

This book reflects the fruit of the second year of my ongoing research on attitudes towards sexuality in Judaism and Christianity of the Hellenistic era, part of a five year project funded through an Australian Professorial Fellowship from the Australian Research Council, which I commenced mid 2005.

Murdoch University has provided invaluable infrastructure support, not least through the electronic inter-library loan scheme which has found obscure literature for me from all over the world. I have also benefited greatly from my annual pilgrimage to the Theologicum library in Tübingen University, where I have always received a warm welcome and support from the Institut für antikes Judentum und hellenistische Religionsgeschichte under the leadership of Professor Hermann Lichtenberger.

I am especially grateful to those who read and commented on earlier drafts of the main sections of book: Annette Steudel on chapters 1 – 3; Kelley Coblenz Bautch on chapters 4 – 8; James VanderKam on chapters 5 – 8, and Esther Eshel on *Genesis Apocryphon*. I am grateful to Mary J. Marshall who carefully read the whole and helped me see what authors' eyes seldom see. I also express my appreciation to William B. Eerdmans Jr for his support and encouragement, and for his willingness to publish the results of this research.

The first drafts of this work began to appear not long after the birth of our first grandson, Philip, July, 2006. The delight of observing the miracle of infant growth, even though mostly from afar, has accompanied my ongoing encounter with these obscure texts of our common humanity. Fittingly, publication now comes barely a month after birth of his new sister, Sofia.