

Why Didn't Boaz Marry Naomi?

Boaz did not marry Naomi because Naomi was past the age of childbearing, and the custom of the kinsman-redeemer required marrying a deceased man's young widow—Ruth—to raise up an heir and preserve the family lineage. Naomi herself actively arranged for Ruth to approach Boaz instead, securing a future and a legal heir for her family through Ruth.

Age and Family Lineage

- **Too old for children:** Naomi was elderly and could no longer have babies. Marrying her would not produce an heir to carry on the family name of her dead husband, Elimelech.
- **Ruth's role:** Ruth was young and was the widow of Naomi's son, Mahlon. Marrying Ruth fulfilled the cultural goal of keeping the family land and lineage alive.

Legal and Cultural Customs

- **Kinsman-redeemer duty:** The relative who bought Naomi's land was also expected to marry the eligible widow linked to the estate.
- **Naomi's plan:** Naomi guided Ruth to the threshing floor to ask Boaz to act as her redeemer, knowing that uniting Boaz and Ruth was the best way to save their family.