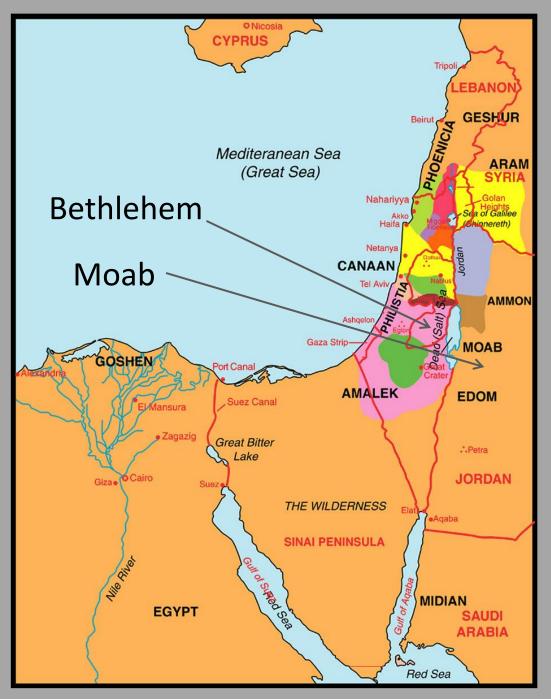


Back to The Basics

Ruth 2:1-13

Middle East, 1250 BC (with red letters for modern countries). Dead Sea separated the two places.



1. Family mattered to the Hebrew people – because family mattered to God. God wrote the law of kinsman redeemer to protect the family.

Closest male relative of the deceased:

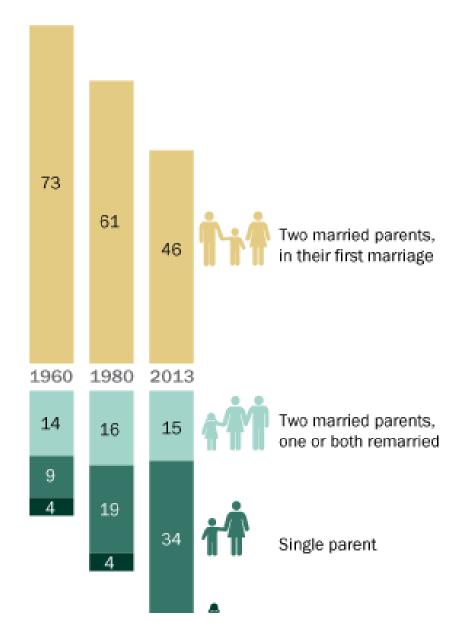
- A. Redeem (buy back) *family land* if sold to non-family member due to poverty. Lev 25:25; Ruth 4:4
- B. Redeem a family member who sold himself into slavery to pay his/her debts. Lev 25:47-49
- C. Marry the widow to carry on the family name of the deceased. The deceased's inheritance would go to the child born from the marriage. Deut 25:5-10

Relevance to our time?



How the American Family Has Changed

% of U.S. children living with ...





- 2. For Ruth, family was more about relationship and shared suffering than bloodline. How can you include your family/others in your suffering?
- A. V1:16. "But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you ... Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us."
- B. V2:2. Ruth to Naomi "Let me go to the field...

- 2. (cont.) ... The NT is specific about the importance of family relationships as a life long commitment.
- A. 1 Tim. 5:3-4 Honor widows who are *widows indeed*. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them *first learn* to *show godliness* to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is *pleasing in the sight of God*. (ESV) v8.
- B. 1 Tim. 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for *members of his household*, he has *denied the faith* and is worse than an unbeliever.

- 3. What would be your "back to the basics" definition of a Godly man or a Godly woman? God wrote the book on family. He also did on Godliness.
- A. Boaz?
 - 1. Mutual respect and kindnesses. V4. v7. v8. V9.
 - 2. Providing for the less fortunate. v14-16.
 - 3. By paying attention to a foreigner's tears. V11-12
- B. Ruth? V2. v7. v10. v12. v13.

- 4. Boaz's blessing conferred upon Ruth became the blessing that God conferred upon the two of them. Neither was searching for the other, but God found them both.
- A. V1, V3. And as it happened...
 - · She did not see the hand of God...
- B. The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!

Call to Action.

- A. Pay attention to people's tears in your home and around you, and bring Jesus into those tears by some act of kindness or prayer blessing.
- B. Take one characteristic of either Boaz or Ruth and focus on that characteristic in your life. Read what the Bible has to say about the word. Think of how you could take that word and make it more real in your life.