# Contents

1  **Fragmented Allusions**  —  1

2  **Texts and Concepts**  —  6

2.1  Utopia, dystopia, science fiction  —  6

2.2  Utopian thought, utopian and science fiction theory  —  11

2.3  Social sciences and philosophy  —  15

2.4  Bible  —  18

2.5  Bible as utopia  —  19

3  **Utopia as an Ideal Type**  —  23

3.1  The problem with defining utopia, dystopia, and science fiction  —  23

3.2  Ideals and ideal type  —  25

3.3  Max Weber and beyond  —  30

3.4  Family resemblances and anachronisms  —  35

3.5  Using an ideal type to read utopia in the Bible  —  36

3.6  The concept of utopia for use with the Bible  —  38

3.7  Creation and disruption of links between fiction and reality  —  43

3.8  The impact of dating a utopia  —  45

3.9  Features of literary utopias: fiction, history, place  —  46

3.9.1  Realistic proposal or fiction  —  46

3.9.2  Religion versus utopia  —  50

3.9.3  The utopian pun  —  54

4  **Utopia and Reality**  —  57

4.1  “Zero Worlds”  —  57

4.2  Relationship between the fiction and the author’s reality  —  60

4.3  Perceiving different utopias  —  63

4.4  Can utopias be understood without the reality behind them?  —  68

4.4.1  Game rules  —  70

4.4.2  The abstraction’s independent meaning  —  71

4.4.3  Retrograde analysis of utopia  —  72

5  **Numbers 13 and Its Reception Read as Utopia and Dystopia**  —  75

5.1  Reality and utopia in William Bradford’s reading of Numbers 13  —  76

5.1.1  Reading Numbers 13 as utopian blueprint  —  83
5.1.2 Utopia into history: Cotton Mather reads Bradford and Numbers

5.1.3 Estranged biblical utopia

5.2 Reality or utopia in maps: Numbers, Ezekiel, and scholarly reception

5.2.1 Functions of fictional maps

5.2.2 Some biblical utopian maps

5.2.3 The map of Numbers 13:17–26: A utopian map?
  a All of the land or part of the land?
  b Returning elsewhere? (vv.25.26)
  c Difficult representation
  d Paran or Kadesh
  e Sin and Rēhôb, Lēbō’-Ḥāmāt
  f Negeb and Ḥebrôn
  g 'Eskōl
  h The telescope effect
  i Elevated narrators
  j Moving narrators
  k Interviewing omniscient locals
  l Moving protagonists, encounter with locals, and consequences of exploration in Numbers 13

5.3 Ezekiel's utopian boundaries and Numbers' boundaries

5.4 Implications

6 Utopia and Dystopia

6.1 Utopia, dystopia, anti-utopia

6.1.1 Utopia

6.1.2 Dystopia

6.1.3 Anti-utopia

6.1.4 Form criticism?

6.2 Ambiguous utopian and dystopian images in Numbers 13

6.2.1 Fortified cities: asset and threat

6.2.2 Eating and being eaten

6.2.3 Giants' grapes

6.2.4 Escaping coercion

6.2.5 YHWH as utopian/dystopian leader

6.3 Simultaneous utopia and dystopia

6.3.1 Cyclical relationship of utopias and dystopias

6.3.2 Simultaneous "Utopia"

6.3.3 Neutral spaces
6.3.4 Utopian readers — 148
6.4 Excursus: Fantasy — 152
6.4.1 Elements of the fantastic — 152
6.4.2 World-building the Promised Land — 157

7 Science Fiction and the Bible — 160
7.1 The strange text — 160
7.2 Science fiction theory and the Bible — 161
7.2.1 Darko Suvin: the “novum” — 162
7.2.2 Raymond Williams: types of transformations — 166
7.2.3 Margaret Atwood: mythological questions — 168
7.2.4 Eric Rabkin: the narrative world — 169
7.2.5 Roland Boer: alternate world — 170
7.2.6 Discontinuities — 171
7.3 Science fiction in Numbers 13: disposable characters, cyborgs, and first contact — 173
7.3.1 Red Shirts — 174
7.3.2 Nephilim as cyborgs — 176
7.3.3 First contact — 180
7.4 A known yet unknown stranger — 183

8 Afterthoughts — 192
8.1 Reading with and as utopia — 192
8.2 Reading with and as science fiction — 194

Bibliography — 197

Index — 206