

# CONTENTS

Introduction 1

## *Part One: Christmas Eve*

- 1 The Religious Context 9
- 2 Many Judaisms 33

## *Part Two: Christianizing the Empire*

- 3 Jesus and the Jesus Movement 49
- 4 Missions to the Jews and the Gentiles 71
- 5 Christianity and Privilege 87
- 6 Misery and Mercy 105
- 7 Appeals to Women 121
- 8 Persecution and Commitment 137
- 9 Assessing Christian Growth 153

## *Part Three: Consolidating Christian Europe*

- 10 Constantine's Very Mixed Blessings 169
- 11 The Demise of Paganism 183
- 12 Islam and the Destruction of Eastern and North African Christianity 199



- 13** Europe Responds: The Case for the Crusades **213**

*Part Four: Medieval Currents*

- 14** The “Dark Ages” and Other Mythical Eras **237**

- 15** The People’s Religion **255**

- 16** Faith and the Scientific “Revolution” **273**

*Part Five: Christianity Divided*

- 17** Two “Churches” and the Challenge  
of Heresy **299**

- 18** Luther’s Reformation **315**

- 19** The Shocking Truth About the Spanish  
Inquisition **333**

*Part Six: New Worlds and Christian Growth*

- 20** Pluralism and American Piety **353**

- 21** Secularization: Facts and Fantasies **369**

- 22** Globalization **387**

*Conclusion* **413**

*Bibliography* **419**

*Notes* **461**

*Index* **495**