Contents

List of Maps and Stemmata xi Preface xxiii Introduction 1

PART 1 Faith and Power in the Third Century

Religion in the Later Roman Empire 13
Roman state religion and imperial cults – The cult of the standards –
Private religious devotion and cults – The mysteries of Mithras

2. The Rise of Christianity 38 Women and the spread of Christianity – Christianity as an urban phenomenon – Christian exceptionalism and martyrdom – Early Christian attitudes to warfare – Christians in the Roman army – Military martyrs and warrior saints

3. The Unconquered Emperor and his Divine Patron 62 The crisis of empire – The emperor and the army – The Roman theology of victory – The unconquered emperor and the Sun – Aurelian – Christ the true Sun

4. The Tetrarchy 87 The first Tetrarchy – Jovians and Herculians – The Caesars at war – The army of the Tetrarchs – The Great Persecution – Lactantius: On the Deaths of the Persecutors

PART II Constantine Invictus

5. Constantine Invictus 113 The second Tetrarchy – Constantine's accession – Trier – A vision – The road to Rome – The Battle of the Milvian Bridge – Constantine Invictus and the theology of victory

6. Constantine and Rome 141 Maxentius in Rome – Adventus Constantini – The Arch of Constantine – Meanwhile: Licinius and Maximinus Daia – Constantine confronts Licinius

7. Constantine's Conversion 167 A Christian education – The setting Sun? – Legislating toleration – The battle for toleration – Eusebius and the labarum – A common vision?

8. Constantinople 190 Nikopolis: victory city – Location and foundation – The monumental core – A Christian city? – A second senate – A new Alexander, a new Moses

PART III Victor Constantine

9. Victor Constantine 215 Victor eris – The new Flavians and the Great Cameo – The deaths of Crispus and Fausta – Goths and Sarmatians – Christian soldiers? – The Greatest Victor

10. Constantine Maximus Augustus 236 Government – Life at court – Pentarchy – Persia – The Holy Places

11. Constantine and the Bishops 256 Constantine the universal bishop – The Donatist schism and the Council of Arles – The Arians and the Council of Nicaea – The Christian emperor after Nicaea – The Church after Constantine 12. Death and Succession 279 Constantine's death – Apotheosis – Constantine as Christ – The succession – Constantius Victor – Christian victory

Conclusion 303 Glossary 309 Abbreviations 313 Primary Sources 314 Bibliographical Essays 316 Index 351