



Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	xvii
Abbreviations	xix
Introduction	1
The Purpose of the Work	2
The Plan and Scope of the Work	6
Overview of Old Testament Sexual Vocabulary	7

Section 1: Sexuality in Eden: The Divine Design (Genesis 1–3)

Chapter 1: Sexuality in the Beginning: Genesis 1–2	15
Sexuality as a Creation Order	17
A Heterosexual Human Duality and Marital Form	19
A Monogamous Marital Form	21
Equality of the Sexes without Hierarchy	22
Sexuality and Wholeness	35
Sexuality and Exclusivity	43
Sexuality and Permanence	44
Sexuality and Intimacy	46
Sexuality and Procreation	49
The Wholesome, Holy Beauty of Sexuality	50
Chapter 2: Sexuality and the Fall: Genesis 3	55
The Nakedness of Adam and Eve	55
Divine Judgment concerning the Relationship between Eve and Adam	58

Section 2: Sexuality outside the Garden: Old Testament Development (Torah, Prophets, Writings)

Chapter 3: Creation Ordinance versus Cultic Sexuality	83
Positive Affirmations of the Edenic Ideal	84

The Cultic Sacralization/Divinization of Sex in Pagan Worship	85
Ancient Near Eastern Background	85
Mesopotamia	85
Egypt	90
Anatolia/Hittites	91
Ugarit/Canaan	92
Pentateuch	97
Narratives	97
Legislation	102
Sacralization of Sex and the Male Priesthood in Israel	106
Prophets/Writings	107
Sexually Related Imagery for God	113
God as Husband/Bridegroom	113
God as Father	117
Feminine Imagery for God	120
Is God Male or Female?	126
The Fertility Cults and Divine Grace	130
Chapter 4: Human Heterosexuality versus Homosexuality,	
Transvestism, and Bestiality	133
The Divine Design	133
Homosexual Practice	134
Ancient Near Eastern Background	134
Mesopotamia	134
The Hittite Empire (Anatolia)	139
Egypt	139
Ugarit/Western Semites/Canaan	141
Summary	142
Pentateuchal Narratives	142
Ham's Sin—a Homosexual Act?	142
Sodom: Homosexual Lust or Inhospitality?	145
Pentateuchal Legislation	149
Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13	149
Deuteronomy 23:18–19 (ET 23:17–18)	159
Homosexual Practice in the Prophets/Writings	160
Male Cult Prostitution	160
Judges 19	161
Ezekiel 16 and 18	162
Ruth and Naomi?	164
David and Jonathan?	165
The Old Testament Wisdom Tradition?	167
Summary	169
Transvestism (Cross-Dressing)	170
Bestiality	172
Distortions of the Heterosexual Marital Form and Divine Grace	175

Chapter 5: Monogamy versus Polygamy/Concubinage	177
Positive Affirmations of the Edenic Divine Design	177
Plural Marriages (Polygamy/Concubinage)	178
Ancient Near Eastern Background	178
Pentateuchal Narratives	180
The Bigamy of Lamech	181
Polygamy at the Time of the Flood	181
Abraham's Polygamy/Concubinage	184
Jacob's Polygamy/Concubinage	186
The Polygamy of Esau and Concubinage of His Son	189
Moses, a Bigamist?	189
Pentateuchal Legislation	191
Legislation concerning the Female Slave: Exodus 21:7–11	191
Legislation against Marrying “a Woman to Her Sister”: Leviticus 18:18	193
Legislation regarding the King's Marital Status: Deuteronomy 17:17	198
Other Legislation Purportedly Presupposing Polygamy	201
Polygamy in the Prophets/Writings	202
Summary	210
Plural Marriages and Divine Grace	211
Chapter 6: Elevation versus Denigration of Women	213
Leadership/Submission/Equality and Old Testament Patriarchy: An Overview	213
The High Valuation of Women in the Old Testament: Pentateuchal Narratives	223
Genesis Matriarchs	226
Sarah	226
Hagar	228
Rebekah	230
Rachel and Leah	232
Tamar	233
Conclusion	235
Women at the Exodus	235
Shiphrah and Puah	236
The Egyptian Princess	237
Jochebed	237
Miriam	237
The Seven Daughters of Jethro (Including Zipporah)	239
Conclusion	240
Daughters of Zelophehad	241
The High Status of Women in Pentateuchal Laws	242
Women's Status vis-à-vis That of Men in Pentateuchal Law	242

