Preface and Acknowledgments

This book is a revision of my doctoral dissertation, submitted in October, 1992 to the Department of Religion of Columbia University. To address a wider audience I have omitted several chapters of the dissertation that focused on specific questions pertaining to Sukkot but distracted attention from the overall historical development of the festival. Similarly, I have added several sections not found in the dissertation in order to complete the historical picture. I have also omitted detailed analyses of several passages from both second temple and rabbinic sources that were overly technical.

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