

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 Duty of Husband's Brother

Kinsman Redeemer

⁵ "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. ⁶ And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

Refusal to Fulfill this Responsibility

⁷ But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.' ⁸ "Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him; and if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,' ⁹ "then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.' ¹⁰ "And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.' NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Right of Inheritance of the dead. [[Deuteronomy 25:5-11](#)]
 - ◇ The brother of the dead man must marry the brother's widow.
 - ◇ The purpose of this law is to provide a continuation of the name and line of the dead.
- ✧ Procedure decreed for the widow toward the man who refuses to fulfill this commandment:
 - ◇ The wronged widow takes the case before the elders at the gate of the city.
 - ◇ The elders call the man and advise him to fulfill the widow's right and his responsibility.
- ✧ If he still refused to meet this requirement:
 - ◇ The widow is instructed to come to the man in the presence of the elders, remove the sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and declare, "So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house."
 - ◇ His fame in Israel will be "The house of him who had his sandal removed."
- ✧ This legal precedent was first set in the case of the sons of Judah. [[Genesis 38:1-30](#)]
- ✧ This also was the basis of the case of Ruth and Boaz in the book of Ruth. [[Ruth 4:1-12](#)]
 - ◇ The result of which was the birth of Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David, Of whose line the Messiah was promised, through whose was the lineage of Jesus Christ. [[Matthew 1:1-11](#), [Luke 2:1-4](#), [3:22-38](#)]
- ◇ Jesus is known to be the "Son of David" throughout the New Testament. [[in all four Gospels and Acts 2:22-36](#), [13:21-23](#), [Romans 1:1-5](#), [2 Timothy 2:8](#), [Revelation 5:5](#), [22:16](#)]