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978-1-107-08544-2 - The Apocalypse in the Early Middle Ages

James T. Palmer

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The Apocalypse in the Early Middle Ages

This ground-breaking study reveals the distinctive impact of apocalyptic ideas about time, evil and power on Church and society in the Latin West, c. 400–c. 1050. Drawing on evidence from late antiquity, the Frankish kingdoms, Anglo-Saxon England, Spain and Byzantium and sociological models, James Palmer shows that apocalyptic thought was a more powerful part of mainstream political ideologies and religious reform than many historians believe. Moving beyond the standard ‘Terrors of the Year 1000’, *The Apocalypse in the Early Middle Ages* opens up broader perspectives on heresy, the Antichrist and Last World Emperor legends, chronography, and the relationship between eschatology and apocalypticism. In the process, it offers reassessments of the worlds of Augustine, Gregory of Tours, Bede, Charlemagne and the Ottonians, providing a wide-ranging and up-to-date survey of medieval apocalyptic thought. This is the first full-length English-language treatment of a fundamental and controversial part of medieval religion and society.

JAMES T. PALMER is Lecturer in Mediaeval History at the University of St Andrews.

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To Sophie and Audrey

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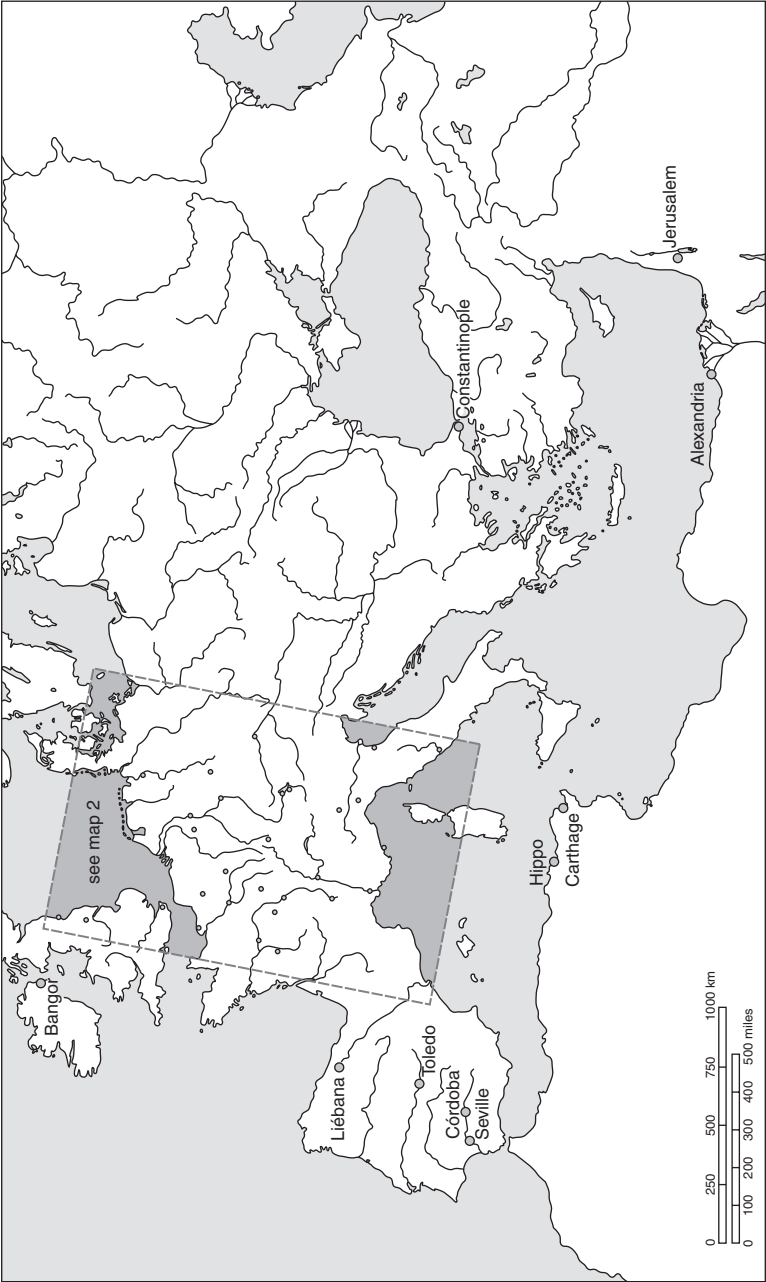
never got to see this book, but I hope she would have appreciated the efforts to look East ‘to the really interesting stuff’.

