

THE KINSMAN REDEEMER

¹ Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. ² Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. ³ Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. ⁴ I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said. ⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." ⁶ At this, the guardian-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it." ⁷ (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) ⁸ So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.

Ruth 4:1-8

I. Meet the Goel

A. The Goel, or kinsman redeemer, was a relative who protected needy members of his extended family.

B. He could redeem, or buy back, a relative sold into slavery.
(Leviticus 25:47-49)

⁴⁷ If a foreigner residing among you becomes rich and any of your fellow Israelites become poor and sell themselves to the foreigner or to a member of the foreigner's clan, ⁴⁸ they retain the right of redemption after they have sold themselves. One of their relatives may redeem them: ⁴⁹ An uncle or a cousin or any blood relative in their clan may redeem them. Or if they prosper, they may redeem themselves.

C. He could preserve the family lineage of a deceased male by marrying his widow and providing an heir. (Deuteronomy 25:5,6)

⁵ *If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. ⁶ The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.*

D. He could redeem, or buy back, land sold outside the family. (Leviticus 25:26)

²⁶ *If, however, there is no one to redeem it for them but later on they prosper and acquire sufficient means to redeem it themselves,*

II. The qualifications of the Goel

A. He must be blood related.

B. He must be able.

C. He must be willing.

III. Christ, our Goel

A. Christ took on human flesh to fulfill this requirement to be our Goel. His incarnation fulfilled this requirement. (Hebrews 2:14-17; Philipians 2:6-8; John 1:14)

[Heb 2:14-17 NIV] ¹⁴ *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*

[Phl 2:6-8 NIV] ⁶ *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death--even death on a cross!*

[Jhn 1:14 NIV] ¹⁴ *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

B. He had the means to bring about such redemption--his perfect and precious blood. (I Peter 1:18,19)

¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

* Not the blood of animals (Hebrews 9:11,12)

¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

C. He had the desire to accomplish redemption. He laid his life down on his own initiative. (John 10:18)

¹⁸ "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

IV. We are His Goels in the earth.

A. We cannot redeem anything we are not kin to.

B. Do you love the people God has called you to reach? Are you kin to them?

C. A strong God-given love for something is your preeminent guide to fruitful service in God's kingdom.

D. Love clarifies your calling as a Goel!