

Like Mount Zion

Conceptual Metaphor and Critical Spatiality
in the Songs of Ascents



Wen-Pin Leow: Like Mount Zion

Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments

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Wen-Pin Leow: Like Mount Zion

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To my wife—Xinyi,
and my children—Matthew, Nathaniel, and Sophie:
thank you for being God's faithfulness to me
(Ps 128:1–4)

Content

Table of Figures	13
Articles Adapted in this Monograph	15
Abbreviations	17
Foreword	23
Acknowledgements	25
Chapter 1: Introduction	27
1.1 Space and the Hebrew Bible	27
1.2 The Spatial Turn in Biblical Studies	28
1.3 Another Turn—Cognitive Linguistics	30
1.4 Thesis and Structure of the Monograph	31

PART I: METHODOLOGY

Chapter 2: Critical Spatiality and Biblical Studies	37
2.1 Survey of Critical Spatiality	37
2.1.1 Michel Foucault—Utopias and Heterotopias	37
2.1.2 Henri Lefebvre—On the Production of Space	41
2.1.3 Edward W. Soja—Thirdspace	46
2.1.4 Summary: Comparing Foucault, Lefebvre, and Soja	49
2.2 Critical Spatiality in Biblical Studies	50
2.2.1 Monographs on Critical Spatiality of the Hebrew Bible	51
2.2.2 Critical Spatial Essays on Jerusalem/Zion	54
2.2.3 Challenges in Applying Critical Spatiality to Biblical Studies	58
2.3 Summary	60
Chapter 3: Conceptual Metaphor Theory as Critical Spatial Method	63
3.1 Introduction	63
3.2 A Lefebvrian-Foucaultian Influenced Approach to Critical Spatiality	63

3.3	The Suitability of Conceptual Metaphor Theory as Critical Spatial Method	66
3.3.1	Overview of Conceptual Metaphor Theory	67
3.3.2	Resonances between Conceptual Metaphor Theory and Critical Spatiality	68
3.4	A Nomenclature of Space	70
3.4.1	Space-in-Text—Spatial Setting and Reified Space	70
3.4.2	Performance Space—Actual and Implied	72
3.4.3	Space vis-à-vis Metaphors and Metonyms	73
3.4.4	A Lefebvrian-Foucaultian View of Space-in-Text and Performance Space	74
3.5	Applying Conceptual Metaphor Theory to Spatial Study	75
3.5.1	Oriental Metaphors	75
3.5.2	Ontological Metaphors	76
3.5.3	Structural Metaphors	78
3.5.4	Conceptual Metonymy	79
3.5.5	Conceptual Blends	81
3.5.6	From Conceptualisation to Social-Historicity	83
3.6	Summary	84

PART II:

PROLEGOMENA TO THE CASE STUDY

Chapter 4:	The Songs of Ascents and Zion Theology	87
4.1	Introduction	87
4.2	Overview of the Songs of Ascents	87
4.3	The Songs of Ascents as a Critical-Spatial Case Study	90
4.4	Survey of Scholarship on Zion Theology	93
4.4.1	Zion Tradition	93
4.4.2	Diversity in Zion Theology	96
4.5	Zion Theology in the Songs of Ascents	98
4.5.1	Philip Satterthwaite	98
4.5.2	Corinna Körting	99
4.5.3	Erich Zenger	100
4.5.4	Michael Rohde	101
4.6	Synthesis: Assessing Zion Theology in the Songs of Ascents	102
4.7	Summary	104
Chapter 5:	Pilgrimage in the Songs of Ascents	105
5.1	Pilgrimage and the Songs of Ascents	105
5.2	Pilgrimage in the Ancient World	107

5.2.1 Pilgrimage in Classical and Hellenistic Greece	107
5.2.2 Israelite Pilgrimage in Pre-Persian Biblical Texts	109
5.2.3 Jewish Pilgrimage in the Late Second Temple Period	110
5.2.4 Conclusion	113
5.3 Jewish Pilgrimage in Persian-Era Biblical Texts	113
5.3.1 Zechariah	114
5.3.2 Haggai	116
5.3.3 Trito-Isaiah	116
5.3.4 Ezra–Nehemiah	118
5.3.5 Chronicles	120
5.3.6 Summary	122
5.4 Criteria for Assessing Pilgrimage in the Songs of Ascents	123
5.5 Conclusion	125

PART III:

