Contents

List of illustrations  page viii
Acknowledgements  xi
List of abbreviations  xiii

Introduction  1

1 Friends and neighbours in early modern England: biblical translations and social norms  23
2 Women and wives: the language of marriage in early modern English biblical translations  50
3 Slaves and servants: a Bible for freeborn Englishmen  82
4 Prince, captain, lord, duke, and eunuch: the making of the English biblical polity  119

Conclusion  165

Select bibliography  172
Index  200
Illustrations

1 ‘We came unto the lande whyther thou sendedst us & surely it floweth with milke and hony’ (Bishops’ Bible, London, 1568, at Num. 13) (reproduced by permission of the Huntington Library, San Marino, California) page 2

2 Title page of the Great Bible (London, 1540) (reproduced by permission of the British Library) 5

3 ‘Knoweth the way of the righteous: and the way of the ungodly shall perish’ (Bishops’ Bible, 1568, opening of the Book of Psalms) (reproduced by permission of the Huntington Library, San Marino, California) 24

4 The word ‘friend’ crossed out and ‘neighbour’ inserted in preparation for the King James Bible (Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, Bib. Eng. 1602 b. 1, p. 223, at Prov. 27:10) 32

5 An illustration from the ballad The story of David and Berseba to a pleasant new tune (London, 1635, 2nd edn), based on the story of King David and Bathsheba, 2 Sam. 11. (reproduced by permission of the British Library) 51

6 The word ‘wife’ crossed out in preparation for the King James Bible, leaving the word ‘concubine’ (Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, Bib. Eng. 1602 b. 1, p. 96, at Judges 19) 63

7 Hagar and Ishmael in seventeenth-century dress (a detail from ‘A panel with biblical vignettes’, canvas worked with wool, silk, and beads, 1667, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 64.101.1304) (© Photo SCALA, Florence, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2009) 80

8 The opening page of the first treatise in William Gouge, Of domesticall duties (London, 1622) (by permission of the Folger Shakespeare Library) 83
List of illustrations

9 Rebekha offers a drink to Abraham’s servant from an urn on which the date 1667 is embroidered (a detail from ‘A panel with biblical vignettes’, canvas worked with wool, silk, and beads, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 64.101.1304) (© Photo SCALA, Florence, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2009) 98

10 The word ‘bond’ crossed out and ‘homeborne slave’ inserted, in preparation for the King James Bible (Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, Bib. Eng. 1602 b. 1, p. 250, at Jer. 2:14) 100

11 The Covenant following the deluge (Bishops’ Bible, London, 1568, at Gen. 9) (reproduced by permission of the Huntington Library, San Marino, California) 103

12 Moses, Aaron, and the elders of Israel, witnessing Korah and his people tumble into the ground (Coverdale’s Bible, Southwark? 1535, at Num. 16) (reproduced with the kind permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library) 120

13 The word ‘lords’ crossed out and ‘princes’ inserted, in preparation for the King James Bible (Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, Bib. Eng. 1602 b. 1, p. 100, at 1 Sam. 18:30) 139

14 A queen, accompanied by her gentlewomen in rich contemporary attire, kneeling before an oriental-looking king (Bishops’ Bible, London, 1568, employed once to describe the Queen of Sheba at 1 Kgs. 10 and once to describe Queen Esther at Esther 5) (reproduced by permission of the Huntington Library, San Marino, California) 142

15–16 Potiphar’s description as ‘Captaine of the guard’ inserted and his previous designation removed, with a scribal note describing him as ‘Eunoche of Pharaoh’ (Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, Bib. Eng. 1602 b. 1, p. 15, at Gen. 37, 39) 143

17 The three princes (Anon., The ioyfull peace (London, 1613)) (reproduced by permission of the Pepys Library, Magdalene College, Cambridge) 152

18 Joseph escaping from Potiphar’s wife (N. Fontaine, The history of the Old and New Testament extracted out of sacred Scripture and writings of the fathers (London, 1699)) (Courtesy of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign; image published with permission of ProQuest LCC) 154