



C O N T E N T S

Preface *vii*

Acknowledgments *xiii*

PART 1: DON ISAAC ABRAVANEL IN PORTUGAL (1437–1483)

1. The Kingdom of Portugal and the Abravanel Family 3
2. Isaac Abravanel and Iberian Court Culture 20
3. Isaac Abravanel as a Jewish Leader in His Hebrew Epistles 36
4. Isaac Abravanel: Philosopher and Theologian 54
5. Don Isaac's Fall from Grace in Portugal 76

PART 2: DON ISAAC ABRAVANEL IN CASTILE (1483–1492)

6. Don Isaac Abravanel Immigrates to Castile 85
7. Isaac Abravanel's Historical and Literary Approach
to the Books of the Former Prophets 98
8. The Figure of the Leader in Abravanel's Commentary
on the Former Prophets 118
9. Don Isaac's Republicanism 138
10. Success at the Courts of the Catholic Monarchs 156

PART 3: DON ISAAC ABRAVANEL IN ITALY (1492–1508)

11. Abravanel's Arrival in Naples 167
12. Commentary on Kings as a Response to the Expulsion 174
13. Solomon: The Ideal King 186
14. The Temple: Construction, Glory, Destruction 200
15. The Military Crisis in Italy at the End of the Fifteenth Century 213
16. A Defense of Judaism in the Midst of the Storm 219

17. Messianism	243
18. The Last Years in Venice (1503–1508)	265
Afterword: Don Isaac Abravanel in the Twentieth Century	282
Notes	291
Bibliography	321
Index	337