CASE STUDY OF THE SONGS OF ASCENTS

Chapter 6: Psalms 120–124	129
6.1 Introduction	129
6.2 Psalm 120	129
6.2.1 Translation	129
6.2.2 Exegesis of Ps 120	130
6.2.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 120	138
6.3 Psalm 121	141
6.3.1 Translation	141
6.3.2 Exegesis of Ps 121	142
6.3.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 121	150
6.4 Psalm 122	152
6.4.1 Translation	152
6.4.2 Exegesis of Ps 122	153
6.4.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 122	159
6.5 Psalm 123	163
6.5.1 Translation	163
6.5.2 Exegesis of Ps 123	164
6.5.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 123	169
6.6 Psalm 124	172
6.6.1 Translation	172
6.6.2 Exegesis of Ps 124	172
6.6.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 124	180
6.7 Summary	183

Chapter 7: Psalms 125–129	185
7.1 Psalm 125	185
7.1.1 Translation	185
7.1.2 Exegesis of Ps 125	185
7.1.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 125	192
7.2 Psalm 126	199
7.2.1 Translation	199
7.2.2 Exegesis of Ps 126	200
7.2.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 126	208
7.3 Psalm 127	210
7.3.1 Translation	210
7.3.2 Exegesis of Ps 127	211
7.3.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 127	217
7.4 Psalm 128	222
7.4.1 Translation	222
7.4.2 Exegesis of Ps 128	223
7.4.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 128	226
7.5 Psalm 129	233
7.5.1 Translation	233
7.5.2 Exegesis of Ps 129	234
7.5.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 129	234
7.6 Summary	248
Chapter 8: Psalms 130–134	251
8.1 Psalm 130	251
8.1.1 Translation	251
8.1.2 Exegesis of Ps 130	252
8.1.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 130	258
8.2 Psalm 131	262
8.2.1 Translation	262
8.2.2 Exegesis of Ps 131	262
8.2.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 131	267
8.3 Psalm 132	270
8.3.1 Translation	270
8.3.2 Exegesis of Ps 132	272
8.3.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 132	278
8.4 Psalm 133	282
8.4.1 Translation	282
8.4.2 Exegesis of Ps 133	283
8.4.3 Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 133	286

	Content	11
8.5	Psalm 134	292
8.5.1	Translation	292
8.5.2	Exegesis of Ps 134	292
8.5.3	Metaphor and Spatiality in Ps 134	294
8.6	Summary	299

PART IV:
CONCLUSION

Chapter 9:	Synthesis	305
9.1	Zion Theology and the Songs of Ascents	305
9.1.1	Arguments against a Singular Zion Tradition/Theology	305
9.1.2	Diverse Conceptions of Zion	306
9.1.3	Zion's Conceptual Matrix	310
9.2	Pilgrimage and the Songs of Ascents	311
9.2.1	Evaluating Past Reasons Given for a Pilgrimage Reading	311
9.2.2	Comparing the Songs of Ascents to Evidence-Based Pilgrimage Criteria	312
9.2.3	Final Evaluation of the Pilgrimage Hypothesis	315
9.3	Reconsidering the Purpose and Provenance of the Songs of Ascents	316
9.3.1	Fostering Zion-Centric Unity	316
9.3.2	Addressing Agrarian Communities in Yehud	317
9.3.3	A Levitical Provenance for the Collection	319
9.4	Evaluating the Spatial-Metaphorical Method	321
9.4.1	Strengths of the Method	321
9.4.2	Limitations of the Method	323
9.5	Summary	324
	Bibliography	325
	Index	341

Table of Figures

Figure 2.1	Utopia and heterotopias as social-analytic tools	40
Figure 3.1	Structuring of the LOVE domain in terms of the JOURNEY domain	78
Figure 3.2	Basic conceptual blending diagram	82
Figure 6.1	Subject and objects of <i>yiqtol</i> s in Ps 120:3	133
Figure 7.1	Solomonic allusion as structural metaphor	221
Figure 7.2	FARMHOUSE AS FARMLAND structural metaphor	230
Figure 7.3	Underlying structural metaphor YHWH AS A PATERFAMILIAS	232
Figure 7.4	Conceptual blending— ISRAEL’S MILITARY OPPRESSION AS FARMING	237
Figure 8.1	Spatiality in Psalm 130	261
Figure 8.2	Conceptual blending—ATYPICAL ABUNDANCE IN ZION	289
Figure 8.3	Spatial configuration established in Ps 134:1b–2b	296
Figure 8.4	Spatial configuration established in Ps 134:3	298
Figure 9.1	Use of the terms ציון and ירושלים in the Songs of Ascents	306
Figure 9.2	Overarching spatial framework of the Songs of Ascents	309

