TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS

	٠
v	1
л	r

xiii

xv

1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

1.	"Our little book about the fleeting and wave-tossed course	
	of time"	xv
2.	Computus as problem-based science and doctrina christiana	xviii
3.	A brief history of the Christian calendar before Bede	xxxiv
4.	Structure and content of The Reckoning of Time	lxiii
5.	Bede's sources	lxxii
6.	Manuscripts, glosses, editions, and principles of translation	lxxxv

BEDE: THE RECKONING OF TIME

Preface [Table of Contents]	3 5
 Technical preparation (chs. 1–4)] Calculating or speaking with the fingers Three ways of reckoning time 	9 13
 The smallest intervals of time The reckoning of duodecimal fractions 	14 16
[II. The Julian calendar (chs. 5–41)]	
5. The day	19
6. The world's first day	24
7. Night	28
8. The week	32
9. The seventy prophetic weeks	36
10. The week of the World-Ages	39
11. The months	41
12. The Roman months	46
13. Kalends, nones and ides	50

THE RECKONING OF TIME

14.	The Greek months	51
15.	The English months	53
16.	The signs of the twelve months	54
17.	The course of the Moon through the signs	58
18.	More on the course of the Moon: for those who are ignorant	
	of the signs	60
19.	More on the same subject: for those who do not know how to	
	calculate	63
20.	What the age of the Moon is on any given first day of the month	64
21.	What day of the week it is on the kalends	68
22.	A formula for any Moon or weekday	69
23.	For those who do not know how to calculate the age of the	
	Moon	71
24.	The number of hours of moonlight	73
25.	When and why the Moon appears to be facing upwards,	
	facing downwards, or standing upright	74
26.	Why the Moon, though situated beneath the Sun, sometimes	
	appears to be above it	77
27.	On the size, or eclipse, of the Sun and Moon	78
28.	What the power of the Moon can do	80
29.	The harmony of the Moon and the sea	82
30.	Equinoxes and solstices	86
31.	The varying length of days and the different position of the	
	shadows	89
32.	Why the same days are unequal in length	91
33.	In what places the shadows or days are equal	93
34.	The five circles of the universe and the passage of the stars	
	under the Earth	96
35.	The four seasons, elements and humours	100
36.	Natural years	103
37.	The different years of the ancients	104
38.	The calculation of the leap-year day	105
39.	Measuring the leap-year increment	107
40.	Why it is intercalated on the sixth kalends of March	109
41.	The Moon also has its quarter-day	110
ſIII	Anomalies of lunar reckoning (chs. 42–43)	
42.	The "leap of the Moon"	113
43.	Why the Moon sometimes appears older than its computed age	115

viii

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[IV	The Paschal table (chs. 44–65)]	
44.	The nineteen-year cycle	121
45.	Embolismic and common years	122
46.	The ogdoas and the hendecas	124
47.	The years of the Lord's Incarnation	126
48.	Indictions	130
49.	Formula for finding the indiction	130
50.	Lunar epacts	130
51.	How certain people err concerning the beginning of the first	
	month	132
52.	Formula for finding the number of the lunar epacts	135
53.	Solar epacts	136
54.	Formula for finding the number of the solar epacts, and when	
	leap year will fall	137
55.	The cycle of both epacts, and how to calculate them using the	
	fingers	137
56.	The lunar cycle	139
57.	Formula based on the lunar cycle for finding the age of the	
	Moon on 1 January	141
58.	A formula to find what year of the lunar cycle or of the	
	nineteen-year cycle it is	142
59.	The fourteenth Moon of Easter	142
60.	A formula for finding it	144
61.	Easter Sunday	145
62.	The Moon of that day	147
63.	The difference between the Pasch and the Feast of Unleavened	
	Bread	149
64.	The allegorical interpretation of Easter	151
65.	The Great Paschal Cycle	155
ΓV '	The world-chronicle (ch. 66)]	
66	The Six Ages of this world	157
	The bix riges of this work.	157
[VI.	Future time and the end of time (chs. 67–71)]	
67.	The remainder of the Sixth Age	239
68.	Three opinions of the faithful as to when the Lord will come	240
69.	The time of Antichrist	241
70.	The Day of Judgement	243
71.	The Seventh Age, and the Eighth Age of the world to come	246

COMMENTARY	251
APPENDICES	377
1. Bede's solar calendar	379
2. Bede's Paschal table	392
3. Bede's letters on <i>computus</i>	
3.1 Letter to Plegwin	405
3.2 Letter to Helmwald	416
3.3 Letter to Wicthed	417
4. A note on the term <i>computus</i>	425
5. Brief glossary of computistical terms	427
Bibliography	430
Index of Sources	445
General Index	465