

Love at First Sight

Chapter 6

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 32



Objective: To understand our role in the miracle of redemption.



“May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”

—Ruth 2:12

“For anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

—Romans 10:13

The book of Ruth is a profound allegory that illustrates redemption. To redeem means “to buy back” and “to bring back.” Boaz redeemed Ruth in two ways. First, he bought her back when he paid all her debts. Then he established a relationship with her that brought her back into the family of God.

What we see in Ruth is “Romance in Reverse.” In most cultures, the man chooses and proposes marriage to a woman. The Jewish laws of redemption that are applied in this beautiful love story meant that Ruth had to propose to Boaz and ask him to be her redeemer. The same thing is true in our redemption. All Boaz could do was show Ruth that he loved her and that he wanted to redeem her. But she had to decide that she wanted to be redeemed by Boaz. In the same way, we must decide that we want Jesus to be our redeemer—to buy us back through the cross and to bring us back into the family of God.



1. **True** or false? Ruth was an ancestor of Jesus Christ.

2. True or **false**? Boaz was very reluctant to show kindness to Ruth.
3. **True** or false? In redemption, we have something to believe and someone to receive.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. What did Ruth do when she got to Bethlehem? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. **She went right to work to take care of her mother-in-law and herself.**
 - b. She began to complain and blame God for all her problems.
 - c. **She had hope in God and His redemption.**
 - d. She began to beg.
5. Why was it important for a relative of a deceased husband to marry his widow?
 - a. **It fulfilled a law given in Deuteronomy to preserve the family's bloodline.**
 - b. She would be rejected by society if she remained single.
 - c. Because no one else would want to marry her.
 - d. Because she was considered the property of the family.
6. Why did Boaz give another man the opportunity to marry Ruth before he agreed to?
 - a. Because he really did not want to marry her.
 - b. So he could keep his family's inheritance to himself.
 - c. Because it was against the law to marry a Moabite.
 - d. **Because the closest relative to the deceased husband had the right to marry her if he wanted to.**
7. Why did the other man not want to marry Ruth?
 - a. He was too old for her.
 - b. He already had a wife.
 - c. **He did not want to redeem her and divide his inheritance with her.**
 - d. She was not beautiful.
8. How did Boaz buy Ruth back and also bring her back?
 - a. By paying her father a bride price and building a house for her.
 - b. By hiring her to work in the fields and giving her a room to stay in.
 - c. **By paying all her debts and marrying her.**
 - d. By buying her as a slave.
9. How does Jesus buy us back and also bring us back?
 - a. He gives us all the money we ask for and gives us a big house.
 - b. **He paid the price for our sin debt and He comes into our hearts.**
 - c. He makes us earn our salvation and will take us to heaven if we're good.
 - d. He makes us His slaves and commands us to live in difficult places.

10. How is Ruth a picture of each of us?
- We are all spiritual foreigners who need God’s grace and love.**
 - We should always let the woman propose to the man.
 - All of us are very kind to our mother-in-law.
 - We must all leave the land in which we were born.
11. How is the story of Ruth a “romance in reverse?”
- She had to marry someone who was lower in status than she was.
 - The longer she knew Boaz, the less she loved him.
 - It happened before God gave any laws about marriage.
 - For her redemption, she had to propose to the man.**
12. How is Boaz like Jesus?
- He will redeem us only if He has to.
 - He tries to get someone else to save us.
 - He lets us eat the leftovers of the crops.
 - He shows us that He loves us and waits for us to accept Him as our redeemer.**
13. How is Naomi a good picture of the church?
- She demonstrates gratitude and grace from beginning to end.
 - She never does any work.
 - She tells Ruth how to be redeemed.**
 - She is always persecuted for her faith.



In what ways has God shown you His love? What steps did He take to redeem you? When did you ask God to be your redeemer? If you have not, ask Him to be your redeemer today.

I Corinthians 6:20 says that we have been redeemed—bought back. “You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” In what ways should you honor God with your body? What steps should you take to live a redeemed life?



Thank God for His love, the romance of redemption, and for knowing that He redeems you purely out of love, grace, and mercy. Ask Him for an even closer relationship than you have with Him now and ask Him who you should share the redemption story with.



Going Deeper

1. In this allegorical “Romance of Redemption” describe how Boaz represents the Redeemer, Ruth represents the redeemed, and Naomi represents the Church. _____

2. In this “Romance in Reverse,” how does the fact that Ruth had to propose to Boaz apply to the allegory of our redemption? (Consider Revelation 3:20) _____

3. In what way can we apply to our marriage the fact that Boaz did not consummate the marriage until he made it legal with the elders? _____

4. How did the reality that Boaz bought Ruth back by paying all her debts and brought her back through marriage demonstrate the Gospel of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our redemption? _____

5. How does this beautiful love story illustrate the concept of grace and redemption? _____

6. When Ruth met Boaz and he lavished his attentions on her, she asked the question, “Why have I found grace in your eyes?” In how many ways had she been the beneficiary of the grace of God? _____

7. As Ruth proposed to Boaz and asked him to be her redeemer, have you ever asked the risen Christ to be your personal Redeemer? _____