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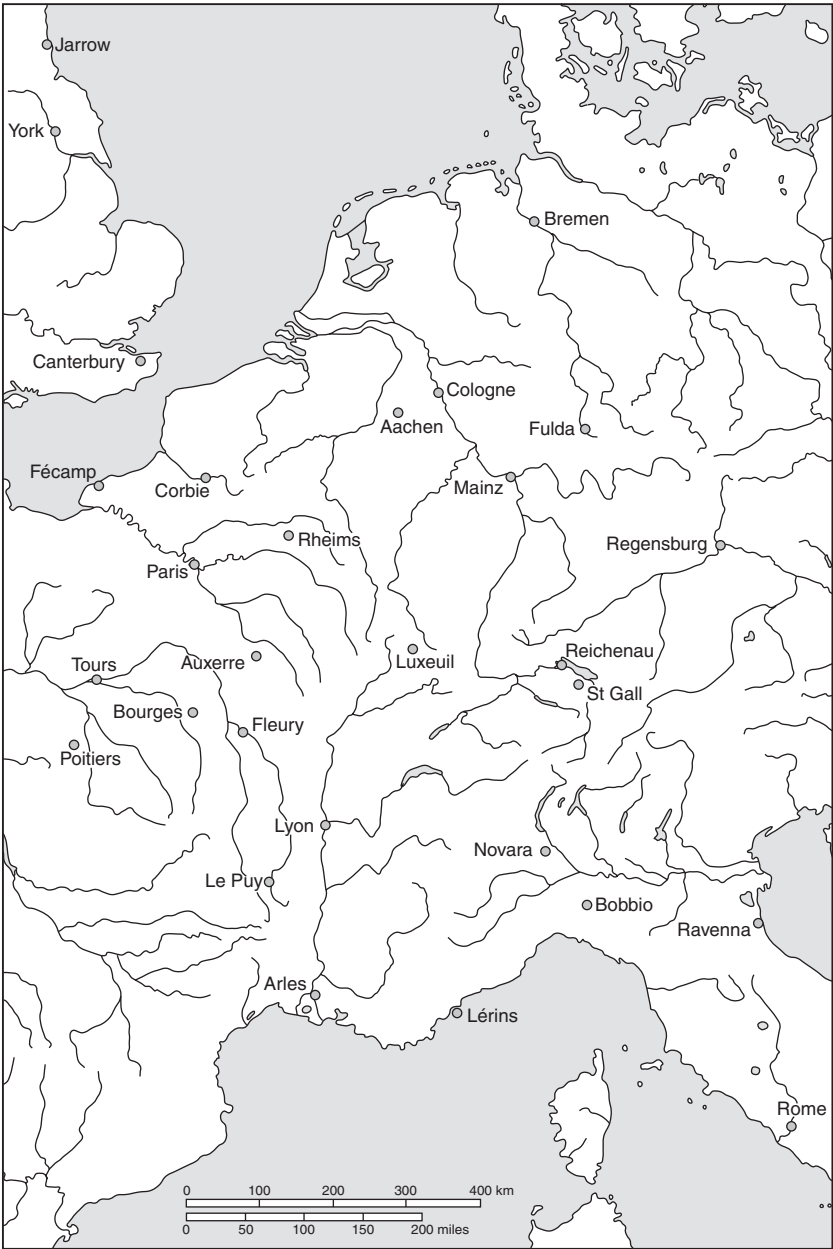
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Abbreviations

<i>AASS</i>	<i>Acta Sanctorum</i>
CCCM	Corpus Christianorum, continuatio mediaevalis
CCSL	Corpus Christianorum, series latina
<i>CLA</i>	<i>Codices latini antiquiores: A Palaeographical Guide to Latin Manuscripts Prior to the Ninth Century</i> , ed. E. A. Lowe
<i>DA</i>	<i>Deutsches Archiv für Erforschung des Mittelalters</i>
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
<i>EME</i>	<i>Early Medieval Europe</i>
<i>JEH</i>	<i>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</i>
MGH	Monumenta Germaniae Historica
AA	Auctores antiquissimi
Cap.	Capitula regum Francorum
Conc.	Concilia
Epp. (Sel.)	Epistolae (selectae in usum scholarum)
Libri mem.	Libri memoriales
LL	Leges
QQ zur Geistesgesch.	Quellen zur Geistesgeschichte des Mittelalters
SRG	Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum separatim editi
SRM	Scriptores rerum Merovingicarum
SS	Scriptores
<i>P&P</i>	<i>Past and Present</i>
PL	Patrologia Latina
SC	Sources chrétiennes
<i>TRHS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>



Map 1 The wider world



Map 2 The Frankish world