

The JPS Bible Commentary: Ruth,
commentary by Tamara Cohn Eskenazi and Tikva Frymer-Kensky.
Jewish Publication Society 2011.

The commentary to Ruth is the ninth volume in the series of Bible commentaries that now encompasses the five books of Moses, the Haftarot, and Esther, Jonah and Ecclesiastes.

The volume on Ruth carries with it a superb commentary by Tikva Frymer-Kensky, z"l, and Tamara Cohn Eskenazi: sadly, the former died before work on the volume could be completed, requiring Cohn Eskenazi to use the former's notes on chapters 1 and 2 to create a seamless whole, a task she has accomplished very well.

A comprehensive and superbly annotated introduction commences the commentary, looking at every aspect of Ruth – its provenance, themes and the commentaries thereon. The commentary that follows is as fine as one would expect considering the authors, and those parts that deal with Ruth's actions towards Boaz out in the fields in chapter 3 and the nature of Boaz' obligation towards her are clear and fascinating.

There is much material in this volume for the scholar and layperson alike, and as well as being a great source for personal learning, The JPS Commentary to Ruth would form a perfect basis for a Tikkun Leyl Shavuot.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh