

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| ABBREVIATIONS | xi |
| I. OLD TESTAMENT SCHOLARSHIP AND THE STUDY OF SOCIETY | 1 |
| Sociology and the Old Testament Interpreter | 1 |
| Sociology and the Historian | 8 |
| II. SOCIOLOGY IN OLD TESTAMENT CRITICISM: HISTORY AND METHOD | 10 |
| The Rise of the Social Sciences | 10 |
| The Use of the Social Sciences by Old Testament Critics | 23 |
| Methodological Problems | 28 |
| III. RECONSTRUCTING ISRAEL'S HISTORY: AN ANTHRO- POLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON ISRAELITE SOCIETY IN THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES | 30 |
| The Nature of the Problem | 30 |
| The Choice of an Anthropological Approach | 40 |
| A Survey of the Anthropological Evidence | 40 |
| The Implications of the Anthropological Evidence . | 47 |
| The Limits of the Anthropological Approach | 53 |
| IV. UNDERSTANDING LITERARY FORMS: AN ANTHRO- POLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE OLD TESTAMENT GENEALOGIES | 54 |
| The Nature of the Problem | 56 |
| The Choice of an Anthropological Approach | 57 |
| A Survey of the Anthropological Evidence | 57 |
| The Implications of the Anthropological Evidence . | 61 |
| The Limits of the Anthropological Approach | 65 |

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| V. INTERPRETING ISRAEL'S RELIGION: AN ANTHRO- POLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE PROBLEM OF FALSE PROPHECY..... | 67 |
| The Nature of the Problem | 68 |
| The Choice of an Anthropological Approach | 71 |
| A Survey of the Anthropological Evidence | 71 |
| The Implications of the Anthropological Evidence . | 77 |
| VI. SOCIOLOGY AND THE FUTURE OF OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES | 81 |
| The Unfinished Sociological Agenda..... | 81 |
| Sociology and Traditional Methods of Interpretation | 82 |
| Sociology and Old Testament Theology..... | 83 |