

Preface

In the academic year 1988-89, I conducted a graduate seminar on the Concept of the Exodus in the Department of Biblical Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The discussions that developed in that class helped to scatter the fog, to sharpen my understanding of the Exodus, and to formulate my ideas more clearly; the challenge of having to explain oneself to a thinking audience always contributes much to the quality of what is later written down. In the same vein, it would be difficult to imagine the crystallization of this book without the endless conversations I have enjoyed with my friend and colleague Avigdor Shinan.

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I am gratefully aware that, with this book, I am able to observe the commandment, "And you shall tell your son on that day, 'It is because of what the Lord did for me when I went free from Egypt' " (Ex. 13, 8).

Y. Z.

Jerusalem
Passover Night 5751

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