

The romance of redemption (Part 1)

The vision God gave Ps Dan for our church for this year is that “2020 is a year of redeeming and increase”. Let’s study what this means through the story of Ruth.

- On its own it is a lovely story. But together with Revelation 5 it is a powerful story, because we see that Ruth’s story is a prophetic foretelling of the relationship between Jesus and us!
- The Book of Revelation consists of 404 verses which contain over 800 allusions to the Old Testament (OT). One reason the book appears so strange to the uninitiated is that most of us haven’t developed enough familiarity with the OT.

Questions to consider:

- Ruth is in the genealogy of Jesus (Matt 1.5-6). David was the great hero of Israel and its greatest Jewish king, and yet his great-grandmother was Ruth, who was not a Jew. Jewishness is passed through the mother. How then could David and Jesus be Jewish?
- Ruth was a Moabitess. Deuteronomy 23 says that to the 10th generation descendants of Moabites cannot enter the assembly of God. How is it possible that a Moabite woman could become the wife of a prominent Jewish leader, be in the genealogy of the Davidic line of kings and of Jesus, and have the honour of having her story recorded in a book of the Bible?

Revelation 5 (NKJV)

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. ... ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have **redeemed** us to God by Your blood

5.1 The fact that the writing was not only within but also on the back identifies it as a scroll of redemption. The conditions to “redeem” the land back to the original family were written on the back of the contract of sale. The law of redemption (Leviticus 25.47-50). The contract was for the use of the land. The land itself belonged to God. He had given it to particular tribes and certain people could redeem it. But they had to meet very particular conditions, which were written on the ***back*** of the scroll.

5.2 Who is worthy to open it?

- Must be a kinsman-redeemer (Jeremiah 32.6-15). Jesus is a kinsman of Adam
- Must be able to perform.
- Must be willing.
- Must assume all the obligations.

5.9 The lamb who was slain purchased our redemption with his blood.

The book of Ruth is a prophetic book about the romance between Boaz (Jesus the lamb) and Ruth (the bride of Christ).

In the weeks to come, as we explore how the story of Ruth prophetically reveals our relationship with Jesus, have a look at the following parallels:

- Boaz = The lord of the harvest, and The Kinsman-Redeemer
- Unnamed servant = Holy Spirit (Gen 15, Gen 24, John 16.13)
- Naomi = Israel.
- Ruth = Gentile bride.
- In order to bring Ruth to Naomi, Naomi had to be exiled from her land.
- It was against the Law of Moses to marry a Moabitess, but what the law could not do, grace could – Boaz married the Moabite, Ruth.
- Ruth does not replace Naomi.
- Ruth (we Gentiles) learns of Boaz (Jesus) through Naomi (Israel), but Naomi meets Boaz through Ruth.
- No matter how much Boaz loved Ruth, he had to wait for her move (the threshing floor in Ruth 3).
 - Free will. God does not force himself on us.
- Boaz, not Ruth, confronts the Nearer Kinsman. [The devil].