

Contents

Foreword	13
Introduction.....	15
“Abraham was but one man” (Eze 33:24).....	15
The Historical Era of the Abraham Narrative.....	16
Sources, Redaction, and Cohesion	21
The Interchangeability of God’s Names in the Narrative	28
The Abraham Cycle as a Cohesive Unit.....	31
Redaction as Interpretation of the Text.....	34
The Narrative and Artistic Structure of the Abraham Cycle	34
The Context of the Narrative Cycle.....	42
Family and Nationality	43
The Abraham Cycle: Between “Nation” and “People”	50
Citizen Will and Divine Will	59
Nationalism and Morality	64
Moral Nationalism and Post-Modern Nationalism	67
Chapter 1: The Line of Terah (11:27–30).....	69
Terah’s Journey to Canaan (11:31–32).....	72
Plot Development.....	74
Literary Significance	78
Chapter 2: Abram’s Journey to Canaan (12:1–9).....	83
The Omitted Introduction	83
Go Forth	84
Abram’s Journey.....	92
Abram’s Journey in Canaan and the Construction of Altars.....	96

Chapter 3: The Descent to Egypt (12:10–20)	105
Chapter 4: The Separation from Lot (Gen 13)	119
The Quarreling Herdsmen	121
Abram's Proposal	123
Lot's Choice: Sodom, like the Garden of Eden, like the land of Egypt.....	124
Chapter 5: War of the Four Kings –	
Lot's Liberation (14)	131
Conquest of the Transjordan (1–7)	133
Lot's Rescue (8–16).....	140
Abram Takes Action.....	145
Abram Meets with the Kings (17–24)	146
Chapter 6: Looking to the Stars and the	
Covenant between the Pieces (15).....	161
The Promise of Offspring (1–6)	163
The Covenant between the Pieces (7–21)	169
Chapter 7: Hagar's Flight (16)	187
“Her mistress was lowered in her esteem” –	
“Sarai treated her harshly” (1–6)	188
“Then Sarai treated her harshly, and she ran away from her”	195
The Meeting at the Spring (7–14).....	198
Naming Names (13–14).....	206
God Sees the Suffering of the Oppressed.....	211
Conclusion (15–16).....	214
Chapter 8: The Covenant of Circumcision (17)	217
a-a1. “Abraham was ninety-nine years old”	221
b-b1. The Beginning and End of the Revelation	222
c-c1. Covenant and Fertility	224
d-d1: Abram Throws Himself on His Face.....	228
e-e1: The Name Change	229

F – The Covenant Sign (9–14)	233
Circumcision and the Rainbow as Covenant Signs	244
Chapter 9: Angels Eat and Sarah Laughs (18:1–16)	249
Abraham's Guests (1–5)	252
Preparing the Feast (6–8)	259
Tidings of Isaac's Birth (9–15)	263
Sarah's Laughter	271
Chapter 10: The Debate over Sodom's Destruction (18:16–33)	275
"Judge of all the Earth"	282
I Who Am but Dust and Ashes	286
Chapter 11: Sodom's Destruction and Lot's Rescue (19)	295
The Angels Arrive in Sodom (1–3)	296
The Townspeople (4–11)	300
The Verdict and Lot's Escape (12–17)	309
Saving Zoar (18–22)	313
The Destruction of the Cities (23–26)	314
First Conclusion (27–28)	319
Second Conclusion (19:29)	321
Why was Lot Saved from Sodom?	323
Lot's Liberation from Sodom and Israel's	
Deliverance from Egypt	330
Lot's Liberation from Sodom and	
Rahab's Rescue from Jericho	331
Chapter 12: Lot and his Daughters in the Cave (19:30–38)	335
Evaluation of the Characters	336
The Daughters	338
The Reasoning of the Elder Daughter	344
The Evaluation of Lot	356
Lot's Daughters as an Epilogue to the Destruction of Sodom	358
Lot's Daughters in the Context of the Abraham Cycle	362

Chapter 13: Abraham and Sarah in Gerar (20).....	365
Abraham's Journey to Gerar (1)	367
Abimelech Takes Sarah (2)	371
The Dialogue between God and Abimelech (3–7).....	373
Early Next Morning (8)	378
Abimelech and Abraham (9–13).....	380
Reconciliation (14–18).....	385
A Double Reading	388
 Chapter 14: The Birth of Isaac and Ishmael's	
Expulsion (21:1–21)	399
Reactions to the Birth (6–8)	403
The Expulsion of Ishmael (9–21).....	405
Sarah's Demand (9–10).....	406
Ishmael is Sent to his Future (11–14)	412
Saving Ishmael (14–21).....	415
How Old is Ishmael?.....	419
The Structure and Purpose of the Narrative	421
Hagar's Flight (Gen 16) and Hagar's Expulsion (21)	426
 Chapter 15: The Treaty of Abraham	
and Abimelech (21:22–34).....	437
 Chapter 16: The Binding of Isaac (22).....	451
Introduction I: Did Abraham Pass the Test?.....	451
Introduction II: The Binding Narrative in Context	455
Introduction III: The Land of Moriah.....	460
Exposition (1)	463
God's Command (1–2).....	464
Abraham's Implementation (3)	468
First Dialogue: Abraham and the Servants (4–5).....	471
Second Dialogue: Abraham and Isaac (6–8).....	473
Abraham Binds Isaac and Picks up the Knife (9–10)	477
The Angel's Revelation and the Sacrifice	
of the Ram (11–14).....	479
Misleading Conclusion	481

God's Promise (15–18).....	484
Sacrifice of the Ram and the Structure of the Narrative	490
Conclusion (19).....	495
Chapter 17: The Sons of Nahor (22:20–24).....	499
Conclusion	505
Bibliography.....	515