

## Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	xiii
<i>Preface</i>	xv
<b>Chapter 1: Biblical Law Codes:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Community of Equal or Unequal</b>	
The Covenant Code and the Community	1
The Book of the Covenant Code	2
Exodus 20:8-10, 17: Right of Body, Belongings and Liberty	3
<i>Exodus 20:8-10: Right for Liberty</i>	3
Translation/Textual Comments	4
<i>Exodus 20:17: Right of Body and Belongings</i>	5
Translation/Textual Comments	5
Exodus 21:2-11: Laws on Servitude	7
<i>Translation/Textual Comments</i>	7
<i>Comments and Explanation</i>	8
Exodus 21:22-27: The Laws on Ill-Treatment towards the 'Others'	13
Translation/Textual Comments	13
Comments and Explanation	14
Exodus 22:16-17 (Eng.) [15-16 Heb.]:” Virgin as Property	16
Translation/Textual Comments	16

Comments and Explanation	17
Exodus 23:12, 17: Laws on Sabbath, Annual Festivals and the 'others'	18
Translation/Textual Comments	18
Comments and Explanation	19
Summary	19
The Holiness Code and the Community	21
The Holiness Code	21
The Nature of Holiness Code	22
Reading the Laws through the eyes of the Margin	23
Leviticus 12:1-8 - Laws on Ritual Purity of a Woman who has given Birth	23
<i>Translation/Textual Comments</i>	24
<i>Comments and Explanation</i>	25
Leviticus 15:16-31 - Law on Uncleaness from Bodily Emissions	29
<i>Translation/Textual Comments</i>	29
<i>Comments and Explanation</i>	32
Leviticus 19: 20-22, 29 - Laws for Holy Living	33
<i>Translation/Textual Comments</i>	33
<i>Comments and Explanation</i>	34
Lev 25:39-46 - Laws on Slavery	36
<i>Translation/Textual Comments</i>	36
<i>Comments and Explanation</i>	37
Summary	38
The Deuteronomic Code and the Community	40
Selected Texts from Deuteronomic Code	42
Historical Background	42
Deuteronomy 15:12-18-The Liberation of the Hebrew Slaves	44
<i>Translation/Textual Comments</i>	44
<i>Comments and Explanation</i>	46
Deuteronomy 16:11-14 -Worship and Fellowship Meal for All Members of the Society	50

<i>Translation/Textual Comments</i>	50
<i>Comments and Explanation</i>	51
General Observations on Biblical Law Codes	53
1. Cultures of Ancient West Asia: A Fusion!	53
2. Discrepancies in the Biblical Law Codes	53
<i>A. Laws on Slavery</i>	54
<i>B. Women and Law: Patriarchal and Colonial Ideology</i>	55
3. Powerful and Powerless: The Power Play behind the Law	56
Conclusion	58
<b>Chapter 2: Kingship in Israel: Power Play behind the Traditions</b>	61
Introduction	61
Ancient West Asian Understanding of Kingship	62
Egypt	63
Mesopotamia	64
Israelite Understanding towards Kingship	66
Traditional Differences in the Understanding of Kingship	67
Deuteronomistic Understanding towards Kingship	67
Chronicler Understanding towards Kingship	68
Observations Based on Kingship in Israel	69
Kingship: A blessing or a curse?	69
Traditions in conflict: Old order (Judge) or New order (Kingship)?	70
Saul: Placed to Displace?	71
Conclusion	73
<b>Chapter 3: Ruth, the Outsider and Naomi, the Insider</b>	75
Introduction	75
<i>Book of Ruth: A Brief Overview</i>	76
<i>Subaltern Reading of Ruth, the Immigrant</i>	77
Journey of Elimelech towards Moab: (Ruth 1:3-5)	78
Journey of Ruth towards Bethlehem: (Ruth 1:14-18; 2:2-7 and 4:11-15)	80
Ruth, the Outsider: Identifying and Partnering with the Insiders	85

1. <i>Ruth: the Staggering Personality Budding out of the Dimness</i>	85
2. <i>Ruth, the Active and Naomi, the Passive</i>	85
3. <i>Ruth, the Foreigner Changing the Affluence of Naomi, the Native</i>	86
4. <i>Ruth, an Important Historical Figure of Israel</i>	87
Conclusion	88
<b>Chapter 4: Esther and Mordecai: The Subalterns</b>	89
Subaltern and Its Beginning	89
Subaltern Reading of the Hebrew Bible	92
Esther: The Margin Exposing the Center	92
Reading the Selected Passages of Esther from a Subaltern Perspective (1:1-2:23; 4:13-5:8; 7:1-8:8)	94
Esther 1:1-2:23: Refusal and Replacement	94
Esther 3-5: Act of Haman and Confidence of Esther	96
7:1-8:8: Haman Hanged and Jews Succeeded	99
Revisiting the Characters: Center and the Margin	103
Vashti and Esther	103
Esther and Mordecai	104
Esther, Haman and the King	105
Subaltern Strategy	105
Plot and Dramatic Reversal of Esther and Mordecai	105
Esther: Dramatic Change from Passive to Active	107
Conclusion	108
<b>Chapter 5: Women's World: Center and Margin</b>	111
Introduction	111
Sarah and Hagar: Center and Margin	112
Sarah: Center or Margin	113
Hagar: Center or Margin	114
Hannah and Peninnah: Center and Margin	117
Hannah: Center or Margin	117
Peninnah: Center or Margin	119
Conclusion	120

<b>Chapter 6: Exodus Story: God of the Margins</b>	123
Re-Reading the Paradigmatic Event from a Margin Perspective	123
Background Studies	124
Exodus Story: Battle between Yahweh/Margins and Pharaoh/Center	125
Heroic Acts of Women: Outside-Inside Partnering	125
Role of Margins: Adopting Different Paths	126
Midwives: The Middle Path	126
Jochebed: The Silent Judicious Path	127
Miriam: The Clever Path	128
Pharaoh's Daughter: The Bold Path	129
God and the People of Margins	130
Conclusion	130
<i>Bibliography</i>	131
<i>Index of Subjects</i>	143
<i>Index of Authors</i>	145