

Sunday May 15th 2016

Ruth

Part Fifteen

1). Ru 3:17 *And she said, "These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed [in vain] 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."*

Following the events on Boaz's threshing floor we find that Ruth has not returned to the city and to her mother-in-law 'in vain'; rather she returns having accomplished all that she set out to do having followed Naomi's instructions exactly. Given that which she had already beaten out for herself during her work in Boaz's field she is now in possession of 7 ephahs of barley – the full reward that she had been promised in Chapter 2 - Ru 2:12 *"The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."*

Ruth, through her obedience to her mother-in-law had found refuge under the wings of the Lord God of Israel and as a result of doing so was able to request that Boaz would spread his wing over her, a request we will remember that states very plainly Ruth's desire for marriage and a son to come from that marriage, to be raised up on the name of her dead husband, a request that had to be honored.

a). And here at the end of Chapter 3 Ruth had returned with the full reward and the promise of a redeemed inheritance which would impact not only herself but her mother-in-law as well, resulting in Naomi's statement of certainty – 'for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.'

b). Because of the events on the threshing floor, following Ruth's work and preparation, the redemption of the inheritance is certain and that Ruth will enter into marriage for the purpose of raising up a son is also certain, but we will remember that Boaz had told Ruth - 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."

Boaz was a close relative in Elimelech's family with a right to redemption, but there was a closer relative still, whose right to redeem took precedent over Boaz and so a determination had to be made as to which of these two, Boaz or the closer relative would redeem the inheritance and take Ruth as his wife – the outcome was never in doubt, only which of the two would make it happen.

c). And this determination as to who would redeem was made at the gate of the city in the presence of 10 elders of the people - 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.*

2). As we look at the type here we can clearly see that there are just 2 individuals who have the right to redeem and this is just what we see as we bring this over into the antitype.

a). Redemption is only the prerogative of Deity and therefore falls to God the Father and God the Son. We know that - Joh 5:22 *"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,*

And we know that it was the Son who died at Calvary to pay the price for redemption, but also remember that it was the blood of God that was shed that day. And keeping all this in mind it is easy to see the identity of the closer relative in the antitype.

b). And that which we see in the type we will find corresponding to the antitype - Ru 4:3 *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."

As we have noted throughout our study to redeem the inheritance is not just about the field which had been lost but also about marriage to a woman who had her origins in a Gentile nation.

c). And it is faced with the necessity of marriage and the son which would come from it that causes the closer relative to forego his right of redemption. He obviously has a wife already and does not want to 'ruin' the inheritance that comes out of that relationship – and so the right to redeem is given to Boaz - Ru 4:7 *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.*

The taking off and then giving of the sandal to Boaz marks his right to now redeem the inheritance and take Ruth the Moabitess to be his wife.

d). If we carry all this over into the antitype we have already seen the Bride revealed through judgment at Christ's Judgment Seat and following the type she will receive her reward just as Ruth had done - Mt 16:27 *"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

e). Now the reward to be received is multi-faceted; we know that – Col 3:24.....*from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance;*

The inheritance though does not just speak about the Kingdom of the Heavens as we can see from that recorded in - Heb 1:14 *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

f). There is a salvation to be inherited as part of the reward, but this is clearly not referring to the salvation we presently possess, our eternal salvation, as inheritance, as we have seen throughout our study of Ruth, is a family concern – inheritance can only be received by a family member and it is only upon our eternal salvation that we become a part of God's family and only then in a position to inherit the reward.

g). And we cannot inherit that which is a free gift – it is either a gift or an inheritance it cannot be both. The salvation which is being dealt with here is described this way in - 1Pe 1:3 ¶ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

It is the salvation made possible through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, not the salvation based on His death and shed blood; a salvation that comes through faith, which is, ‘to be revealed in the last time’, a salvation that is ‘reserved in heaven’ for those kept by the power of God through faith – And if we follow through with these verses in Peter we are left in no doubt which salvation we are talking about – 1Pe 1:9 *receiving the end [goal, completion] of your faith--the salvation of your souls.*

h). Just as all that Ruth had done, from her journey, to her work in Boaz’s field to her preparations, were all done by faith and then brought to completion at Boaz’s threshing floor, so all that the faithful Christian has done by faith in the likeness of Ruth will be brought to completion at Christ’s Judgment Seat.

i). Just as Ruth received a full reward so the faithful Christian will receive the reward of the inheritance, the salvation of the soul – and just as Ruth received the 7 ephahs of barley wrapped in a shawl, so the faithful Christian will receive the covering of glory lost in the Garden, the wedding garment, as a precursor to rulership.

j). The Book of Ruth ends with a genealogy that takes us to David the King and the outcome for the faithful Christian will lead to marriage with the greater Son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ – all of course with rulership in the 7th Day in view as this has been God’s stated purpose and intent from the beginning. Rulership over the earth is God’s purpose for creating Adam and the Woman, and is the reason for our eternal salvation and is the place to which all scripture moves and human history inexorably marches – Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion.....*

Lu 19:17 *"And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'*

Re 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

Power Point – Slides 1-3

3). So then, the revealed Bride will receive the salvation of their souls and the covering of glory that comes with the redemption of the body as a precursor to rulership – Ro 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

And the faithful Christian being in the Lord's presence in this fully redeemed condition makes the same request to Christ that Ruth had made to Boaz. And just as Boaz could only respond in obedience to the Law so the One who is the Word made flesh can only respond according to His own word.

