

Ruth 4:13-17

Introduction: a celebration is in order for the restoration of Naomi's family. This is the answer to the prayer/blessings of 4:11-12.

Boaz and Ruth get married and have a family—4:13

- 1) Marriage—¹³ *So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife.* (cf. 1:9; 3:1, 10)
 - a) Cf. 1:4 remember the negative connotation of taking wives for themselves; that is not the concept here
 - b) Note the upward social progression of Ruth: 2:10 (foreigner); 2:13 (beneath the lowest servant); 3:9 (maidservant); 4:13 (wife)
- 2) Offspring—*And he went in to her, and Yahweh gave (cf. 1:5) her conception, and she gave birth to a son.*
 - a) Cf. Genesis 29:23; 30:4; 38:2, 18; Judges 16:1; 2nd Samuel 12:24; Ezekiel 23:44

The neighboring women offer a prayer/blessing for Naomi—4:14-15

- 1) Acknowledging that Yahweh brought Boaz to the widows—*“Blessed be Yahweh who has not left you without a close relative this day,*
- 2) A prayer/blessing for Obed—*and may his (Obed) name be well known in Israel!*
 - a) Cf. a similar shift in focus in Genesis 9:26
- 3) A prayer/blessing for Naomi—¹⁵ *And may he (Obed) become for you a restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age; (caring for Grandma Naomi)*
 - a) Why? *for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”* (praise for Ruth the Moabitess)
 - b) As tangible evidence of Ruth's devotion to Naomi

The early life of young Obed—4:16-17

- 1) Obed's caregiver—4:16 ¹⁶ *Then Naomi took the child, and set him in her lap, and took care of him.* (caring for her grandson)
 - a) Cf. 1:5, 21
- 2) Obed's name—4:17 ¹⁷ *And the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” So they named him Obed.*
 - a) Ruth's child was born for Naomi's benefit as well, but not as a replacement for Chilion and Mahlon.
- 3) Obed's descendants—*He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.*

Take-home truth: Our sovereign God rewards those who sacrificially demonstrate loyal-mercy to others, often beyond their wildest imaginations and often beyond their lifetime. It is not inappropriate to ask God to bless those who demonstrate loyal-mercy and faithfulness.