

“There is a Redeemer”

8. The Book of Ruth – Ruth 4:1-11a

Purpose: The students will learn how Boaz redeemed Ruth

Recap: (Write “There is a Redeemer”- the title of this series, on the board) We are reading the book of Ruth in the Old Testament for Bible time. These Bible times are called “There is a Redeemer” because Ruth had a redeemer, and we have a redeemer. Who is our redeemer? (Jesus Christ) What does “redeem” mean? (to buy back)

Last week in Bible time what happened in our story? (Ruth asked Boaz to marry her! She washed and dressed nicely. Then she went where he was. He was threshing barley. When he fell asleep, she lifted his skirt and lay down at his feet. When he noticed her, she said “cover me with your skirt, because you are a redeemer.” There was one problem. Another man was a closer redeemer. Boaz wants to marry Ruth. He sent her home with a large amount of barley.)

Introduction:

Last week we saw an unusual custom in Israel. We saw how a woman would ask a man to marry her. She lifted his skirt and lay down at his feet. She said, “cover me with your skirt, because you are a redeemer.”

Today we will learn about another one of Israel’s customs. This custom was used when a man sold land. It is not God’s law. It was a custom in Israel.

Another custom was “sitting in the gate.” The gate was the door to the town. Each town had a big wall around it. The wall was for protection. The wall kept enemies out. **The gate of the town was an important place in the town. People met here to buy and sell things. They also met to agree things in the \*Law.** (sic) The gate was a good place to wait for someone. In the beginning of today’s story, Boaz goes to the gate to wait for the other redeemer.

Question:

What is the custom about selling land? (the man who is selling the land takes off his shoe)

Did the other redeemer agree to buy the land? (no. Why not? The other redeemer said that if he bought the extra land, his own land would be in danger.)

Read Ruth 4: 1-11a

Answer the questions.

Revisit the story: Let’s look at the story again, more carefully.

1. Look at verse 1. Boaz went to the gate, and the other redeemer came. Then, what did Boaz do? (he gathered 10 important men. **They were probably the leaders in the town. Boaz wanted them to know that he was doing the right thing.**)

2. Boaz told the other redeemer about the land. Was the other redeemer interested in the land? (yes)
3. Then, what did Boaz tell the other redeemer? (about Ruth. If he bought the land, he would have to marry Ruth.)
4. was the other redeemer still interested in the land? (no)
5. Why did the other redeemer change his mind? (he did not want to marry Ruth)
6. The other redeemer said that his land might be in danger. If he married Ruth, and a son was born, that son might get all of his land. That is why his land might be in danger. His land might go to Naomi's husband's family. The other redeemer wanted to keep his land in his own family.
7. Then the other redeemer took off his shoe. Did he sell any land? (no)
8. Why did he take off his shoe? (he had first choice to buy the land from Naomi. But he did not want to buy the land. So he took off his shoe just like he was selling land that was his own. Taking off his shoe showed Boaz and everyone that he really did not want the land.)
9. Did Boaz redeem the land? (yes he did. He bought all the land that Naomi's husband had. And he promised to marry Ruth. He promised to marry her in front of all the important men.)
10. What did the important men say? ("We have seen it. We pray that the woman coming into your home will be like Rachel and like Leah." Rachel and Leah were two important mothers in Israel. Next week we will learn a little more about them.)

Boaz is able to marry Ruth. He has promised to marry Ruth in front of many important men. Next week we will finish this book. We will see how God blessed Boaz and Ruth. We will learn the family tree of a king of Israel.

Do you have any questions or comments?

Easy English Notes from Wycliffe**Chapter 4**

**Verse 1** Old towns had walls round them. You went in through a gate. This gate was an important place. The leaders would meet there to decide what the town should do. 'Hi! You!' in \*Hebrew is 'Oh, Mister So-and-So!'

**Verse 2** The 10 important men were probably the leaders in the town. Boaz wanted them to know that he was doing the right thing.

**Verse 4** Later the people would remember what Boaz said and did. If there was a problem, they could say what had happened. We call them '\*witnesses'.

**Verse 5** 'To continue the dead man's name' means that Elimelech and Mahlon would have \*descendants.

**Verse 6** The other \*redeemer would have to give what he bought to Ruth's son when the son grew up. He did not want to do this.

**Verse 7** This was an old custom in Israel. A custom is something that people always do. Boaz and the other man did it in front of the \*witnesses of verse 3.

**Verse 10** This is another strange part of the story. When Obed was born, they did not call him the son of Mahlon. This tells us that there was no \*levirate marriage between Boaz and Ruth.

**Verse 11** Rachel and Leah had many children and they became famous. Everyone wanted this to happen to Ruth.