# CONTENTS

List of Figures vii  
List of Maps ix  
List of Boxes x  
Preface xiv  
Acknowledgments xvi  
List of Abbreviations xviii  
Overview of the Historical Period xix  
Timeline xx  

Prologue: Orientation to Multiple Bibles and Multiple Translations 1

1 Studying the Bible in Its Ancient Context(s) 15
2 The Emergence of Ancient Israel and Its First Oral Traditions 33
3 Echoes of Empire in Monarchal Israel 53
4 Narrative and Prophecy amidst the Rise and Fall of the Northern Kingdom 85
5 Torah and Other Texts Written in the Wake of the Assyrian Empire 119
6 Bible for Exiles: Promise and Story in the Neo-Babylonian Empire 147
7 Persian Empire and the Emergence of a Temple-Centered Jewish Community 181
8 Hellenistic Empires and the Formation of the Hebrew Bible 205
9 Studying the New Testament in Its Ancient Context 221
10 Paul and his Letters in the Roman Colonial Context 241
11 Mark’s Story of Jesus in the Midst of Roman Retribution 269
12 The Gospel of Matthew: Defining Community in the Wake of Destruction 289
13 Negotiating the Empire in Luke–Acts 307
14 The Gospel of John and the Johannine Epistles: Turning Inward as a Strategy for Life in the Empire 327
15 Variations on Responses to Empire in other New Testament Writings 345
Epilogue: The Final Formation of the Jewish and Christian Bibles 363
Glossary 369
Index 379