## Contents

Abbreviations 6 Figures 7 Preface 9

## Part 1: The Meaning of the Image

- 1. The Challenge of Interpreting the Imago Dei 15
- 2. The Imago Dei in the Symbolic World of Genesis 1 43

## Part 2: The Social Context of the Image

- 3. An Ancient Near Eastern Background for the Imago Dei 93
- 4. The Matrix of Mesopotamian Ideology 147
- 5. Genesis 1–11 as Ideology Critique 185

## Part 3: The Ethics of the Image

- 6. Created in the Image of a Violent God? 235
- 7. Imaging God's Primal Generosity 271

Index 299