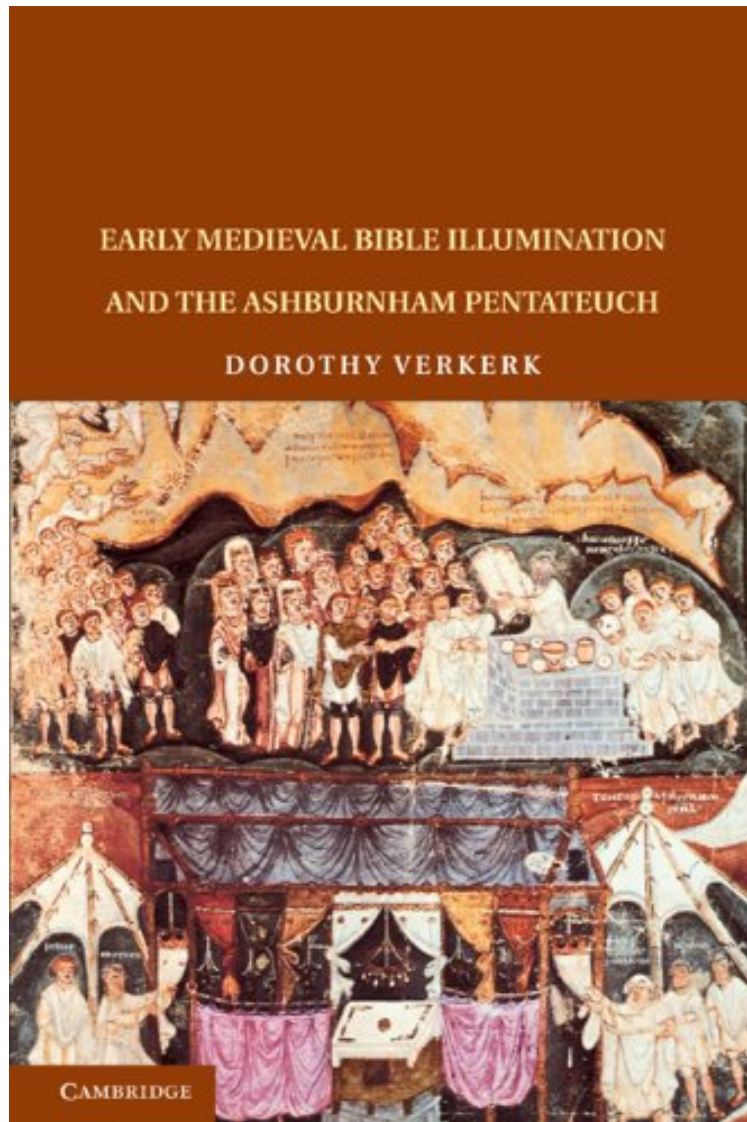




Dorothy Verkerk
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Early Medieval Bible Illumination and the Ashburnham Pentateuch

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The Ashburnham Pentateuch is an early medieval illuminated manuscript of the Old Testament whose pictures are among the oldest surviving and most extensive biblical illustrations. Dorothy Verkerk reveals how its colorful and complex illustrations of Genesis and Exodus explained important church teachings. She provides a key to understanding the relationship between the text and pictures. Arguing that the manuscript was created in Italy, Verkerk also solves a mystery that has baffled scholars over the last century.

"Verkerk has made a significant contribution to early medieval biblical and art historical scholarship. This is a thoughtful, readable analysis, grounded in recent methodologies, of a fascinating codex." - Celia Chazelle, College of New Jersey
"Verkerk offers interesting observations about the iconography of selected images in an understudied manuscript" - Speculum Richard Gameson, University of Kent
"In sum, this book is a carefully argued and focused reappraisal of the Ashburnham Pentateuch's origins, context and importance. Through a holistic examination of evidence, it both convincingly grounds the manuscript in early medieval culture, and heightens the readers appreciation of this richly innovative work. While the controversies surrounding the Ashburnham Pentateuch will no doubt continue, this book will be of great interest to historians of art, religion, and early medieval culture. Like the manuscript of which she writes, Verkerk's study offers thoughtful answers to difficult questions." - Lori Eshleman, Art History, Arizona State University
About the Author Dorothy Verkerk is Associate Professor of Art History and Fellow of the Institute for Arts and Humanities at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. A scholar of early medieval art, she has contributed to *The Art Bulletin*, *Journal for Medieval and Early Modern History* and *Mitteilungen zur Christlichen Archologie*.