked, "**Whose damsel is this?**" Boaz took notice of Ruth and asked who she was. Christ always takes notice of His people whom He came to redeem, but He has always known who and where they are. Their names were written on His heart and mind before the world began. Boaz's servant told him that she was Ruth, the Moabitess who returned from Moab with Naomi and that she asked to glean from Boaz's field.

(2:8-9) – Boaz then spoke directly to Ruth and assured her that she would find food and that she would be protected. He told her, "**Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens**" – There is only one true Gospel field of truth, and all others are full of poison plants that will kill sinners (**Gal. 1:3-6**). The owner of another field would not have been Naomi's and Ruth's near-kinsman and could not redeem them according to the law. Salvation by God's grace, conditioned on Christ alone, and salvation by works, conditioned on sinners will not mix (**Rom. 11:5-6; Eph. 2:8-9**). As Boaz told Ruth, "**Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them,**" we are commanded by Christ to fix our eyes upon Him for our whole salvation. He is the only Savior appointed by the Father to save us (**Psa. 110**); He is the only mighty Man of wealth Who is able to save us (**2 Tim. 1:12**); and He is the only one Who is willing to save us and keep us from falling. (**Heb. 12:2**).