

CONTENTS

Preface ix

Part I. The Bible and Africana Reality

1. Wilson Park, Homewood, and Early Hebrew Verse
An Africana Perspective on the Albright Tradition 3
2. Diasporas and Adaptive Strategies in Early Hebrew Verse and the
Africana World 15

Part II. Early Hebrew Poems: A Compendium of Africana Readings

3. Zora Neale and the Lawgiver in Conversation
Exodus 15 and Moses: Man of the Mountain 21
4. The Song of Deborah
Harriet, Ben, Jael, and “Jah Work” 29
5. The Destructive Power of the Almighty
Grenada, Ivan, Soufrière Hills, and Psalm 29 39
6. Playing “the Dozens” and Community Formation
Rethinking Genesis 49 and Deuteronomy 32–33 47
7. “Somebody Done Hoodooed the Hoodoo Man”
Junior Wells, Balaam, and the Persistence of Conjure 65
8. “Something Got a Hold of Me”
1 Samuel 2 and Aged Black Bodies 75
9. Harmolodic Blues and an Esoteric Mash-Up
*Reengaging 2 Samuel 1; 22 (Psalm 18); 23; and Three
Ancient Psalms (68, 72, and 78)* 79

Part III. Preaching, Teaching, and Living Early Hebrew Poems

10. Early Hebrew Poetry	
<i>Engaging It in Africana Congregational Settings</i>	111
11. Recovering Poetry as Way of Life in the Africana World, the Church, and Beyond	117
Conclusion: Early Hebrew Poetry and Spiritualities of Resistance in the Black Atlantic	123
Blues Note: A Poetic Afterword	129
Bibliography	131