

# Contents

Abbreviations .....	9
Introduction .....	13
The periodisation of Mesopotamian history .....	15
Map of Ancient Mesopotamia .....	21
1. Concept of divinity in Mesopotamia .....	23
1.1. The gods.....	23
1.2. Other supernatural beings .....	26
1.3. The personal god.....	31
1.4. Henotheistic tendencies.....	34
1.5. <i>me</i> : offices, rites and attributes of the divine cult and rule .....	35
2. Principal Mesopotamian divinities .....	39
2.1. An/Anum.....	39
2.2. Enlil.....	41
2.3. Enki/Ea.....	43
2.4. Nanna/Sin.....	46
2.5. Utu/Šamaš .....	48
2.6. Iškur/Adad.....	49
2.7. Inanna/Ištar .....	51
2.8. Ningirsu/Ninurta .....	54
2.9. Marduk .....	57
2.10. Aššur .....	59
3. Temple, representations of the gods, personnel assigned to cult .....	63
3.1. Residence of the divinity.....	63
3.2. Representations of the gods .....	67
3.2.1. Anthropomorphic representations .....	67
3.2.2. Symbolic representations.....	73
3.3. The personnel of the cult.....	74
3.3.1. Priests/priestesses and other cultic personnel .....	76
3.3.2. Consecrated women.....	80
3.3.3. The king.....	81
4. Temple cult .....	85
4.1. Most important cultic acts.....	85
4.2. Divine meal in the temple .....	88
4.3. Calendar .....	91
4.3.1. Standard calendar .....	92
4.3.2. From the cultic calendars of Seleucid Babylon and Uruk .....	95

4.3.3. From the cultic calendar of Neo-Assyrian Assur.....	97
4.4. Celebration of the New Year at Babylon during the first millennium.....	98
4.4.1. <i>Akītu</i> of Neo-Sumerian Ur.....	98
4.4.2. <i>Akītu</i> of Babylon during the first millennium .....	98
5. Prayers .....	109
5.1. Third millennium and its direct heritage in the Old Babylonian period .....	109
5.2. Prayers of the second and first millennium .....	110
5.2.1. Hymns .....	111
5.2.2. Prayers in Emesal (prayers of the <i>kalū</i> ).....	112
5.2.3. Prayers used in the rituals of the incantation expert ( <i>āšīpu/mašmaššu</i> ) .....	118
5.2.4. Prayers of the diviner ( <i>bārū</i> ) .....	123
5.2.5. Other types of prayers .....	124
6. Rituals of the incantation expert.....	127
6.1. Various types of rituals .....	129
6.1.1. Defence against evil .....	129
6.1.2. Animation of divine statues.....	136
6.1.3. Building of the house.....	136
6.1.4. Royal rituals .....	138
6.1.5. Rituals of war .....	140
6.1.6. Others .....	140
6.2. <i>Bīt rimki</i> .....	140
7. Divination .....	153
7.1. Divinatory signs and oracles .....	153
7.2. Development from an empirical and historical base? .....	154
7.3. Aims of divination .....	155
7.4. Specialists in the area of divination .....	156
7.5. Defence against the evil of unfavourable signs .....	157
7.6. Various types of divination .....	159
7.6.1. Celestial omens .....	160
7.6.2. Terrestrial omens .....	163
7.6.3. Birth anomalies omens .....	164
7.6.4. Hemerologies and menologies.....	165
7.6.5. Extispicy.....	168
7.6.6. Physiognomic and medicinal omens .....	171
7.6.7. Oneiromancy .....	173
7.6.8. Prophecies .....	175
7.6.8.1. Old Babylonian period.....	175
7.6.8.2. Neo-Assyrian period.....	177
Bibliographical references.....	181
Selected topical bibliography .....	193

Indices .....	219
Divinities.....	219
Temples.....	221
Subjects.....	221
Mesopotamian texts quoted .....	230