

Contents

To the Reader, *ix*

- I The Bible as Literature, 3
- II Literary Forms and Strategies in the Bible, 17
- III Ancient Near Eastern Literature and the Bible, 43
 - IV The Bible and History, 63
 - V The Physical Setting of the the Bible, 75
 - VI The Formation of the Canon, 93
 - VII The Composition of the Pentateuch, 108
 - VIII The Prophetic Writings, 124
 - IX The Wisdom Literature, 137
 - X The Apocalyptic Literature, 155
 - XI The Intertestamental Period, 171
- XII Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha: The Outside Books, 192
 - XIII The Gospels, 209
 - XIV Acts and the Letters, 230
 - XV The Text of the Bible, 253
 - XVI Translating the Bible, 267
- XVII The Religious Use and Interpretation of the Bible, 290

Appendix I: The Name of Israel's God, 311

Appendix II: Writing in Biblical Times, 315

Index, 325