

(4:9-10) – Now Boaz declared before **“the elders, and unto all the people”** as witnesses, that he had **“bought all that was Elimelech’s”** and his sons, legally sealing the transaction for Naomi, and that he had purchased **“Ruth the Moabitess”** for his wife. In doing the work of a kinsman-redeemer, Boaz had preserved both the property and posterity that Elimelech had lost – **“to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.”** This is what Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer, has done for all of God’s elect, chosen and given to Him by the Father before the world began, and for whom He stood as Surety, Substitute, Redeemer, and Preserver. It is by His merits, His righteousness imputed, that all of God’s people are justified, and it is from Him that they are given and receive life from the dead and all blessings of grace and eternal glory.

(4:11) – The people bore witness to Boaz taking on the responsibility of a kinsman-redeemer and prayed that **“the LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel.”** As you know, Rachel and Leah were the wives of Jacob. Rachel is named first and had been barren for many years before she bore children. Similarly, Ruth had been barren in Moab. The witnesses expressed their prayer that Boaz would be rewarded with a family comparable to that of Jacob (or Israel). Why does it say Rachel and Leah built the house of Israel? It is because they were Jacob’s wives and between them and their two handmaids, they bore all of his sons. From this union would come Israel’s greatest kings including David and mainly the eternal King, the Lord Jesus Christ as to His sinless human nature **(Rom. 1:1-4)**.

“And do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem.” The town of Bethlehem gives us an obvious reference to the place where Jesus was born and connects all of these events to the prophecies of Him as the Messiah. Ephratah was another name for Bethlehem. As Bethlehem means “house of bread,” Ephratah means “fruitful.” The people wanted Ruth to be fruitful and famous and bring honor to their little town. It was the place where Rachel was buried **(Gen. 35:19)**, but more importantly, it would be the place where Jesus Christ, the true Kinsman-Redeemer, would be (and was) born.

(4:12) – **“Pharez”** (or Perez) was one of the sons of Judah through an illicit affair with his daughter-in-law, Tamar **(Gen. 38:27-30)**. Perez’s twin brother was Zerah. In the biblical genealogies, Perez is listed as an ancestor of King David and of Jesus Christ. Both Tamar and Judah sinned in their immoral union, but God overruled their sinfulness to bring about the birth of Jesus Christ through their bloodline **(Matt. 1:3; Luke 3:33)**.

The Messiah, our Kinsman-Redeemer, is called Lion of the Tribe of Judah (**Rev. 5:5**), having descended from Judah through Perez.

(4:13-15) – The LORD blessed Boaz and Ruth with a son, and the women recognized that Naomi, who had asked earlier to be called “Mara” (bitter), was now blessed by the LORD **“that HIS NAME may be famous in Israel.”** This is what Christ has done for His people by His grace and power as our Kinsman-Redeemer. All who are in Christ are blessed with ALL spiritual blessings because of His work of redeeming us by His blood (**Eph. 1:3**). All of this great salvation is that HIS NAME is glorified. As Boaz was to Naomi **“a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age,”** the Lord Jesus Christ is the Restorer of the spiritual and eternal life of His people and a Nourisher of their old age for all whom He performed the work as their Kinsman-Redeemer.

(4:16-17) – Naomi loved the child **“and became nurse unto it.”** **“And the women her neighbours gave it 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.”** We know that David had a descendant named JESUS (**Rom. 1:1-4**).

(4:18-22) – The Book of Ruth closes with a listing of the genealogy of Jesus Christ in His human body and soul, beginning with **“Pharez”** and ending with **“David.”** What we see here is God working **“all things after the counsel of His own will”** (**Eph. 1:11**). As one writer described it –

“God’s hand is all over history. God works out His purpose, generation after generation. Limited as we are to one lifetime, each of us sees so little of what happens. A genealogy is a striking way of bringing before us the continuity of God’s purpose through the ages. The process of history is not haphazard. There is a purpose in it all. And the purpose is the purpose of God.”

Naomi’s return to Bethlehem, and the roots of David in Bethlehem, going back to Ruth and Boaz, are why Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem to register in the census of Augustus (**Luke 2:1-5**). Ruth and Boaz are the reason why Jesus was born in Bethlehem! But the consideration of Jesus Christ in this book of Ruth does not begin with the mention of King David. Christ Jesus has been through the whole book, pictured by Boaz and the office of the kinsman-redeemer. And the kinsman-redeemer had to be a family member. Jesus Christ added sinless humanity to His eternal deity, so He could be our kinsman and save us (**John 1:14; Heb. 2:14-18**). Those who deny His sinless humanity deny also this great redemption that He accomplished for us as God and man in one glorious Person!