



---

## Preface

This book is intended for the student and the general reader, but I hope that some scholars too may find it useful. Outside of our own areas of specialization, many of us become “general readers” seeking easy access to complicated bodies of knowledge. All are welcome here.

A few technical points for the scholarly reader. Translations are my own unless otherwise indicated. Biblical quotations are from the Revised Standard Version, although I have modified the translation in a number of instances to bring it closer to the Vulgate. Throughout, I’ve quoted translations I thought readable and cited editions I thought accessible. PL is an abbreviation for *Patrologia Latina*, ed. J. P. Migne, 221 vols. (Paris, 1844–55); RHGF is an abbreviation for *Recueil des historiens des Gaules et de la France*, 24 vols. (Paris, 1737–1904).