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This book explores the ideological origins of the Puritan migration to and experience in America, and shows how Puritans believed that their removal to New England fulfilled prophetic apocalyptic and eschatological visions.

An apocalyptic ideology of history, as a mode of historical thought, enabled Puritans to reconstruct their removal to America within the confines of sacred, ecclesiastical history. By tracing the ideological origins of the Puritan migration within the context of the English apocalyptic tradition, Dr. Zakai shows how Puritans transformed the premises of that apocalyptic tradition by rejecting the notion of England as God's elect nation and by conferring that title upon the American wilderness. The Puritan migration is analyzed further within the wider context of Western colonization of America. Dr. Zakai shows that the unique characteristics of the Puritan settlement in New England derived from the identification of their "Errand into the Wilderness" with the apocalyptic and eschatological "Errand of the Church of the Wilderness" as described in the Book of Revelation. By constructing a unique culture of sacred time and sacred space in the wilderness, and by attempting to reconstruct all dimensions of human life upon the sacred word of God, the Puritans were able as a consequence to interpret their migration to America as the ultimate culminative event in the all-time mystery of human salvation and redemption. In their de-sacralization of the Old World and their sacralization of the New, the Puritans produced thereby the first original American ideology of history.

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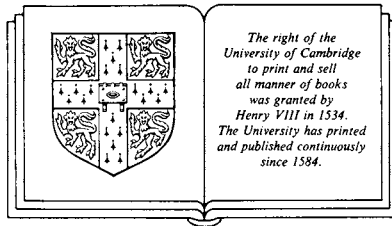
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EXILE AND KINGDOM

*History and apocalypse in the Puritan
migration to America*

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New York Port Chester
Melbourne Sydney

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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

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First published 1992
First paperback edition 2002

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Zakai, Avihu.

Exile and kingdom: history and apocalypse in the Puritan migration to America / Avihu Zakai.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in early modern British history)
Includes index.

ISBN 0 521 40381 2

1. Puritans – New England. 2. History (Theology) – History of doctrines.

3. United States – Church history – Colonial period, ca. 1600–1775. I. Title. II. Series.

BX9355.N35Z35 1992

285'.9'0973–dc20 90-29094 CIP

ISBN 0 521 40381 2 hardback

ISBN 0 521 52142 4 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2003

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To
Amotz and Alon

The world [is] all before them, where to choose
Their place of rest, and Providence their guide.

JOHN MILTON

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the course of writing the book I have incurred debts and obligations from many friends and colleagues. In particular, however, I am deeply grateful to Yehoshua Arieli, Jack P. Greene, J. G. A. Pocock, Sir Geoffrey Elton, and Michael Zuckerman, for their constant encouragement and interest; to Richard Polenberg, David Weinstein, Walter Nugent, Stephen Whitfield, Michael Heyd, Uzi Amit-Kohn, John Pankratz, and Anya Mary Mali, who read earlier drafts, and in various ways helped make the book better than it might have been.

I have been assisted by research grants from The American Council of Learned Societies, American Philosophical Society, United States Information Agency, and United States–Israel Educational Foundation. I want also to acknowledge the generous help and hospitality of the John Carter Brown Library, the Huntington Library, and Wolfson College, Cambridge. Though the book was completed at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the writing was begun during a sabbatical year at the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies. Bat-Sheva Gefen has typed this book more than once. In getting the work ready for publication, I have been fortunate to have the assistance of the superb staff of Cambridge University Press, particularly the editorial work of Bill Davies and Jean Field. An earlier version of chapter 1 has been published in *History and Theory*, portions of chapter 6 in the *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, and parts of chapter 7 in the *Journal of Religious History*. I am grateful to the editors for permission to use these materials here.