Contents

Foreword xi
Acknowledgements xv
Introduction xvii

Chapter 1: Significance of Water in Different Religions 1
Introduction 1
1.1. Water in Hinduism 2
1.1.1. In Purification 3
1.1.2. Water as Divine 3
1.1.3. Water in Vedic Tradition 4
1.2. Water in Islam 6
1.2.1. Types of Purification 7
1.3. Water in Buddhism 9
1.4. Water in Sikhism 10
1.5. Water in Zoroastrianism 10
1.5.1. Water in consortium with *Varuna* 12
1.5.2. The Laws of Purity 12
1.5.3. The Sacred Bath - *Nahn* 13
1.5.4. The *Naojote* Ceremony 13

1.5.5. Marriage Ceremony 14
1.5.6. Water as Divine 14
1.6. Water in Judaism 15
1.6.1. The *Mikveh* 15
1.6.2. The Great Flood Story 15
1.6.3. The Red Sea Event 16
1.7. Water in Christianity 16
1.7.1. Baptism 16
1.7.2. Holy Water 17
1.7.3. Ablutions 18
1.7.4. Water in the Bible 18
Conclusion 18

Chapter 2: Water-Allied Issues in India 21
Introduction 21
2.1. Water Crisis in India 22
2.2. Water-Allied Issues in India 23
2.2.1. Water Management 23
2.2.2. Water Pollution 25
2.2.3. Water-Borne Diseases 31
2.2.4. Ground Water 32
2.2.5. Water and Climate Change 33
2.2.6. Water Conflicts 34
2.2.7. Water and Women & Children 35
2.2.8. Water and Dalits & Tribals 37
2.2.9. Water and Human Rights 37
2.2.10. Water Policies of India 40
2.2.11. Interlinking of Rivers 42
2.2.12. Dam Constructions 44
2.2.13. Privatization of Water 45
Conclusion 46

Chapter 3 : "Water of Life" as Cornerstone for Theological Critique on Privatization of Drinking Water in India 47

Introduction 47

3.1. Drinking Water 48

3.2. Privatization 48

3.3. Privatization of Water: An Overview 49

3.4. Privatization of Water in India 51

3.4.1. Two levels of Privatization 51

3.4.2. Corollaries of Privatization of Water 52

3.4.3. Bottled Water: A Moral Issue 55

3.4.4. Why Oppose Privatization of Water? 57

3.5. Theological Critique on Privatization of Water 58

3.5.1. Various Theological Affirmations on Water 59

3.5.2. Biblical-Theological Critique 63

3.5.3. Water of Life is Theology of Life: Towards a Theology of Water 74

3.5.4. How to Contravene and Challenge this Evil Power? 75

Conclusion 78

Chapter 4: Theological Reflections of Water and its Significance in the Indian Context 79

Introduction 79

4.1. Need for a Theological Reflection 80

4.2. Water as a Sign and Symbol 80

4.2.1. Hermeneutical Approach of Christian Theology 81

4.2.2. Water as a Symbol of Life 81

4.3. Indian milieu 84

4.4. Groaning for Liberation 85

4.5. What Can be Done? 86
4.5.1. Towards an Alternate Economy 86
4.5.2. Community Ownership of Water 88
4.5.3. A Paradigm Shift from Growth Model to *Shalom* Model 89
4.6. How Best Can We Respond to Water Issue? 90
4.6.1. Church's Response 91
Conclusion 93

Conclusion 95
Bibliography 99
Index 113