Articles Adapted in this Monograph

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- . 'Changing One's Tune: Re-Reading the Structure of Psalm 132 as Complex Antiphony'. *Old Testament Essays* 32, no. 1 (2019): 32–57.
- . 'Farming for Meaning: Dynamic Extended Metaphor and Conceptual Blending in Psalm 129'. *Asia Journal of Theology* 34, no. 1 (2020): 1–22.
- . 'Trust under Siege: Psalm 125 as Theological Reflection'. In *Offering the Light: Essays in Honour of Philip E. Satterthwaite on the Occasion of His Retirement*, edited by Tze-Ming Quek, Kiem-Kiok Kwa, and Wen-Pin Leow, 16–40. Singapore: Biblical Graduate School of Theology, 2022.

Abbreviations

Modern Publications

AAAG	<i>Annals of the American Association of Geographers</i>
AAR	American Academy of Religion
AB	Anchor Bible
ABS	Archaeology and Biblical Studies
ACCS	Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture
AIL	Ancient Israel and its Literature
AJT	<i>Asia Journal of Theology</i>
ANET	<i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> . Edited by James B. Pritchard. 3rd ed. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1969.
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
ArBib	The Aramaic Bible
ARM	Asian Resources for Ministry
Aug	<i>Augustinianum</i>
AYB	Anchor Yale Bible
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BBRSup	Bulletin of Biblical Research Supplements
BDAG	<i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . Edited by Frederick W. Danker, Walter Bauer, William F. Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. 3rd ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
BeO	<i>Bibbia e oriente</i>
BETL	Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium
BHS	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i>
Bib	<i>Biblica</i>
BibInt	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i> (journal)
BIS	Biblical Interpretation Series
BN	<i>Biblische Notizen</i>
BibTS	Biblische-Theologische Studien
BpT	<i>Baptistic Theologies</i>
BSac	<i>Bibliotheca Sacra</i>
BT	<i>The Bible Translator</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CANE	<i>Civilizations of the Ancient Near East</i> . Edited by Jack M. Sasson. 4 vols. New York, NY: Scribner's Sons, 1995.
CBC	Cornerstone Biblical Commentary
CC	Continental Commentaries
CIS	Copenhagen International Seminar
ConBOT	Coniectanea Biblica: Old Testament Series
CurBR	<i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>
DBI	<i>Dictionary of Biblical Imagery</i> . Edited by Leland Ryken, James C. Wilhoit, and Tremper Longman III. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1998.
DCH	<i>Dictionary of Classical Hebrew</i> . Edited by David J. A. Clines. 9 vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 1993–2014.

<i>DCHR</i>	<i>Dictionary of Classical Hebrew Revised</i> . Edited by David J. A. Clines. 2 vols (incomplete). Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2018–2019.
<i>DDD</i>	<i>Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible</i> . Edited by Karel van der Toorn, Bob Becking, and Pieter W. van der Horst. 2nd ed. Leiden: Brill, 1999.
EABS	European Association of Biblical Studies
ECC	Eerdmans Critical Commentary
<i>EHLL</i>	<i>Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics</i> . Edited by Geoffrey Khan. 4 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2013.
ESV	English Standard Version (2016)
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses</i>
ET/s	English translation/s
<i>ExpT</i>	<i>The Expository Times</i>
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FJD	Forschungen zum jüdisch-christlichen Dialog
FOTL	Forms of the Old Testament Literature
FRC	Family, Religion, and Culture
<i>GBHS</i>	<i>A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax</i> . Bill T. Arnold and John H. Choi. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
GBS	Guides to Biblical Scholarship
GKC	<i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> . Edited by Emil Kautzsch. Translated by Arthur E. Cowley. 2 nd ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1910.
<i>HALOT</i>	<i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Ludwig Koehler, Walter Baumgartner, and Johann J. Stamm. Translated and edited under the supervision of Mervyn E. J. Richardson. 4 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994–1999.
HAR	Hebrew Annual Review
HAT	Handbuch zum Alten Testament
HBM	Harvard Bible Monographs
HHBS	History of Biblical Studies
<i>HS</i>	<i>Hebrew Studies</i>
HThKat	Herders Theologischer Kommentar zum Alten Testament
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
<i>HvTSt</i>	<i>Hervormde Teologische Studies</i> (English name: <i>HTS Theological Studies</i>)
<i>IBHS</i>	<i>Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax</i> . Bruce K. Waltke and Michael O'Connor. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
ICC	International Critical Commentary
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
<i>ISBE</i>	<i>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia</i> . Edited by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. 4 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.
<i>ITP</i>	<i>The Inscriptions of Tiglath-Pileser III, King of Assyria: Critical Edition, with Introductions, Translations and Commentary</i> . Edited by Hayim Tadmor. Jerusalem: Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 1994.
<i>JAJ</i>	<i>Journal of Ancient Judaism</i>
JAJS	Journal of Ancient Judaism Supplements
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
<i>JArS</i>	<i>Journal of Archaeological Science</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JBLMS	Journal of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
JCPS	Jewish and Christian Perspectives Series
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hebrew Scriptures</i>

