

THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

THE BOOK OF RUTH

May 25, 2022 | Erica Brown | Chapter Three: Ruth's Search for a Redeemer

Tali Zerkowicz (she/her): Here is today's handout:

<https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Ruth-Chapter-Three.pdf>

MYTYL SIMANCAS: The crop

Jane Shichman: fertility themes

deborah kattler kupetz: he is above her, she is naked, and open

MYTYL SIMANCAS: Bright sun, heat.

MYTYL SIMANCAS: Seductive position for someone who is "resting"

deborah kattler kupetz: he is covered and protected by wheat

stacy Leeman: Why is she naked? Chagall's figures are often clothed

Judy Oberlander: reduced perspective; symmetrical wheat as anchor points

Jane Shichman: He's the provider

Caroline Harris: Where is the blanket she put over his feet!

Tali Zerkowicz (she/her): The wheat bundle Boaz is holding looks like the outline of a woman

Tali Zerkowicz (she/her): If you're just joining us welcome! here is the link to the handout: <https://www.wexnerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Ruth-Chapter-Three.pdf>

Sonia Cummings: Naomi wants to ensure she becomes part of the tribe

stacy Leeman: Naomi has come to appreciate Ruth and her sacrifices

MYTYL SIMANCAS: Evolution in their relationship. From In law to "daughter"

Debra Brafman: Naomi wants her to be close to her

deborah kattler kupetz: its gone from functional also to emotional, I want you to be "happy"

MYTYL SIMANCAS: Also she is worried about Ruth's happiness.

Vicki Cabot: She is looking out for her welfare, now calling her daughter and seeking not just a home but a happy place for her.

Dan Kinel: It says "must" - perhaps it is now an obligation rather than option/voluntary

Caroline Harris: What if it is the reverse, Naomi doesn't want responsibility for Ruth in her own home

Julie kohl: he will be drunk and sleepy

MYTYL SIMANCAS: What does his feet have to do with this?

ellen chaikof: she smells good

Julie kohl: a man and a woman, like the parents of moses

MYTYL SIMANCAS: This is so much the opposite of what matchmaking is today in the orthodox world. Can you imagine?

deborah kattler kupetz: its flattering and empowering

Jacqueline Shelton: so much responsibility

Vicki Cabot: Yes

Julie Kohl: as far as Ruth knows, Boaz is her redeemer, because that is what Naomi tells her

Susie Sorkin: It is an interesting question of agency.

Jane Shichman: Naomi and Ruth would have been feeling certain that Boaz would not resist a nice young woman at his feet

Caroline Harris: This reminds me of Judah and Tamar in so many ways.

Julie Kohl: Boaz is thinking very clearly for having been awakened in the middle of the night

Judy Oberlander: a sense of being overwhelmed...from both their perspectives.