

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix	
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xi	
Introduction	1	
1	Worlds visible and invisible	11
	The wisdom of the world	11
	The three senses	15
	Words and things	28
2	Sensible signs and spoken words	34
	The ascendency of the physical	34
	The discovery of nature	39
	Reading nature: the whole and the parts	44
	Restoring lost likenesses	56
3	The two reformations	64
	Aristotle and the encyclopaedias	64
	Texts and the empirical world	78
	New worlds	82
	Corrupt texts and reformed religion	92
	The literal sense and the material world	107
4	Re-reading the two books	121
	Genesis and history	121
	Modifications of the literal: typology and accommodation	129
	The cosmology of Moses	138
	The science of the last things	147

5	The purpose of nature	161
	The ends of the creation	161
	Divine designs and human utilities	169
	The centre of the universe	177
	The natural world and the moral order	185
	God and the book of nature	193
6	Eden restored	205
	Paradise within	205
	The fall	211
	The deluge and confusion of tongues	222
	Reversing the curse	226
	Replanting the garden	235
	Learning the language of nature	249
	Conclusion	266
	<i>References</i>	274
	<i>Index</i>	306