JNSL	<i>Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages</i>
Joüon	<i>A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew</i> . Paul Joüon. Translated and revised by T. Muraoka. 2 vols. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1991.
JSem	<i>Journal of Semitics</i>
JSJ	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Periods</i>
JSJSupp	Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSupp	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
JT	<i>The Jerusalem Talmud: Complete Edition</i> (Studia Judaica). Edited and translated by Heinrich W. Guggenheimer. 17 vols. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2020.
JTS	<i>The Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KJV	King James' Version
LAI	Library of Ancient Israel
LCL	Loeb Classical Library. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
LHBOTS	Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies
LSAWS	Linguistics Studies in Ancient West Semitic series
LSTS	The Library of Second Temple Studies
MATRIX	Matrix: The Bible in Mediterranean Context
Moran	<i>The Amarna Letters</i> . Edited and translated by William L. Moran. Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press, 1992.
NAC	The New American Commentary
NASB	New American Standard Bible (1977)
Noë	<i>The Noë Edition Koren Talmud Bavli</i> . Edited by Tzvi Hersh Weinreb and Joshua Schreier. 42 vols. Jerusalem: Koren, 2018.
NIB	New Interpreter's Bible
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NIDOTTE	<i>New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis</i> . Edited by Willem A. VanGemeren. 5 vols. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.
NIV	New International Version (2011)
NLT	New Living Translation (2007)
NTMr	New Testament Monographs
OBO	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
OBT	Overtures to Biblical Theology
Or	<i>Orientalia</i>
OTL	Old Testament Library
OTR	Old Testament Readings
PHSC	Perspectives on Hebrew Scriptures and its Contexts
PSZAT	Poetologische Studien zum Alten Testament
POS	Pretoria Oriental Series
PRSt	<i>Perspectives in Religious Studies</i>
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
RGRW	Religions in the Greco-Roman World
RSV	Revised Standard Version (1971)
RUS	Ralahine Utopian Studies
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLMS	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
SBS	Stuttgarter Biblestudien

SCJ	Studies in Christianity and Judaism
<i>SJOT</i>	<i>Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SPOT	Studies on Personalities of the Old Testament
SSN	Studia Semitica Neerlandica
StBibLit	Studies in Biblica Literature
TBN	Themes in Biblical Narrative
<i>TBei</i>	<i>Theologische Beiträge</i>
<i>TDOT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i> . 17 vols. Edited by Helmer Ringgren et al. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1975–2018.
TNK	Jewish Publication Society TANAKH (1985)
TSAJ	Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum
<i>TWOT</i>	<i>Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament</i> . Edited by R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke. 2 vols. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1980.
<i>TynBul</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
<i>VSBH</i>	<i>The Verbal System of Biblical Hebrew</i> . Jan Joosten. Jerusalem: Simor, 2012.
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WBBC	Wiley Blackwell Bible Commentaries
WC	Wisdom Commentary
WW	<i>Word and World</i>
YJS	Yale Judaica Series
<i>ZAH</i>	<i>Journal of Althebräistik</i>
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>

