

Sunday December 9th 2007
Laying the Foundations
The Picture of Marriage
Part Four – The Fulfillment of God’s Plan

1). So far we have followed a progressive revelation concerning the picture of marriage that began in the opening chapters of all of scripture. We have seen how the picture given to us there is a foundational picture of Christ and His Bride with the Bride taken from the Body and how this picture was added to with regards to the Bride taken from the family and the Bride taken from the Gentiles. And we have seen how those who will make up the Bride will have made a deliberate choice to begin a journey, and work faithfully in Christ’s field and make the proper preparation – all in respect of meeting with the Bridegroom – Christ at His Judgment Seat. And in this session we will see that is a marriage at the very beginning of scripture, but also it is at the conclusion of scripture – being an integral part of the fulfillment of God’s plan. And in order to see this we will continue in the Book of Ruth - Ru 3:1 ¶ *Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? 2 "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3 "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." 5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do." 6 ¶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.*

a). Our scripture here is the introduction to the defining moment in Ruth’s life – the fulfillment of a hope that began in Moab after the death of her Mahlon – to find rest in the house of her husband.

b). Naomi makes it perfectly clear as to the where and when of this moment – Boaz will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor that night.

c). As we have seen she gives specific instructions to Ruth in order that Ruth be properly prepared – wash yourself, anoint yourself, put on your best garment.

d). And instructs Ruth concerning her purpose for being on the threshing floor – go in and uncover his feet. (cf. Deuteronomy 25)

e). Naomi's dealings with Ruth in respect of the journey, working in the field and the preparation have all been with a view to the meeting on the threshing floor and the purpose for this meeting – the redemption of the inheritance and marriage.

f). And all of Ruth's actions in response to Naomi are looking to the fulfillment of exactly the same hope – the redemption of the inheritance and marriage.

g). And in the antitype of that pictured in Ruth this is the experience of the faithful Christian – it is the Word of God, pictured in Naomi, who directs us in our journey, who instructs us with regard to working in the field belonging to Christ, and teaches us how to be properly prepared – and this is all with a view to our appearance at Christ's Judgment Seat to be followed by the redemption of the inheritance and marriage.

h). And the faithful Christian, faithfully implementing that which the Word of God teaches is looking to the fulfillment of this very hope – the redemption of the inheritance and marriage.

i). Heb 6:11 *And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,*

j). It is interesting to note that the first use of the word 'hope' in scripture, appears in Ruth in relation to marriage and the redemption of an inheritance - Ru 1:12 *"Turn back, my daughters, go-for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, 13 "would you wait for them till they were grown?"*

2). Ruth's appearance at Boaz's threshing floor is presented in the antitype, in far greater detail in the first three Chapters of the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

a). In Ruth we do not see the process of Judgment that we see in Revelation. This is only inferred by Boaz winnowing barley – making a separation between the grain and the chaff.

b). Ru 3:7 *And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.*

c). Boaz lying down at the end of the heap of grain can only point to Judgment having already been completed - Lu 3:17 *"His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."*

d). The Judgments of the Judgment Seat of Christ as pictured for us in Ruth will, for the faithful Christian, be past at this point.

e). But will of course have taken place –

Re 2:2 *"I know your works,*

1Co 3:13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Mt 7:22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Mt 25:10 "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Mt 13:47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 "which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. 49 "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 "and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Mt 22:12 "So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

3). However for those who hear the words - Mt 25:21 *"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

a). These Christians will have witnessed the reality of - Ro 8:1 ¶ *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.*

b). The actions of these Christians during the race of the faith preceding their Judgment will have boldly declared to their Saviour their intentions with respect to the redemption of the inheritance and marriage.

c). And will elicit from the Saviour the same response that Boaz gives to Ruth - Ru 3:11 *"And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.*

d). And what exactly will be the 'all' that the faithful Christians' actions will have requested? It is contained in the overcomers' promises –

Re 2:7 To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Re 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life... 11 He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

Re 2:17 To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

Re 2:26 "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' --as I also have received from My Father; 28 "and I will give him the morning star.

Re 3:5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Re 3:12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.

Re 3:21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

4). In essence these are the same as the request made by Ruth – they all speak of the redemption of the inheritance, lost in the Garden in Genesis and marriage – the fulfillment of the picture given in the Garden - that will ultimately lead to regality.

5). Ru 3:12 *"Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you-good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning." 14 ¶ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." 15 Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city. 16 So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her. 17 And she said, "These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" 18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."*

a). The Bride has been identified and the request made to redeem the inheritance. The redemption of the inheritance and the marriage of the bride are inseparable events – one must, because of the request made by Ruth, lead to the other.

b). In the antitype of our scripture we can see the revealed Bride provided for and kept in a particular location while she waits for the inheritance to be redeemed. And there can of course be no ‘Rest’ until the matter is concluded. And it will be concluded ‘this day’, during man’s day upon the earth. And having been concluded there will be rest in the day of Rest, the Lord’s Day, the Millennial Kingdom.

