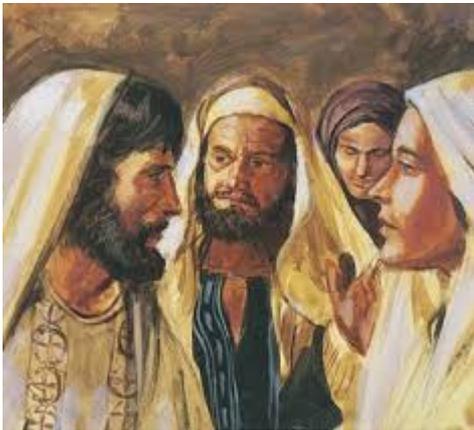


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Scene Four: Bo'az Marries Ruth 4: 1-12



The best stories are filled with surprises. The plot twists and turns and we're never quite sure where it will lead us. In the last chapter **Ruth** discovered, much to **her** disappointment that there was another **unnamed kinsman** who was closer relative to Elimelek than **Bo'az**. In one sense, you could say that meant **Na'omi** and **Ruth's** redemption was guaranteed for one way or another they would be redeemed, either by **Bo'az** or **the unnamed kinsman**. Yet in another sense, we are still unsure about **Ruth's** future. Would **Ruth** end up marrying **Bo'az** or this mysterious stranger? Even though we haven't met **him** yet, instinctively, we feel that **he** can't possibly be right man for **her**.

But the choice of a husband is not the only issue that will be resolved in this final scene. The storyteller also has another twist in the plot to spring on us at the very end of the book. This is not merely a story of **ADONAI's** covenant chesed to **Na'omi** and **Ruth**; it is also about **God's** covenant chesed to **Isra'el**. **The Israelites** haven't even thought about asking for a king yet; they were still **in the days of the judging of the judges (1:1a CJB)**. However, in **His** sovereignty and love, **YHVH** was already preparing the line of **David**, through which **the One** who would ultimately meet that need and be her **Kinsman-Redeemer: But when the**

appointed time arrived, God sent forth his Son. He was born from a woman, born into a culture in which legalistic perversion of the Torah was the norm (Galatians 4:4 CJB).⁸⁸ This chapter focuses on three people: the bridegroom, the bride and the baby.