Ancient/Rabbinic Literature

1QIsa ^a	Isaiah Scroll (“The Great Isaiah Scroll”)
4Q522	4QProphecy of Joshua
4Q87	4QPsalms ^e
11Q5	11QPsalms ^a (“The Great Psalms Scroll”)
11Q6	11QPsalms ^b
‘Arak.	‘Arakin
A. J.	Josephus, <i>Antiquitates judaicae</i>
b.	Babylonian Talmud
Ber.	Berakot
B. J.	Josephus, <i>Bellum judaicum</i>
C. Ap.	Josephus, <i>Contra Apionem</i>
DSS	Dead Sea Scrolls
EA	El Amarna, i. e., the Amarna Letters
Gen. Rab.	Genesis Rabbah
Ḥag.	Ḥagigah
<i>Hist.</i>	Herodotus, <i>Historiae</i>
Ibn Ezra	Rabbi Abraham Ibn Ezra (circa 1089–1164)
Jdt.	Judith
<i>Legat.</i>	Philo, <i>Legatio ad Gaium</i>
m.	Mishnah

General Abbreviations

Meg.	Megillah
Menah.	Menahot
Mid.	Middot
Midr. Teh.	Midrash Tehillim
Pe'ah	Pe'ah
<i>Prov.</i>	Philo, <i>De providentia</i>
Pss. Sol.	Psalms of Solomon
Radak	Rabbi David Kimhi (circa 1160–1235)
Rashi	Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki (circa 1040–1105)
Sir.	Ben Sira
<i>Spec.</i>	Philo, <i>De specialibus legibus</i>
Suk.	Sukkah
t.	Tosefta
Ta'an.	Ta'anit
Tg. Ps.-J.	Targum Pseudo-Jonathan
Tg. Pss	Targum Psalms
Tob.	Tobit
y.	Jerusalem Talmud

General Abbreviations

//	parallel to
BCE	before the Common Era
CE	Common Era
cf.	confer, compare
D	Deuteronomist
E	Elohist
e.g.	<i>exempli gratia</i> , for example
esp.	especially
HB	Hebrew Bible
<i>hi.</i>	<i>hiphil</i>
i. e.	<i>id est</i> , that is
J	Yahwist
LBH	Late Biblical Hebrew
LXX	Septuagint
MT	Masoretic Text
n.	footnote
<i>nif.</i>	<i>niphal</i>
<i>pi.</i>	<i>piel</i>
<i>qat.</i>	<i>qatal</i>
<i>qot.</i>	<i>qotel</i>
<i>yiq.</i>	<i>yiqtol</i>
vb	verb
v(v).	verse(s)
<i>wayyiq.</i>	<i>wayyiqtol</i>

Foreword

When Wen-Pin Leow told me, in the autumn of 2017, that he intended to write his Master's by Research thesis at the University of Aberdeen on the Psalms of Ascent, I immediately agreed. Ever since my student days, Psalms 120–134 have been greatly important to me—because of the poetic beauty of the individual psalms, the way in which they hang together, their theological message and their historical background. I vividly remember the lectures Andrew Macintosh gave to us, a small group of advanced undergraduates and Diploma students in 1988–9 at the Faculty of Oriental Studies (now famously renamed as 'Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies'!) of Cambridge University. They introduced us to philological subtleties and historical dimensions we had hitherto been unfamiliar with, and they kindled our interest in Hebrew poetry.

So I am very glad today to write this foreword. Wen-Pin Leow has turned an excellent piece of research of the typical size of a Master's thesis into an even better, massive study of the 'Pilgrim Songs'. It provides a fresh perspective on them, approaching them from the angle of Cognitive Linguistics and Critical Spatiality, with a particularly interesting 'take' on Henri Lefebvre and Michel Foucault.

I hope that Wen-Pin's study will enable scholars and the educated public more deeply to understand the Psalms of Ascent and to savour their more hidden features. I commend it to the reader with enthusiasm.

Aberdeen, in December 2023

Joachim Schaper

Acknowledgements

This monograph is a significantly-expanded version of my Master of Theology thesis submitted to the University of Aberdeen in June 2018. From its original length of 40,000 words focusing on only selected elements of conceptual metaphor theory and limited to Psalms 125–129, it has been expanded into its present 135,000-word form (exclusive of the bibliography and index). Previously-written chapters have been comprehensively revised, expanded, and improved. The methods advocated in the original thesis have been added to and refined. Many new chapters have been added in order to provide a comprehensive study of the entire corpus of the Songs of Ascents through the lens of conceptual metaphor theory applied to critical spatial study. This process of writing has been a long four-year journey.

The Puritan preacher Thomas Goodwin once commented that, “The most thankful person is the most fully human.” Indeed, as I look back over the writing process of this monograph, my heart is filled with thankfulness for the support of numerous individuals and organisations, without whom this work would have been impossible.

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