

Was Naomi Eligible for Levirate Marriage?

Naomi was not eligible for levirate marriage because she was past childbearing age and had already raised sons (Mahlon and Chilion) with her deceased husband, Elimelech. The purpose of levirate marriage under biblical law was specifically to raise up an heir for a brother who died childless.

Why Naomi Was Ineligible

- **Past Age for Children:** Naomi explicitly notes in the Book of Ruth that she is too old to bear more children, ruling out any physical possibility of producing an heir.
- **Lineage Already Established:** She and Elimelech previously had sons, meaning their marital line had already produced descendants (even though those sons later died without children).
- **The Target of Redemption:** In [The Book of Ruth](#), the kinsman-redeemer obligation involving Boaz and the anonymous closer relative (*Pelsoni Almoni*) was tied to redeeming Elimelech's land, while the levirate or extended duty fell upon the young Moabite widow, Ruth, to perpetuate the family name on that estate.