

Wednesday, JULY 23rd, 2008  
The FOUNDATION of our FAITH  
A SPECIAL "STUDY within the STUDY"  
THE KINSMAN REDEEMER

- I. The Hebrew word translated both "kinsman" and "Redeem" in the Old Testament Book of RUTH is the word "GOEL"
- II. This very same word is translated "RANSOM" within the text of Jeremiah 31:11 which is another word for "Redeem"
- III. Thus, Ruth contains important scriptural background for the doctrine of REDEMPTION. IN FACT it can be accurately stated that it is impossible to understand this doctrine without a full consideration behind what contribution that the Book of Ruth makes to the matter.
- IV. Related to our current study on 'The LIVING WORD, Jesus Christ, and His relationship to the SEALED SCROLL of Revelation chapter 5', a proper understanding of the teaching of the KINSMAN REDEEMER is IMPERATIVE.
- V. Historically, the "law of Redemption" is laid down by Jehovah God within the Book of Leviticus chapter 25 and verses 23- 28.
- VI. Here God is specifically referring to the land of Israel and is telling the Jews that "the land is mine" therefore you (Jews) are ONLY tenants and your "rent" is obedience. If the Jews were not "paying their rent", God reserved the right to remove them from the land – which of course He did on several occasions.
- VII. Furthermore, this was a promise for the Return of the Jews to their land. God would at times choose to "sublease" the land to foreigners (i.e., the Arabs)
- VIII. In short, the "law of Redemption" was instruction God gave concerning a man who fell man difficult financial times and who had to sell his land (like Elimelech did in the Book of Ruth). If someone wanted to repossess their land before the year of Jubilee, he had to pay the going rate at the time. It was on this basis that Boaz redeemed the property of Elimelech in the Book of Ruth.

\*\*\*\* Notes concerning the "law of Redemption":

Property sold in our culture is usually passed on "in fee simple" in perpetuity to the buyer. However, Israel's land was "granted", in the days of Joshua, to the tribes within the family (one of the reasons for genealogies). Thus, the "sale" was more of a "lease" and the contract always had provisions for the property to eventually be returned to the original family/tribe. The "Deed" also always provided for the possibility of a "Kinsman-Redeemer".

IX. BUT THERE IS MORE! In this same chapter, Leviticus 25:47-49, the "law of Redemption" related to people emerges and it is on THIS particular point where Boaz and the no-name near-kinsman take two different paths.

X. Added to all of this is what is known as "the law of Marriage" found in Deuteronomy 25:5-10. These two laws go together. But when the no-name nearer-kinsman realized this, he was not at all interested in following through with the "Redemption".

XI. When a widow requested the next of kin to perform the role of the "GOEL" (kinsman-redeemer), he was NOT forced to.

XII. In fact there were 3 CONDITIONS that a potential KINSMAN REDEEMER had to meet in order to fulfill his role in this process:

1. He had to be Qualified as a kinsman;
2. He had to be Able to perform the role;
3. He had to be willing.

XIII. In the case of the no-name nearer-kinsman he was Willing to obtain the land BUT not to MARRY Ruth. This provided an opportunity for Boaz to take him before the elders at the city gate where he forced the issue LEGALLY. The no-name nearer-kinsman was forced to suffer the public disgrace of giving Boaz his shoe and risked being SPAT upon, though that did not happen in this case. NOTE: The shoe was meant to be a symbol of disgrace BUT to Boaz it was a marriage license !!!

XIV. A CLOSER LOOK:

1. This is MUCH MORE than a classic love story, rather it contains the plan of God for the Redemption of all mankind.
2. In many ways, Boaz prefigures Jesus Christ. The "KINSMAN-Redeemer" of our SOULS!
3. II Corinthians 5:17-21

4. God, in human form, in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, became the Ultimate "KINSMAN - Redeemer". He did NOT hold the world responsible for the DEBT of sin RATHER, HE PAID that debt on the CROSS. Now He has committed to you and me the "MINISTRY of Reconciliation" (vs 18)
5. Thus, JESUS CHRIST ALONE is THE "FOUNDATION" for our Redemption. (I Corinthians 3:11)

#### XV. BITS and PIECES:

1. The "law of GLEANING": As a landowner, you were permitted to reap on 1 pass only. What was missed, or left behind, was available to be "gleaned" by the Widows and POOR.

(Ruth 2:16) NOTE: "handfuls on purpose" - Boaz directed his workers to deliberately go before Ruth and to provide plentiful amounts ("handfuls") of grain for her.

2. The THRESHING FLOOR: This was a parcel of ground where there was a prevailing wind. The grain was tossed into the air and the grain would fall a short distance while the chaff, being lighter, would gather further away. The grain would be gathered together for the market place while the chaff would be bundled to be burned.

(skirt) Boaz slept near the grain one night so it would not be stolen. It was there that Ruth quietly came to him and laid near him and requested that he spread the hem (or, "shul") of his garment over her. It was her formal request for him to put the Authority of his house over her AND to assume the role of "KINSMAN - Redeemer" in her life.

3. The UNNAMED SERVANT: Note that the one who introduced Boaz to Ruth is unnamed in the scriptures. This is suggestive of the role of the Holy Spirit who ALWAYS appears as an unnamed servant in Scriptural typology. (see GENESIS 24) WHY? Because as Jesus said, He will never "testify of Himself" - only of CHRIST! (The "SON"; 2<sup>nd</sup> person of The TRINITY)

**NOTE:** Ruth had to declare herself first – she had the first move no matter **HOW MUCH** Boaz loved her! So it is with each one of us as SINNERS . Jesus as our “KINSMAN-Redeemer” awaits our response. **HAVE YOU REQUESTED CHRIST TO BE YOUR KINSMAN-REDEEMER?**

4. Through his act of “GOEL” , Boaz pre-figures Christ in that he returns Naomi (ISRAEL) to her land AND takes Ruth ( a Gentile ) as His bride – beautiful picture of the relationship of the Church to Christ.

5. A Kinsman-Redeemer **ALSO** was required to take physical possession of the **LAND** he purchased. This explains why after receiving the **SCROLL SEALED WITH SEVEN SEALS** (in Revelation 5 ), Christ initiates (through the opening of each of the 7 seals) the 7 year Tribulation Period in order to rid the earth of Satan and his “squatters” and then comes **BACK** to the Earth **PHYSICALLY** in order to rule and reign upon the Earth for 1,000 years! **WITHOUT AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE TEACHING OF THE KINSMAN-REDEEMER, THIS ACT BY CHRIST IS HARD TO APPRECIATE!**

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**OTHER NOTES:**