

Table of Contents

Preface	ix
Chapter 1: Introduction: The Epistemology of Religion	1
1. Methodological Considerations	2
1.1 A History of Ideas in Epistemology and Religion	2
1.2 Hermeneutical Concerns	8
2. The Epistemologies within Wisdom and Law	9
3. Conclusion	11
Chapter 2: Mythos, Cosmos and Episteme: Mythical and Cosmic Origins to Hebraic Knowledge	12
1. Introduction	12
2. Cosmos and Knowledge: Genesis 1–11	12
3. Primordial and Patriarchal Connections	16
4. Knowledge in Exodus	17
5. Deuteronomy in the Pentateuch	20
6. Conclusion	23
Chapter 3: From Deuteronomy to Horeb: Actualising Israel’s History Deuteronomy 1–11	25
1. Introduction	25
2. From Horeb: Moses’ “Words” and God’s Promises (Deuteronomy 1–3)	25
2.1 Primordial and Patriarchal Themes in Deuteronomy 1–3	26
2.2 Rhetorical Wordplay in Deuteronomy 1	27
3. Moses’ Words at Moab about Yahweh’s Words at Horeb (Deut 4–11)	31
3.1 Deut 4: Transition from Past to Present and Future	31
3.1.1 Time, History and Actualisation	31
3.1.2 Deuteronomic Wordplay and the Role of this “Book”	34

3.1.3 Theophany, History and the Universal Aims of the Torah	38
3.1.4 Introduction to Teaching Functions in the Community	42
3.2 Oral and Written Worlds: Memory and the Great Commandment	44
3.3 Speech and Writing in the Great Commandment	45
3.4 Remember and Do Not Forget: Wordplay and Actualisation in Deuteronomy 8	49
4. Conclusion	51
 Chapter 4: Ideology and Epistemology in the Deuteronomic Laws	
Deuteronomy 12–26	53
1. Introduction	53
2. Ideology and Epistemology	53
2.1 The Enlightenment and the Turn to Sociological and Ideological Study	54
2.2 The Hermeneutics of Tradition	55
3. Ideology in the Old Testament	57
4. Ideology and Deuteronomy 12–26	59
4.1 Unity and Continuity in Deuteronomy 12–26	59
4.2 Time and Place in Israel’s Theological Worldview	63
4.3 Hermeneutics and Prophecy	66
4.4 Authority and Prophecy	68
4.5 The Hermeneutical Tradition of Prophecy	70
4.6 The King as Deuteronomy’s Arch-Interpreter of Torah	73
4.6.1 Ideology Critique in Israel’s Kingship Law	75
4.6.2 The Ambiguity of Kingship in Deuteronomy	76
4.6.3 The King as Arch-Torah Reader	77
4.7 Yahweh’s Authority and the Distribution of Israel’s Offices	78
5. Conclusion	80
 Chapter 5: Re-Actualisation in Future Covenants	
Deuteronomy 27–34	82
1. Introduction	82
2. The Words and the Book: The “Metamorphoses” of Moses’ Words	82
2.1 Rhetoric and Artistry in Deuteronomy’s Use of Orality and Literacy	83
2.1.1 Covenant Ratification at Shechem: Deuteronomy 27 .	85

2.1.2 The Covenant and the Book at Moab: Deuteronomy 28–30	87
2.1.3 Moses Writes the Torah-Book: Deuteronomy 30–31	89
3. Witnesses and Epistemological Virtue in Deuteronomy 30–32	91
3.1 The Morality of Israel's Knowledge in Deuteronomy 4–32	92
3.1.1 Human Responsibility and Divine Intervention in Deuteronomy 30	94
3.1.2 The Song as a Witness to Morally Culpable Knowledge	102
3.1.3 Moral Wisdom in the Created Order	104
4. Deuteronomy and Beyond: A Book, A People and The Nations	106
4.1 The Nations: גַּוֹתִים	107
4.2 Moses and his Successors	108
5. Conclusion	109
 Chapter 6: Epistemology in Proverbs	111
1. Introduction	111
2. Wisdom	111
3. Introducing Structure and Theology in Proverbs	113
4. Proverbs 1–9 and 31	115
4.1 תְּהִלָּה יְדִידָה: Proverbs 1:1–7; 31:30	116
4.2 Woman Wisdom, Creation and the Created Order	120
4.2.1 Wisdom as Woman	121
4.2.2 Wisdom as Expert Witness in Creation	122
4.2.3 Proverbs 8:22–31	123
5. The “World as it Seems”: Wisdom in Proverbs 10–29	126
5.1 Retribution, Mystery and Crisis in Proverbs	127
5.2 Proverbs 26:1–12	130
5.3 Proverbs 30	133
6. Conclusion	135
 Chapter 7: Epistemology in Ecclesiastes and Job	137
1. Introduction	137
2. Epistemology in the Wisdom Literature	137
2.1 Wisdom and the Wisdom Literature	137
3. Epistemology in Qohelet	138
3.1 A New Proposal for Qohelet's Epistemology	143

3.1.1 Ecclesiastes 1:12–2:26	143
3.1.2 Ecclesiastes 5:1–7 [4:17–5:6]	149
4. Epistemology in Job	153
4.1 Job’s Comforters	154
4.2 Chapter 28: The Heart of Job’s Last Speech	155
4.3 The Divine Speeches	158
5. Conclusion	161
 Chapter 8: Conclusion: Wisdom and Torah in Historical Perspective	162
1. Introduction	162
2. Summary: The Epistemology of Wisdom and Torah	162
2.1 Ontology and the Created Order in Wisdom and Torah	163
2.2 Ideology, Worldview and Certainty in Wisdom and Torah	166
2.3 The Liminal Rhetoric in Wisdom and Torah	168
2.4 The Hermeneutics of Epistemology	170
2.5 The Ethics of Understanding	173
2.6 Post-Exilic Epistemology	174
3. The Hebraic Epistemology Today	180
4. Conclusion	183
 Bibliography	185
 Index	205