6). Ru 4:1 ¶ *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 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 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."

a). Now the events seen here in the fourth Chapter of Ruth give us an overview of the events of Revelation Chapters 4-19.

b). And seeing what happens in Ruth will help us better understand that which we read in Revelation.

c). As a result of Ruth having been identified as the Bride and having requested the redemption of the inheritance and marriage, Boaz goes to the gate of the city, the place where all legal transactions are carried out to set the process in motion. There is as we see a closer relative who has the right to redeem the inheritance before Boaz and he must first be given the opportunity.

d). As we see in our scripture the closer relative is unable to redeem the inheritance and marry Ruth as it would 'ruin' his own inheritance as he must already have a wife.

e). And as was the custom in Ruth's day the closer relative removes his sandal and gives it to Boaz showing that he has relinquished his right to redeem.

f). The closer relative having relinquished his right, Boaz then purchases the piece of land and as a result of this transaction Ruth automatically becomes his wife without the necessity for any kind of ceremony as we would see today.

7). Now with regards to the Book of Revelation the Bride of Christ has been revealed as a result of the events in Chapters 1-3 and in Chapter 4 we find 24

Elders seated on thrones - Re 4:1 ¶ *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.*

a). So we have 'One sat on the throne' – being God the Father and 24 Elders gathered in the same place just as we saw the closer relative and the ten Elders gathered in the gate of the city.

b). That the closer relative and God the Father should be one and the same should be obvious to us. Only God is able to redeem and God the Father already has a wife – Israel and is therefore unable to redeem the inheritance on behalf of the Bride as this would ruin His own inheritance in respect of Israel. This right of redemption would then be passed on to the next in line to redeem – God the Son.

8). The events of our Ruth scripture continue into Revelation Chapter 5
Re 5:1 ¶ *And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." 6 ¶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*
(Teach this)

i). The scroll and the sandal

ii). The terms of the redemption contained within the 7 seals.

iii). The Lion of the tribe of Judah = Judgment

iv). The Lamb as though it had been slain = Redemption - Col 1:19 *For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him*

to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

v). The redemption of the inheritance – the world and Israel can only come through Judgment, but the purpose of Judgment is redemption.

a). Just as with Boaz taking the sandal, so the Lamb taking the scroll sets the process of redemption in motion. And just as with Boaz, the Elders and God the Father are witnesses to Christ's legal right of redemption and marriage to the Bride.

9). The Book of Ruth goes immediately from the redemption of the inheritance and the marriage to the blessing that comes through the birth of a son.

a). In Revelation however we have the details of the redemption presented to us - Re 6:1 ¶ *Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. 3 ¶ When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

b). What we are witnessing here are the judgments that take place that bring about redemption. This is the same period of time that we know as the Great Tribulation in relation to the redemption of the earth and the Time of Jacob's Trouble in relation to the nation of Israel – and has its type in the 10 plagues in Egypt in Moses' time.

c). The Judgment as we see begins with the opening of the 7 seals. Out from the 7th seal are the Judgments of the 7 trumpets. And out from the 7th trumpet the Judgments of the 7 bowls or 7 vials.

d). And what we see here are three sets of 7 showing the complete Judgment of God in respect of the redemption of the inheritance. All these events we witness through Revelation Chapters 6-18

10). Then in Revelation 19 we find the parallel of that seen in - Ru 4:11 *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.

a). The inheritance has been redeemed, Ruth has become Boaz's wife, the wedding festivities have taken place, Boaz is exalted by those present and is blessed by them and following this blessing a son and ultimately regality comes through their union.

b). Re 19:1 ¶ *After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" 5 ¶ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."*

c). At this point in the Book of Revelation the inheritance, the world, has been redeemed, and as a result the Bride has become Christ's Wife in fulfillment of all we saw in Genesis with the Adam and the Woman – the Bride has been taken from the body, from the family and from the Gentiles - and now the marriage supper begins. Christ is exalted by those present and is blessed by them. And as a result of His union with the Bride there will come blessing for the world and for Israel.

d). Ru 4:14 *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."*

e). It is following the redemption of the inheritance and the Bride becoming the Wife in Revelation 19 that Christ returns to the earth to put an

end to Gentile World power, restore Israel to the head of the nations and usher in the Millennial Kingdom.

f). At this point we will see a change of rulership in the heavens with Christ and His Wife, His coheirs, ruling over the earth from His throne in the New Jerusalem in the heavens.

g). At this point we will see a change of rulership on the earth with Israel at the head of the nations with Christ sitting on the throne of His father David in the earthly Jerusalem.

h). It is at this time that we will see the fulfillment of God's plans and purpose for the ages – let them (The Man and the Woman together) have dominion.

g). Christ will love Israel and be to her just as Obed is to Naomi – 'A restorer of life and a nourisher of her old age.

h). And the Bride, Christ's consort queen will love Israel, 'better than seven sons'

i). And the Gentile nations will love Israel - Zec 8:23 *"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'"*

j). And God's three firstborn sons – Christ, Israel and the Bride will exercise the rights of the firstborn throughout the Messianic Era over the redeemed inheritance – the inhabited world to come.

k). Isa 2:2 *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.*