CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix
List of Abbreviations xiii

Introduction 1

Chapter 1. David His Tens of Thousands: Prowess and Piety 23

Chapter 2. Surpassing the Love of Women: Love, Friendship, Loyalty Between Men 64

Chapter 3. I Have Sinned Against the Lord: Sex and Penitence 101

Chapter 4. With Sacred Music upon the Harp: Creativity and Ecstasy 136

Chapter 5. O My Son Absalom: Establishing a Dynasty 165

Conclusion 205

Notes 209

Bibliography 261

Index 295