CIRCUMSCRIBED SYMPTOMATIC SUBJECTIVITY

IN 1 PETER’S HAUSTAFEL

By

Jennifer Grace Bird

Dissertation

Submitted to the Faculty of the
Graduate School of Vanderbilt University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in

Religion

December, 2007

Nashville, Tennessee

Approved:

Fernando F. Segovia

Daniel M. Patte

Ellen T. Armour

Robert F. Barsky
To the Illuminati: Bridget Culpepper, Susan Hall and Shari MacDonald Strong,

and

To Ebony Staton

Women who have given me wings to fly

More often than they could possibly know
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work would not have been possible, much less imaginable, without the work of the wo/men who have gone before me: speaking truth to power, hearing voices into speech, and creating spaces of new ways of being in the world.

I am also deeply indebted to my advisor, Fernando F. Segovia, for his continually supportive and directive feedback that simultaneously “showed me the ropes” and encouraged me to find my voice in this work; to Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza who threw me a life-preserver as I was drowning in the sea of malestream scholarship and ethos of graduate studies, and who has continued to believe in me ever since; and to Robert Barsky for giving me space to make the connections in writing that I was making in my mind. I am also keenly aware that I am able to speak of women claiming their own voices and lives because my parents, Jennings and Marianne, taught me to do likewise.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Chapter

### I. INTRODUCTION AND NEW METHOD .................................................................1

- General Introduction and Location of this Author ........................................ 1
- History of Scholarship ...................................................................................... 6
- State of 1 Peter Studies ................................................................................. 6
- History of Scholarship on 1 Peter’s *Haustafel* .............................................. 17
  - General *Haustafel* Studies ....................................................................... 18
  - Uniqueness of 1 Peter’s *Haustafel* .......................................................... 32
- A New Methodology ......................................................................................... 45
- Feminist Studies: Realms of Concern ............................................................ 46
- Postcolonial Studies: Realms of Concern ...................................................... 55
- Materialist Issues .......................................................................................... 65
- Weaving the Threads ....................................................................................... 73
- Thesis ............................................................................................................. 75

### II. READING THE RHETORIC .................................................................77

- Introduction ..................................................................................................... 77
- Immigrants and Refugees ............................................................................... 79
- Royal Priesthood and Holy Nation ................................................................ 84
  - Of Priesthods and Nations ........................................................................ 84
  - Ambivalent Mimicry ................................................................................ 86
  - Materiality of Metaphors ........................................................................... 93
- Honor the Emperor ......................................................................................... 99
  - Kyriarchal Presuppositions ....................................................................... 99
  - Encouraging Collusion .............................................................................. 105
  - 2:13-17 as a Preface to the *Haustafel* ....................................................... 106
- Conclusion: The Socio-Political and Religious Backdrop for the Household Code ........................................................................................................ 107

### III. COMPONENTS OF COLLUSION.............................................................110

- Introduction .................................................................................................... 110
- Review of *Haustafel* Background ................................................................ 110
### IV. SUBJECT AS CONSTRUCTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Can She Know?</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructing Knowledge in 1 Peter</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects of this Imagery in a Colonized Space</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Can She Do?</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: Subject as 1 Peter has Constructed</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textual Symptomatic Irruptions</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constructed Subjects</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### V. CONCLUSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Précis of Findings</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughters of Sarah Today</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Steps</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES .................................................................................. 199