

I don't know if you noticed – but there's a subtle shift at the end of the Book of Ruth.

The Elders and the Women of Bethlehem focus their prayers on **a baby**.

- A miracle-baby, supernaturally conceived.
- A baby born in Bethlehem, who will become famous in Israel, who'll renew lives, and grant long life.
- A baby whose name means "servant."
- A baby in the line King David.
- A baby who Naomi (a previously empty, faithless, and bitter woman) ends up taking into her lap and calling her own.

Most people have never heard of Obed – the baby born to Ruth.

But the comparisons to Jesus are too obvious to miss!

In Obed, God was preparing us to recognize the Redeemer He Provides.

A future baby, born of virgin, in Bethlehem, in the line of David.

A baby who came to serve, not be served, and grant eternal life to both Jew and Gentile.

A baby who grew up to say, "I am the Bread of life; whoever comes to me will never be hungry again."

Jesus is the Bread of Ruth chapter 4.

And the hunger He satisfies is the hunger for redemption.

Are you hungry?

Do you need redemption?

It's no coincidence that at the Lord's Table we serve bread.

The bread indicates His body, broken for us.

If you haven't yet believed in Jesus.... – then when the plate...

If you're a Christian and you're in a conflict with someone....

Hold the bread and juice until I lead us to eat and drink together.

Prayer: Lord, we marvel at the story of redemption. Your love. Your grace. Your justice and mercy. How you providentially guided history to reveal your Redeemer at just the right time. To feed a hungry world, starving for salvation. And paying for it with your own life. We are so grateful. And filled with joy and gladness in you. You are awesome and we revel in your love – here at your table. Amen.

Bread: I thank you, Lord Jesus, for ur body which was broken for me.”

Prayer: Lord, we know we weren’t redeemed with perishable things, like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Son of God. Redemption cost you more than Boaz paid. And it purchased far more than he received. It cost you your very life, and the wrath of God. You endured that for us, to redeem us as your own possession, to the praise of your glory. That is unfathomable love to us. We’re stunned and thankful. And we worship you here at your table. In Jesus name, Amen.

Cup: “I thank you, Lord Jesus, for your blood which was shed for me.”