

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page ix</i>
Introduction	1
Ephrem: His Life, Time, and Home	3
State of the Research	8
Literary Sources	16
Methodology	22
Law and Halakha	27
Jewish and Roman Matrimonial Law	30
1 Creating a Primary Bond: What Is Betrothal?	45
What to Call a Betrothed Woman?	46
A Man's Betrothed Is His Wife	52
Future Sons-in-Law	60
The Name of a Betrothed Woman	67
Discussion and Conclusions	83
2 During Betrothal: Is Premarital Cohabitation an Option?	87
Premarital Cohabitation according to Ephrem	88
Premarital Cohabitation according to Roman Law and Early Christian Writings	92
Premarital Cohabitation according to Halakha and Practice	97
Discussion and Conclusions	106
3 Creating a Marital Bond: Can Rape Determine Marital Status?	109
Creating a Bond	110
Rape according to Ephrem	118
Rape according to Roman Law and Early Christian Writings	129
Rape and Sexual Relations according to the Rabbis	136
Discussion and Conclusions	146

4	Breaking a Marital Bond: What Do Fornication and Adultery Do?	153
	Divorce and Its Reasons	154
	Adultery and Its Penalty	174
	Fornication and Its Penalty	185
	Discussion and Conclusions	198
5	Discussion and Conclusions	202
	Ephrem's Legal Concepts	208
	Further Questions	214
	<i>Bibliography</i>	219
	<i>Index Locorum</i>	307
	<i>Index</i>	322