

4[1] And Boaz went up to the gate and sat there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz spoke, passed by. And he said, “Turn aside. Sit here, so and so.”¹ And he turned aside and sat down. [2] And he took ten men from the elders of the city and said, “Sit here.” And they sat down. [3] And he said to the redeemer, “The portion of the field that belonged to our brother, to Elimelech, Naomi, who has returned from the field of Moab, has sold. [4] And I said I would uncover your ear² saying, 'Before the inhabitants and before elders of my people, buy, if you will redeem, redeem. And if no redemption,³ tell me, and I will know. For there is none except you to redeem, and I am after you.’” And he said, “I will redeem.”

[5] And Boaz said, “On the day you buy the field from hand of Naomi, so I would buy⁴ from Ruth the Moabitess, the woman of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead over his inheritance.”⁵ [6] And the redeemer said, “I am not able for myself to redeem, lest I ruin my inheritance. You redeem for yourself my redemption, for I am not able to redeem.”

[7] And this was before in Israel over the redemption and over the exchange to confirm anything each took off his sandal and gave to his neighbor, and this was the attestation⁶ in Israel. [8] And the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy for yourself.” And he took off his sandal. [9] And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses today, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's from hand of Naomi. [10] And also Ruth the Moabitess, woman of Mahlon, I have acquired for myself for a woman to raise up the name of the dead over his inheritance, and the name of the dead shall not be cut off from his brethren and from his place at the gate. You are witnesses today.”

[11] And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, “Witnesses. May Yehvah give the woman coming to your house as Rachel and as Leah, two who built the house of Israel, and make prosper in Ephrath⁷ and have a name in the

1 פִּלְנֵי אֶלְמֹנִי (peloniy 'almoniy) “so and so” BDB (p. 48); “such a one” KJV, YLT; Green; “friend” NKJV, NAS – These terms found together also in 1 Samuel 21:3 & 2 Kings 6:8 (“such and such” a place NKJV). The first term, פִּלְנֵי (peloniy), is also found in 1 Chronicles 11:27, 36; 27:10 for a “Pelonite.”

2 אָנִי אֶמְרָתִי אֶגְלֶה אָזְנְךָ ('aniy 'âmartiy 'egleh 'âznehkâ) “I said I would uncover your ear” Green; “I said, I uncover thine ear” YLT; “I thought to inform you” NKJV, NAS; “I thought to advertise thee” KJV. To uncover the ear is a figure of speech meaning to inform or make known to someone something. This figure of speech is found also in 1 Samuel 9:15, 20:2, 20:12-13, 22:8(2x), 22:17; 2 Samuel 7:27; 1 Chronicles 17:25; Job 33:16, 36:10, 36:15.

3 יְגַאֵל (yig'al) “redemption” - this is literally, “he redeems,” reading more literally, “if he does not redeem.” YLT translates, “if none doth redeem,” NKJV, etc. “if you will not redeem,” but the “you” is not there.

4 קָנִיתִי (qâniyiy) “I would buy” kethib; “I will acquire” EHV; קָנִיתָהּ (qâniyâtâh) “you buy” qere; “you must . . . buy” NKJV; “thou must buy” KJV; “you have bought” Green; “thou hast bought” YLT. “I would buy” fits the reality of Deuteronomy 25:5-10, in which he could choose not to, though he bear the shame thereof.

5 This is in the spirit of Deuteronomy 25:5-6 (“If brothers dwell together”). In Ruth 4:3 Boaz calls Elimelech “our brother” אֶחָיוּנוּ (âchiynnu), to the closer than he relative. In addition to a literal “brother” (a fellow sibling, e.g. Genesis 10:21), “brother” is used in Scripture, as here, for a relative (e.g. Genesis 14:14 of Lot, Abraham's nephew Genesis 11:27) and even simply fellow human (e.g. Genesis 9:5). Also, raising up one for the dead was a concept *before* the law (Genesis 38:8).

6 תְּעוּדָה (te`udâh) “attestation” (MW “a proving of the existence of something through evidence”) NAS; “testimony” KJV; “confirmation” NKJV.

7 אֶפְרָתָהּ (ephrátâh) “Ephrath” = House of Bread (Bethlehem), see Genesis 35:19.

House of Bread. [12] And may your house be as the house of Perez whom Tamar bore to Judah from the seed that Yehvah gives to you from this young woman.” [13] And Boaz took Ruth, and she was to him for a woman. And he went into her, and Yehvah gave her conception; and she bore a son.

[14] And the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be Yehvah who has not lacked for you a redeemer today, and may his name be called in Israel. [15] And may he be for you for turning back a soul, and for support with your old age. For your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.” [16] And Naomi took the child and set him in her bosom; and she was to him for a nurse. [17] And the neighbor women gave him a name saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” And they called his name Obed.⁸ He is father of Jesse,⁹ father of David.¹⁰

[18] And these are the generations of Perez. Perez begot Hezron, [19] and Hezron begot Ram,¹¹ and Ram begot Amminadab; [20] and Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Garment;¹² [21] and Salmon¹³ begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; [22] and Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

8 עֹבֵד (‘ovêd) “Obed” - this man also found in Ruth 4:21-22; 1 Chronicles 2:12; also name of a mighty man of David, 1 Chronicles 11:47; also name of others, 1 Chronicles 2:37-38; 1 Chronicles 26:7; 2 Chronicles 23:1.

9 יֵשׁוּ (yishay) “Jesse” - found also in Ruth 4:17, 22; 1 Samuel 16:1, 3, 5, 8-11, 18-20, 22; 17:12-13, 17, 20, 58; 20:27, 30-31; 22:7-9, 13; 25:10; 2 Samuel 20:1; 23:1; 1 Kings 12:16; 1 Chronicles 2:12-13; 10:14; 12:18; 29:26; 2 Chronicles 10:16; 11:18; Psalm 72:20; Isaiah 11:1, 10.

10 דָּוִד (dâvid) “David” - found over 1000 times.

11 רָם (râm) “Ram” - found also in 1 Chronicles 2:9-10, 25, 27. There is also Job 32:2, Elihu’s family.

12 שַׁלְמָה (salmâh) “Garment” - NKJV, etc. “Salmon” - only here. Elsewhere = “garment” e.g. in Exodus 22:8, 26(H25); 1 Kings 11:29.

13 שַׁלְמוֹן (salmon) “Salmon” - only here.