

Acknowledgments

John Donne's famous line "No man is an island" well expresses the individual and cooperative effort that has gone into the writing of this book. Academic research and scholarly pursuits are best undertaken within the context of community, and for this reason I offer my sincere gratitude to all who have contributed.

This work represents a substantial revision and expansion of my Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion (Cincinnati, Ohio) doctoral dissertation, which I could not have completed without either of my readers, Nili S. Fox and Stephen A. Kaufman. Both invested much time in this project and offered invaluable direction from beginning to end. Above all, they have taught me how to think critically and to recognize what can and cannot be concluded given the available evidence. My hope is that this book honors the lasting legacy they have passed on to me.

I am grateful to Cynthia Miller-Naudé and Jacobus Naudé as well as Jim Eisenbraun for accepting my manuscript for publication in Eisenbrauns' *Linguistic Studies in Ancient West Semitic* series. Throughout the editorial process they have worked diligently to see the manuscript to publication, and it has been a privilege to work with them. I am very grateful to Matthew Williams, my production editor, for shepherding this book through the production process. I would like to express special gratitude to Peter T. Daniels, whose superb skills as a copy editor resulted in many improvements in terms of readability and formatting. Sarah Cho and Stephen Koehn are also to be thanked for assisting with the formatting of the manuscript.

The library staffs at Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion and Columbia International University played a crucial role in this project. I would like to thank them for diligently fulfilling my many interlibrary loan requests. This project could not have been completed without their assistance in obtaining library resources.

Throughout the course of this project I have enjoyed the privilege of corresponding with several individuals: James P. Allen, Michael Barré, Barry Blake, Ben Bryan, Claudia Ciancaglini, Francesco Gardani, Samuel Greengus, Mauro Giorgieri, Zev Joseph Handel, Lars Johanson, Aaron J. Koller, Joseph Lam, John Makujina, Ganesh Malla, H. Craig Melchert, Robert Rezetko, Frank Seifart, P. Oktor Skjærvø, Grant Testut, and Ian Young. I am grateful to each of these individuals

for their assistance with various topics covered in the manuscript. I am especially thankful to Grant, who read over much of the manuscript in its various stages and offered many valuable insights.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my family. My wonderful wife Jenn—who also has a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible—read my entire manuscript, offered valuable feedback, and above all supported and encouraged me throughout the process. My precious daughter Katy graciously allowed her daddy to put time into this project at the occasional expense of playtime. Because their sacrifices ultimately made this book possible, I dedicate this book to Jenn and Katy.

Having acknowledged all the assistance that was given to me in this project, I take full responsibility for whatever shortcomings may be found herein.