Legislation Purportedly Presenting an Inferior Status for Women	244
Numbers 5	245
Leviticus 12:1–8	245
Leviticus 27:1–8	247
Numbers 30:4–17 (ET 30:3–16)	248
Deuteronomy 25:11–12	248
Woman as Chattel?—the Tenth Commandment and Other Passages	249
An All-Male Priesthood	251
The High Status of Women in Religious and Civil Affairs	253
Conclusion	255
The High Valuation of Women in the Prophets/Writings	256
The Former Prophets	256
Women in Joshua	256
Women in Judges	259
Women in Samuel and Kings	266
The Latter Prophets	273
Specific Women	273
Groups of Women	273
Other Elevated Valuations of Women	274
The Writings: Narratives/History	276
Ruth	276
Esther	278
Writings: Hymnic/Wisdom Literature	280
Job	280
Psalms	282
Proverbs	283
Ecclesiastes	286
Distortion of the Divine Ideal: Exploitation, Denigration, and Abuse of Women	288
Pentateuch	288
Prophets/Writings	289
The Denigration of Women and Divine Grace	294
Chapter 7: Wholeness versus Fragmentation (Prostitution, Mixed Marriages, Masturbation, Sexual Blemishes, and Impurities)	297
Positive Affirmations of the Edenic Ideal for Sexual Wholeness	297
Wholistic Anthropology	297
The Whole Family	298
Complementarity—Whether Married or Single	299
Wholeness of Sexual Organs and Freedom from Ritual Impurities	302
Fragmentation of Sexual Wholeness	302
Prostitution/Harlotry	302

Ancient Near Eastern Background	303
Pentateuchal Narratives	305
Pentateuchal Legislation	306
Prophets/Writings	307
Metaphorical References	310
Grace	315
Mixed (Interfaith) Marriages	315
At the Time of the Flood (Gen 6:1–4)	315
Patriarchal Warnings	316
Mosaic Legislation	317
Prophets	318
Writings	319
Grace	324
Masturbation	324
Sexual Blemishes and Ritual Uncleaness Related to Sexuality	325
Pentateuchal Legislation	325
Prophets/Writings	334
Grace	335
Chapter 8: Exclusivity versus Adultery and Premarital Sex	337
Affirmations of the Divine Ideal of Exclusivity	337
Exclusivity in the Marriage Relationship	337
The High Value of Virginity	339
Distortions of the Divine Ideal: Adultery and Premarital Sexual Intercourse	342
Ancient Near Eastern Background	342
Pentateuchal Narratives Related to the Theme of Adultery	344
Pentateuchal Legislation regarding Adultery	345
The Decalogue	345
Other Legislation	346
Adultery in Israel in Contrast with Other Ancient Near Eastern Legislation	347
The “Trial of Jealousy” in Numbers 5	349
Pentateuchal Legislation Dealing with Premarital/Pre-betrothal Sexual Intercourse	354
Premarital Sex with a Betrothed Virgin (Deut 22:23–27)	355
The Case of the Slandered Bride (Deut 22:13–21)	356
Seduction of a Single Woman (Deut 22:28–29; cf. Exod 22:15–16 [ET 22:16–17])	359
Sexual Intercourse with a Betrothed Slave Girl (Lev 19:20–22)	361
A Double Standard of Sexual Faithfulness in the Pentateuch?	363
Adultery in the Prophets	364
Adultery in the Writings	369
Psalms	369

Job	369
Proverbs	370
Adultery, Extramarital Sex, and Divine Grace	373
Chapter 9: Permanence versus Divorce/Remarriage	377
Affirmation of the Divine Ideal	377
Distortion of the Divine Ideal: Divorce/Remarriage	384
Ancient Near Eastern Background	385
Divorce in Pentateuchal Narratives	388
Patriarchal “Divorce”: Genesis 21:9–14	388
Patriarchal Remarriage: Genesis 25:1	389
Pentateuchal Legislation Related to Divorce: Deuteronomy	
24:1–4	389
Translation	389
Literary Form and Structure	389
Grounds for Divorce (v. 1a)	390
Procedure of Divorce (v. 1b)	392
Remarriage and the Second Divorce or Death of a Second	
Husband (vv. 2–3)	394
Legislation: The Apodosis (v. 4a)	395
Rationale for the Legislation (v. 4a–d)	395
The Overall Purpose of the Legislation	398
Other Pentateuchal Legislation Dealing with Divorce	405
Prohibitions of Divorce	405
Prohibitions against Marrying Divorced Women	406
Rights of Divorced Women	407
A Woman’s Right to Divorce	407
Divorce/Remarriage in the Preexilic Prophets	409
Hosea 2:4	410
Isaiah 50:1	411
Jeremiah 3:1, 6–8	413
Judges 14:20–15:2	416
1 Samuel 25:44	416
Divorce and Remarriage in the Postexilic Prophets and the	
Writings	417
Ezra 9–10; Nehemiah 9:2; 13:3, 30	417
Malachi 2:13–16	417
Divorce/Remarriage and Divine Grace	422
Chapter 10: Intimacy versus Incest	425
Affirmations of the Divine Ideal of Marital Intimacy	425
Pentateuch	425
Prophets/Writings	426
Forbidden Degrees of Intimacy: Incestuous Relationships	427
Ancient Near Eastern Background	428
Pentateuchal Narratives concerning Incest	428

