This volume charts the Bible’s progress from the end of the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment. During this period, for the first time since Antiquity, the Latin Church focused on recovering and re-establishing the text of Scripture in its original languages. It considered the theological challenges of treating Scripture as another ancient text edited with the tools of philology. This crucial period also saw the creation of many definitive translations of the Bible into modern European vernaculars. Although previous translations exist, these early modern translators, often under the influence of the Protestant Reformation, distinguished themselves in their efforts to communicate the nuances of the original texts and to address contemporary doctrinal controversies. In the Renaissance’s rich explosion of ideas, Scripture played a ubiquitous role, influencing culture through its presence in philosophy, literature and the arts. This history examines the Bible’s impact in Europe and its increasing prominence around the globe.

Euan Cameron is Henry Luce III Professor of Reformation Church History at Union Theological Seminary and Professor of Religion at Columbia University. His publications include Waldenses: Rejections of Holy Church in Medieval Europe (2000); Interpreting Christian History: The Challenge of the Churches’ Past (2005); Enchanted Europe: Superstition, Reason, and Religion, 1250–1750 (2010); and The European Reformation, Second Edition (2012).
The New Cambridge History of the Bible series comprises four volumes which take into account the considerable advances in scholarship made in almost all biblical disciplines during the previous forty years. The volumes respond to shifts in scholarly methods of study of the Old and New Testaments, look closely at specialised forms of interpretation, and address the new concerns of the twenty-first century. Attention is paid to biblical studies in Eastern Christian, Jewish and Islamic contexts, rendering the series of interest to students of all Abrahamic faiths. The entire New Cambridge History of the Bible offers a comprehensive account of the development of the Bible from its beginnings to the present day, but each volume can also be read independently, providing a substantial contribution to the scholarship of the period it covers. The New History will provide an invaluable resource for scholars, researchers and students alike.

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Preface

This volume in the *New Cambridge History of the Bible* has, like its companions in the series, been the work of many hands and of more years than any of us intended. Throughout it all I have appreciated and benefited from the help and support of Kate Brett and Laura Morris, successive religion and theology editors at Cambridge University Press. Their encouragement and occasional spurring-on has enabled me to believe that I could complete editing a project of this size while heavily committed in so many other areas.

My thanks go out above all to the many contributors who have made this volume possible. To those authors who wrote their contributions early in the process, and have endured patiently while the volume reached its final form, I owe infinite thanks for their promptness, civility, and tolerance. To those authors who bravely took on the most challenging, complex commissions and wrote, often under pressure of time, works of astonishing scope, I offer my admiration as well as gratitude. All alike have collaborated in the book’s production stages helpfully and promptly when asked. The preparation of the manuscript for the press has been made easy and collegial by the copy-editing team of Regina Paleski and Mary Starkey.

Histories of the Bible are products of a particular historical and cultural moment. We write the history of sacred texts once we appreciate that, however sacred we may hold them, they are products of their cultural environment. As human society takes different forms and undergoes new influences, approaches to ancient texts change and develop. No age in the history of Scripture saw more dramatic transformations in attitudes to the Bible than the early modern period in Europe. It has been a privilege – and a challenge both intellectually and spiritually – to observe those transformations through the eyes of my colleagues and fellow-historians.

E. C.
Abbreviations

ASD  [Desiderius Erasmus], Desiderii Erasmi Roterodami Opera omnia recognita et adnotatione critica instructa notisque illustrata (Amsterdam: North-Holland, 1969–)

Calvini Opera  [John Calvin], Joannis Calvini Opera Quae Supersunt Omnia, ed. G. Baum, E. Cunitz and E. Reuss (Braunschweig and Berlin: Schwetschke & Son, 1853–1900), vols. xxix–lxxxvii of CR as below


CWE  [Desiderius Erasmus], Collected Works of Erasmus [in English translation] (Toronto and Buffalo: University of Toronto Press, 1974–)


DBI  Dizionario biografico degli Italiani, ed. Alberto M. Ghisalberti et al. (Rome: Istituto della Enciclopedia italiana, 1960–)
Abbreviations


**HBOT II**  Magne Sæbø, Michael Fishbane and Jean Louis Ska (eds.), *Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: The History of its Interpretation*, vol. 11: *From the Renaissance to the Enlightenment* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2008)


**LB**  [Desiderius Erasmus], *Desiderii Erasmi Roterodami Opera omnia: emendatiora et auctiora*, 10 vols., ed. Jean Le Clerc (1657–1736) (Luguduni Batavorum [Leiden]: Petrus Vander Aa, 1703–6)


Abbreviations

NCHB 2

NPNF

Oxford DNB

STC (2nd edn.)

Tanner, Decrees

Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica

TRE

Valla, Annotationes
Lorenzo Valla, In Novum Testamentum ex diversorum utriusque linguae codicum collatione annotationes, in
Abbreviations


Valla, *Collatio*  

VD16  

WA  

WA Br  

WA DB  

WA TR  

Westcott  

Wing  