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INTRODUCTION; Women and Psalms: Toward an Understanding of the Role of Women's Prayer in the Israelite Cult; The 'Whore' of Ezekiel 16: The Impact and Ramifications of Gender-Specific Metaphors in Light of Biblical Law and Divine Judgment; Virginity in the Bible; Honor and Shame in Gender-Related Legal Situations in the Hebrew Bible; A

Riposte Form in The Song of Deborah

False Weights in the Scales of Biblical Justice?: Different Views of Women from Patriarchal Hierarchy to Religious Equality in the Book of DeuteronomyWives and Daughters, Bond and Free: Views of Women in

the Slave Laws of Exodus 21.2-11; Gender and Law: A Case Study from Ancient Mesopotamia; 'Lest He Die in the Battle and Another Man Take Her': Violence and the Construction of Gender in the Laws of Deuteronomy 20-22; The Female Slave; Index of References; Index of Ancient Near Eastern Texts; Index of Authors

## Sommario/riassunto

This striking new contribution to gender studies demonstrates the essential role of Israelite and Near East law in the historical analysis of gender. The theme of these studies of Babylonian, Hittite, Assyrian, and Israelite law is this: What is the significance of gender in the formulation of ancient law and custom? Feminist scholarship is enriched by these studies in family history and the status of women in antiquity. At the same time, conventional legal history is repositioned, as new and classical texts are interpreted from the vantage point of feminist theory and social history. Papers f