Immediately after the Fall	428
Ham and His Mother?	429
Lot and His Daughters (Gen 19:30–38)	431
Reuben and Bilhah (Gen 35:22; 49:4)	432
Judah and Tamar (Gen 38)?	432
Pentateuchal Legislation against Incestuous Relations	434
Incest in the Prophets	443
Amnon and Tamar (2 Sam 13)	443
Absalom and His Father’s Concubines (2 Sam 15–16)	445
Other Cases of Incest	446
Incest and Divine Grace	446
Chapter 11: Procreative Sexuality versus Problems/Distortions (Childlessness, Children Born out of Wedlock, and Abortion)	447
Positive Affirmations of the Edenic Ideal	447
The First Children	447
Procreative Fruitfulness, Covenant, and Circumcision	448
The Cherishing of Children	452
Childlessness	453
Orientation and Terminology	453
Pentateuch	454
Prophets/Writings	456
Adoption	457
Levirate Marriage, Related Legislation, and the Sin of Onan	461
Levirate and “Onanism” in the Pentateuchal Narrative	462
Genesis 38	462
Genesis 38:8–10: “Onanism”	464
Levirate in the Pentateuchal Legislation: Deuteronomy	
25:5–10	465
Why Levirate Marriage?	465
Who Qualified as <i>Levir</i> ?	467
Does Levirate Marriage Entail Incest?	471
What Does the “Sandal Ceremony” Symbolize?	473
Why Is This Law Placed Here in Deuteronomy?	474
The “Immodest and Violent Lady Wrestler” of Deuteronomy	
25:11–12	476
Levirate in the Prophets/Writings: The Book of Ruth	480
Caring for the Widows and Orphans	483
Children Born out of Wedlock	484
Pentateuchal Legislation	484
Prophets/Writings	485
Reproduction/Population Control and Abortion-Related Issues	486
Reproduction/Population Control	486
The Status of the Human Fetus and Implications for Abortion	491
Ancient Near Eastern Background	491

Exodus 21:22–25	493
Other Old Testament Passages Dealing with the Status of the Human Fetus	497
Problems/Distortions of Procreative Sexuality and Divine Grace	500
Chapter 12: Beauty versus Rape and the Parody of Beauty	503
Positive Affirmations of the Edenic Ideal	503
Pentateuchal Narratives	503
Pentateuchal Legislation	504
Prophets/Writings	506
Distortions of the Beauty of Human Sexuality: Rape	509
Ancient Near Eastern Background	510
Pentateuchal Narratives	512
Lot's Daughters (Gen 19)	512
Dinah (Gen 34)	512
Pentateuchal Legislation concerning Rape	519
Exodus 22:15–16 (ET 22:16–17) and Deuteronomy 22:28–29	519
Deuteronomy 22:25–27	519
Leviticus 21:7, 14	520
Rape in the Prophets/Writings	521
The Levite's Concubine (Judg 19)	521
Bathsheba (2 Sam 11)	523
Tamar (2 Sam 13)	532
Rape and Divine Grace	535
Sexuality as Unwholesome, Ugly, and Evil	536
Distorted Sexuality as a Parody of Beauty	538

Section 3: Return to Eden

Chapter 13: Sexuality in the Song of Songs: The Holy of Holies	545
Allegorization of the Song of Songs	545
The Literal Interpretation of the Song of Songs	549
Return to the Garden of Eden	552
Sexuality As a Creation Order	554
A Heterosexual Human Duality and Marital Form	556
A Monogamous Marital Form	561
Equality of the Sexes without Hierarchy	569
Sexuality and Wholeness	578
Sexuality and Exclusivity	587
Sexuality and Permanence	589
Sexuality and Intimacy	592
Sexuality and Procreation	604

Chapter 14: Sexuality in the Song of Songs: The Flame of Yahweh	607
The Wholesome, Holy Beauty of Sexuality	607
The Flame of Yahweh	621
Afterword: Some Implications for a New Testament Theology of Sexuality	633
Sexuality as a Creation Order	633
Heterosexual versus Homosexual Practice	634
Monogamy versus Polygamy	638
Elevation versus Denigration of Women	639
Wholeness versus Fragmentation	652
Exclusivity versus Adultery	654
Permanence versus Divorce	654
Intimacy versus Incest	657
Sexuality and Procreation	658
The Wholesome Beauty of Sexuality	658
Bibliography	659
Index of Modern Authors	803
Index of Ancient Sources	817