a). And what we saw at the beginning of Chapter 4 of Ruth finds its fulfillment in 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.*

Here then is God the Father and God the Son in the throne room of God, the place from which all governance emanates, in the presence of the elders in order to determine who will open the 7 sealed scroll, the document that

contains the terms of the redemption of the inheritance, the judgments of the tribulation, in the antitype of Boaz and the closer relative.

b). In this picture it is Christ who is found worthy to open the scroll and He is described as both 'the Lion of the tribe of Judah' and 'a Lamb as though it had been slain' and this is because redemption comes through judgment. It is Christ the Lion who brings judgment and Christ the Lamb who brings redemption from this.

c). And within the Book of the Revelation the focus is by far on redemption rather than judgment. This is the only place where the Lord is described as 'the Lion' whereas He is described 28 times as 'the Lamb'. So then, the events of the tribulation as horrific as they are have at their heart redemption – redemption of the world forfeited in the Garden by the first Man to be reclaimed by the Second and the redemption of God's chosen people Israel, hidden in the world.

d). Just as the closer relative in Ruth Chapter 4 gives his sandal to Boaz to confirm that his right of redemption now belongs to Boaz so God the Father gives the 7 sealed scroll into the hands of His Son to confirm that it is Christ who has the right to redeem.

e). We will remember in Ruth Chapter 4 that we read - Ru 4:6 *And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance.*

So how should we understand this with respect to God the Father in the antitype? Well there are 2 interconnected elements that explain this – Isa 19:25 *whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."*

Israel is God the Father's inheritance and Israel is His wife, an estranged wife at present, but one whom he will remarry following the nation's repentance pictured in foundation through Abraham marrying Keturah and described in the first sign given in John's Gospel, the wedding at Cana of Galilee.

f). For God the Father to take a wife in addition to Israel, for that's what comes through redeeming the inheritance, just as we saw in Ruth, would 'ruin' His own inheritance.

g). And then in conjunction with this let's remember the foundational picture that God set out for rulership over the restored earth –

Ge 1:27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion

Rulership as set out in Genesis has to take place through a Man and a Woman in a marriage relationship. This is the way the matter has been clearly stated in the beginning and cannot change.

h). So then, if God the Father redeemed the inheritance and took the Church as His wife there would be no wife for Christ and therefore He could not rule, there could be no Millennial Kingdom.

i). The scriptures state - Ps 2:6 *"Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."* 7 ¶ *"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today [Lit. 'for this day'] I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

And so for God to fulfill His own word the Last Adam must have a wife just as the first Adam did and together they will rule from the Kingdom of the Heavens over the earth during the Millennial Kingdom.

j). God the Son will have a wife and God the Father will have a wife and rulership with respect to the heavens and the earth can then take place.

k). Similarly, only firstborn sons can rule in the Kingdom with respect to the restored earth and faithful Christians comprising the Bride will be adopted as a firstborn son at the Judgment Seat and this must take place so that there will be 3 firstborn sons, the perfect number, ruling in the Millennial Kingdom – The Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten firstborn Son, Israel an adopted firstborn son - Ex 4:22 *"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn.*

And faithful Christians, as we have seen already, adopted as a result of the events at the Judgment Seat - Ro 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

And let's keep in mind as we look at this that the designation 'wife' and 'firstborn son' with respect to ourselves has nothing to do with gender or number, but everything to do with function.

Power Point – Slides 4-6

4). Ru 4:8 *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). As Boaz takes the sandal from the closer relative so he also buys the inheritance and along with it purchases Ruth as his wife just as we had seen in the parables of the treasure and the pearl in Matthew Chapter 13.

b). There are just a few lines covering this in Ruth, but in the Book of the Revelation the redemption of the inheritance is a process that begins in Chapter 6, and takes 7 years to complete - 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.*

And is described in detail in Revelation Chapters 6-20 [along with Exodus, Daniel, Esther etc]

c). And just as Ruth automatically became Boaz's wife through the completion of this legal transaction of redemption, so Christ's Bride will automatically become His Wife upon the fulfillment of the terms of the redemption of the inheritance seen in the judgments of the 7 sealed scroll.

d). This is not about ceremony but about the fulfillment of the judicial and redemptive process – it is not about a 'wedding', but about rulership in the 7th Day.

e). And this whole process which began in the Garden brings to fulfillment that which was started there. Although Adam 'died' there will be redemption and marriage through a close relative resulting in 3 firstborn sons who have been raised up on the name of the dead that his name would not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate.

f). We will remember the promise given to Abraham –

Ge 22:17 *"blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.*

g). Although Adam was expelled from the Garden, the place from which he should have ruled so that God would deal with him 'outside' and just as Israel is expelled through death from the Land from which they should have ruled so that God can deal with them 'outside'; the firstborn sons raised up on Adam's name will enter and occupy the Kingdom of the Heavens and the Land of Israel, the locations from which rulership will take place, with the only begotten Firstborn Son in both locations, and now those created on the 6th day for the purpose of rulership will be complete and properly located to do just that.

h). And most especially for those found faithful, following the Judgment Seat, there will be for the first and only time since before Adam ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, members of the human race with a fully redeemed spirit, a fully redeemed soul and a body covered in glory, once more in the image and likeness of God.

i). Ro 8:19 *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.*

j). Isa 55:6 ¶ *Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. 12 "For you shall go out with joy, And be led out with peace; The mountains and the*

hills Shall break forth into singing before you, And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

k). We will finish this up next time – if the Lord is willing.