

Preface

The work before you is the slightly revised version of a doctoral dissertation accepted at the University of Groningen in 1994. As the work is now published properly, I am happy to thank all those who contributed to my academic education or helped me to publish this work. I wish to mention in particular Professor Piet van der Horst (Utrecht), Dr. Florentino García Martínez (Groningen) and the staff members of the *Department of Languages and Cultures of the Middle East* in Groningen. I thank Drs. Anthony Runia (Groningen) for his help with the correction of the English. I also am obliged to Dr. Hans Renkema (Kampen) for his support in L^AT_EX matters.

Most of all however, I owe special words of thanks to Professor Adam van der Woude under whose direction I completed my thesis. He stimulated accuracy and academic independence, and his support and encouragement were indispensable. I must also acknowledge his help in seeking a publisher for this work. In addition I wish to thank the editor of *Oudtestamentische Studiën*, Professor Johannes de Moor (Kampen), and the publishing house Brill, for their willingness to publish my work in this series.

Eibert J.C. Tigchelaar
Sauwerd, The Netherlands,
April 1995