THE POLITICAL BIBLE IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

This illuminating new study considers the Bible as a political document in seventeenth-century England, revealing how the religious text provided a key language of political debate and played a critical role in shaping early modern political thinking. Kevin Killeen demonstrates how biblical kings were as important in the era’s political thought as any classical model. The book mines the rich and neglected resources of early modern quasi-scriptural writings - treatise, sermon, commentary, annotation, poetry and political tract - to show how deeply embedded this political vocabulary remained, across the century, from top to bottom and across all religious positions. It shows how constitutional thought, in this most tumultuous era of civil war, regicide and republic, was forged on the Bible, and how writers ranging from King James, Joseph Hall or John Milton to Robert Filmer and Thomas Hobbes can be better understood in the context of such vigorous biblical discourse.

KEVIN KILLEEN is a Senior Lecturer at the University of York.
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For Sharon Holm
and Molly Rose Killeen
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This book cites from the 1611 King James Bible, except where the phrasing of the Geneva, Douay-Rheims or other version is at issue. However quotations are routinely given as they are found in the early modern texts, and these frequently differ from the Authorised Version (AV). This is particularly noticeable in regard to the transliterations of biblical names. Isaiah is often Esay; Ahab may be Achab, Rehoboam is sometimes Roboam, Hezekiah can be Ezekias. On the whole, context resolves this easily enough.


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Abbreviations

ACW  *Ancient Christian Writers* (New York: Paulist Press, 1978–)
CCSL  *Corpus Christianorum: Series Latina* (Turnhout: Brepols, 1956)
CSEL  *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2010)
FC  *Fathers of the Church* (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 1950–)