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0521771404 - A History of the English Bible as Literature  
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## A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH BIBLE AS LITERATURE

Revised and condensed from David Norton's acclaimed *History of the Bible as Literature*, this book tells the story of English literary attitudes to the Bible. At first jeered at and mocked as English writing, then denigrated as having 'all the disadvantages of an old prose translation', the King James Bible somehow became 'unsurpassed in the entire range of literature'. How so startling a change happened and how it affected the making of modern translations such as the Revised Version and the New English Bible is at the heart of this exploration of a vast range of religious, literary and cultural ideas. Translators, writers such as Donne, Milton, Bunyan and the Romantics, reactionary Bishops and radical students all help to show the changes in religious ideas and in standards of language and literature that created our sense of the most important book in English.

DAVID NORTON is Reader in English at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, specializing in the Bible and literature, and the English novel. Author of *A History of the Bible as Literature*, 2 vols. (1993), he is a member of the Tyndale Society Advisory Board and serves on the General Advisory Board of *Reformation*.

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*Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand*



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- 15 King James Bible, 1611. A page of genealogies
- 16 King James Bible, 1611. A page of text

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## *Preface*

My *History of the Bible as Literature* (1993) ran to two volumes and made large demands on the reader's time (and the purchaser's pocket). So the present book cuts down the material to more manageable proportions. It does so mainly by confining the focus to the English Bible, by reducing the number of examples and by omitting the appendices containing sample passages. What has sometimes felt like self-mutilation will be amply rewarded if the reader finds the result pleasing and interesting.

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## *Abbreviations*

AV	Authorised Version or King James Bible, 1611
CW	<i>Collected or Complete Works or Writings</i>
<i>DNB</i>	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
KJB	King James Bible or Authorised Version, 1611
NEB	The New English Bible, 1970
NT	New Testament
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
OT	Old Testament
PB	The Book of Common Prayer
Pollard	<i>The Holy Bible</i> (1911 facsimile of 1611 KJB with introduction and illustrative documents)
RV	Revised Version, 1885