

Jesus Our Kinsman Redeemer **Ruth 2:20**

The *New Geneva Study Bible* correctly lists at least four ways in which a close relative could act as a redeemer:

The law of redemption now comes into view. According to this law, the nearest male blood relative had the duty of preserving the family name and property. This duty could entail (a) avenging the death of a family member (Num. 35:19-21); (b) buying back family property that had been sold to pay debts (Lev. 25:25); (c) buying back a relative who had sold himself into slavery to pay debts (Lev. 25:47-49); and (d) marrying the widow of a deceased relative (Deut. 25:5-10).

The passage we will examine focuses particularly on the redemption of a family member from slavery.

Leviticus 25:25, 47-49

Notice that there are at least three conditions that must be in place if one is going to be helped by a *goël*: 1) The *goël* must be a *kinsman*, 2) he must possess the *means* to pay price of redemption, and 3) he must be *willing* to do so, for the text says that the kinsman *may* redeem his brother from slavery, not that he *must* do it. As we consider the way that God took up the metaphor of the *goël* and applied it to His own saving action in Christ, these factors will become important in our understanding of what He has done. But first we must see 1) how God described Himself as our Redeemer, 2) how He promised a Messiah who would be our Redeemer, and 3) how Jesus became our Redeemer in fulfillment of God's promise.

I. God Described Himself as Our Redeemer

Isaiah 44:6, 24; 47:4; 48:17; 54:5-6, 8

II. God Promised a Messiah Who Would Be Our Redeemer

Isaiah 52:9-10; 53:1-6 [*Note*: Peter applies this text to Jesus our Savior in 1 Pet. 2:24-25.]; 59:20

The Apostle Paul cites this last passage with reference to the work of Christ in Romans 11.

Romans 11:25-27

III. Jesus Became Our Redeemer in Fulfillment of God's Promise

First, Jesus was a *kinsman* who could serve as our Redeemer. He was one of our *brethren*.

Hebrews 2:9-11, 14-17

Second, Jesus possessed the *means* to serve as our Redeemer. He alone was *able* to pay the price of redemption.

1 Peter 1:17-19

Third, Jesus was *willing* to act as our Redeemer. He was willing to give His life as the price for our redemption.

John 10:14-18