

Preface

From 2nd till 5th September 2018, the symposium “David in the Desert” was held at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena. Under this catchy but rather enigmatic title – and under the less catchy but more explanatory subtitle “International Symposium on the Interrelation of Tradition and Redaction in the ‘History of David’s Rise’ and its Impact on a Reconstruction of the History of the ‘Early Monarchic Period’ in Israel” – a group of esteemed colleagues and good friends followed our call and made it possible for us to realise a project which had its origins in some coffee break discussions at the Colloquium Biblicum Lovaniense in 2014.

We look gratefully back on those days of intense scholarly discussion in a collegial and amicable atmosphere – and we look hopefully forward to the days when it will be possible to meet again not only digitally but in real life. The numerous cross-references between the articles of this volume bear witness to the constructive and stimulating discussions of the Jena conference – and at the same time they illustrate how important it is for scholarly exchange to know and to meet each other not only in writing or digitally but also physically.

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