

Destined for Redemption

AN ADVENT STUDY IN THE BOOK OF RUTH



GETTING STARTED

Have you ever needed to get someone's attention whose name you couldn't remember? What did you do?

QUESTION ONE

Read Ruth 4:1-12. Although there is a connection between Boaz and the unnamed redeemer, a relative in some way, how did Boaz treat him? What did he call him?

QUESTION TWO

What do you think the significance of this scene occurring before ten elders at the gates of the city in verses 1-2 was?

The Bible itself records that city gates were used in various ways. At the gates people would finalize business deals (Genesis 23), settle disputes in the presence of witnesses (Amos 5), was a source for news (1 Samuel 4) and kings used gates to address his subjects (2 Samuel 18).

QUESTION THREE

Read Leviticus 25:25-28, the background to the story unfolding in Ruth chapter 4. If poverty forced someone to sell their land, then a relative had the right to redeem that land in the future. It meant land remained in the family long-term. What would be the effects of this law?

QUESTION FOUR

In verses 3-6, we see the conversation between Boaz and the other nameless redeemer. It appears this man is interested in acting as a redeemer; what did he think was in store for him?

FOLLOW UP: As Boaz shared the implications, what reasons does the prospective redeemer give for not wanting to redeem Naomi and her family?

FOLLOW UP: How are his reasons for NOT redeeming Naomi's family in contrast to Boaz's willingness TO redeem her?

QUESTION FIVE

The exchange of the sandal between the other man and Boaz symbolized the transferred of the right to redemption. During this time, few written records were kept and a verbal declaration in front of witnesses was legally binding. Boaz legitimately and nobly announces his redemption of Elimelech's inheritance. How do his words in verse 9-10 show that he understands the purpose of the laws he is fulfilling?



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QUESTION SIX

Read Genesis 29:31-35 and 30:22-24. Upon completion of the agreement of redemption, the elders prayed a blessing on the couple. What was significant about what they prayed, and whom they referenced?

PRAYER & APPLICATION

We've seen a lot about God's faithfulness to His people thus far in our study of Ruth. Take some time to pause and reflect upon how even in our four short weeks, where have you seen God's faithfulness and provision in your life this past season? How can you best prepare yourself to look for God's faithfulness and provision this week as we approach Christmas?

