Contents

Abstract	9
Acknowledgments	11
l. Introduction: Representation and the Real	13
1.1 Summary and Outline	13
1.2 Cultic Images and Semiotics in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern	
Studies	14
1.2.2 Methodological Notes	21
2. Image and Presence in Mesopotamia	25
2.1 Introduction	25
2.2 Images and Presence in Mesopotamia	26
2.2.1 Mīs pîl pīt pî Ritual	26
2.2.2 Divine Abandonment and Abduction	29
2.2.3 Images of Humans	31
2.3 Humans as the Image of God in Mesopotamia	37
2.3.1 King as Image	38
2.3.2 Priest as Image	44
2.4 Conclusion	47
3. Iconic Israel: Divine Representation, Idol Polemics, and the	
Awareness of the Relationship between Image and Presence in the	
Hebrew Bible	49
3.1 Introduction	49
3.2 Representation in the Israelite Cult	49
3.2.1 High Place Worship	54
3.2.2 Standing Stones	56
3.2.3 Asherah	63
3.2.4 The Ark	67

3.3 Iconoclasm	74
3.3.1 Hosea and the Deuteronomistic Reform Movement	74
3.3.2 Prophetic Parodies	77
3.4 Conclusion	84
4. The Image of God in the Hebrew Bible	87
4.1 Genesis 1: Humanity as the Image of God	87
4.1.1 Introduction	87
4.1.2 History of Research	87
4.1.2.1 History of Scholarship before 1960	88
4.1.2.2 History of Scholarship After 1960	92
4.1.3 בצלם אלהים	96
4.1.3.1 Near Eastern Background of Genesis 1	96
4.1.3.2 Genesis 1:26-27	105
ברמותו כצלמו (Genesis 1:26) and בצלמנו כרמותנו	
(Genesis 5:3)	108
4.1.3.2.2 The Poetics and Purpose of Genesis 1:27	118
4.1.3.3 Genesis 5:3 and 9:6	121
4.1.4 Conclusion	124
4.2 Exodus 34:29 - 35: Moses as the Image of God	127
4.2.1 Introduction	127
4.2.1.1 The Priestly Redaction and Literary Arrangement of	
Exodus	128
4.2.1.2 Exodus 34:29 – 35 and the Priestly Redaction of	
Exodus 32 – 34	133
4.2.2 Divine Representation in Exodus 32-34	138
4.2.2.1 Introduction	138
4.2.2.2 The Calf as Image of God	139
4.2.2.3 The Calf as Image of YHWH	145
4.2.2.4 Moses as Image of God in Exodus 32-34	150
4.2.2.5 Moses as Image of God in the Book of Exodus	157
4.2.3 Conclusion	162
4.3 Ezekiel 36 – 37: Israel as the Image of God	164
4.3.1 Introduction	164
4.3.1.1 Composition	165
4.3.1.2 Setting	171
4.3.1.3 Mesopotamian Background and Influence	173
4.3.2 Israel as YHWH's Image in Ezekiel	181
4.3.2.1 Images of Idolatry in Ezekiel	183
4 3 2 2 Images of Restoration in Fzekiel	103

4.3.2.2.1 Spirit in Ezek 4.3.5 Conclusion		
5. Conclusions		20
5.1 Summaries and Conclusions		
5.2 The Concept in Later Judaism		210
Abbreviations	• • • • • • • • • • • • •	21
Bibliography		22