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I have presented portions of this work to a variety of different audiences, and I thank them all for their invitations and feedback. In roughly chronological order: University of Rochester; Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania; Peking University; “New Directions in Medieval Masculinities” conference, Duke University; Ohio Wesleyan University; Hollins College;
University of New Mexico; Haskins Society; “Warrior, Poet, Prophet and King: The Character of David in Judaism, Christianity and Islam” conference, University of Warsaw; “God’s Own Gender? Religions and Their Concepts of Masculinity” conference, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster; “The Middle Ages Now” conference, University of Haifa; Midwest Medieval History Conference; Durham University; University of Aberdeen; Trinity College Dublin, Medieval History Research Centre; Bullough Lecture, St. Andrews Institute for Mediaeval Studies; Queen’s University, Belfast; History of Sexuality Seminar, Institute for Historical Research, University of London; Sophus Bugge Annual Lecture, University of Oslo; Trinity Centre for Biblical Studies, Trinity College Dublin; Centre for Late Antique and Medieval Studies, King’s College, London. The audience members who gave me useful feedback are too numerous to list, but I am deeply grateful to all of you for your enrichment of the work.

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The soundtrack for this book is Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah.” I ultimately decided not to go with epigraphs for each chapter, but if I had used them, several would have been from this song. Go listen to it!

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