

Chapter 4

Booz before the ancientes of the citie (the neerer kinfman refusing) poffeffeth the inheritance Elimelech, 10. and marieth Ruth. 13. Hath by her a fonne, the grandfather of Daud. 18. VVhose genealogie by this occafion is recited, from Phares the fonne of Iudas the patriarch.

Booz therefore went vp to the gate, and fate there. And when he had feene the nigh kinfman paffe by, of whom the talke was had before, he faid to him: Turne in a litle while, and fitte here: calling him by his name. Who turned in, and fate. ² And Booz taking ten men of the citie, faid to them: Sitte ye here. ³ Who fitting downe, he fpake to the nigh kinfman: Noemi, who is returned from the countrie of Moab, wil fel the part of the field belonging to ^aour brother Elimelech. ⁴ Which I would thee to vnderftand, and would tel thee before al that fitte, and the ancientes of my people. If thou wilt poffeffe it by the right of nigh kindred: bye, and poffeffe it. But if it pleafe thee not, tel me the fame, that I may know what I ought to doe. For there is no nigh kinfman fauing thee, which art firft, and me, who am fecond. But he answered: I wil bye the field. ⁵ To whom Booz faid: When thou shalt bye the field at the womans hand, thou muft take alfo Ruth the Moabite, which was the wife of the deceafed: that thou mayeft rayfe vp the name of thy kinfman in his inheritance. ⁶ Who answered: I yeld my right of nigh kindred: for I may not abolifh the pofteritie of myne owne familie. Doe thou vfe my priuiledge, which I profeffe that I doe willingly forgoe. ⁷ And ^bthis in old time was the maner in Ifrael betwen kinfemen, that if at any time one yelded to an other his right: that the graunt may be

^a Booz calleth his kinfman brother, as Abraham called Lot his brother, *Gen. 13.* being *his Nephewv.*

^b See *Deut. 25.* noting here withal, that the penaltie was leffe, when an other kinfman vndertaking the mariage, the woman was preuēted from complying before the iudge.

fure, the man put of his fhoe, and gaue it to his neighbour. This was a teftimonie of yielding in Ifrael. ⁸ Booz therefore faid to his kinfeman: Take of thy fhoe. Which immediatly he loofed from his foote. ⁹ But to the ancientes, and the whole people he faid: You are witneffes this day, that I haue purchafed al thinges which were Elimelechs; and Chelions and Mahalons, Noemi deliuering them: ¹⁰ and haue taken in mariage Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahalon, that I may rayfe vp the name of the deceafed in his inheritance, left his name be abolifhed out of his familie and brethren and people. You, I fay, are witneffes of this thing. ¹¹ Al the people that was in the gate anfwered, and the ancientes: We are witneffes: Our Lord make this woman, which entereth into thy houfe, as Rachel, and Lia, which builded the houfe of Ifrael: that fhe may be an example of vertue in Ephrata, and may haue a famous name in Bethlehem: ¹² and that thy houfe may be, as the houfe of Phares, whom Thamar bare to Iudas, of the feede which our Lord fhall geue thee of this yong woman. ¹³ Booz therefore tooke Ruth, and had her to wife: and went in vnto her, and our Lord gaue her to conceiue, and to beare a fonne. ¹⁴ And the wemen faid to Noemi: Bleffed be our Lord, which hath not fuffered that there should fayle a fuceffor of thy familie: that his name fhould be called in Ifrael. ¹⁵ And thou fhouldeft haue one that may comfort thy foule, and cherifh thy old age. For of thy daughter in law is he borne, which wil loue thee: and much better is fhe to thee, then if thou hadft feuen fonnes. ¹⁶ And Noemi taking the child put it in her bofome, and did the office of a nource and of one that fhould carie him. ¹⁷ And the wemen her neighbours congratulating her, and faying: There is a fonne borne to Noemi: called his name Obed: this is ^a)the father of Ifai, the father of Daud. ¹⁸ Thefe are the generations of Phares:

^a Here appeareth the final caufe of writing this hiftorie, to fhew the Genealogie of King Daud from Iudas the Patriarch, of whom Chrift fhould defcend, fo prophecied: *Gen. 49.* and fhewed to be performed: *Mat. 1.*

Phares begat Efron, ¹⁹ Efron begat Aram, Aram begat Aminadab, ²⁰ Aminadab begat Nahaffon, Nahaffon begat Salmon, ²¹ Salmon begat Booz, Booz begat Obed, ²² Obed begat Ifai, Ifai begat Daud.