This two-volume reprint of the 1534 edition of the Luther Bible is based on a copy in the possession of the Stiftung Weimarer Klassik / Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek (shelf mark vol. 1: C1, l. 58b; vol. 2: C1, l. 58c) and was made possible with the kind permission of the Foundation and the director of the Library, Michael Knochel. The original Luther Bible was digitally reproduced by the Göttinger DigitalisierungsZentrum der Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen. We wish to thank the former director of the library, Elmar Mittler, and Martin Liebetruh of GDZ for their kind support.

Slipcase front cover:
God as creator, vol. 1, fol. IXv

Slipcase back cover:
The angel with “feet as pillars of fire” hands John the book, telling him to eat it up, vol. 2, fol. CXiv

Booklet cover: The dream of Jacob, vol. 1, fol. XVIII of the Luther Bible, 1534

Page 2: Main title page of the Luther Bible, 1534

EACH AND EVERY TASCHEN BOOK PLANTS A SEED!

TASCHEN is a carbon neutral publisher. Each year, we offset our annual carbon emissions with carbon credits at the Instituto Terra, a reforestation program in Minas Gerais, Brazil, founded by Lélia and Sebastião Salgado. To find out more about this ecological partnership, please check: www.taschen.com/zerocarbon. Inspiration: unlimited. Carbon footprint: zero.

To stay informed about TASCHEN and our upcoming titles, please subscribe to our free magazine at www.taschen.com/magazine, follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, or e-mail your questions to contact@taschen.com.

© 2016 TASCHEN GmbH
Hohenzollernring 53, D–50672 Cologne
www.taschen.com

Original edition: © 2002 TASCHEN GmbH
Translation: Christiane Roth, Graz; First Edition Translations, Cambridge (pp. 6–8)
Design: Catinka Keul, Cologne
Cover design: Angelika Taschen; Sense/Net
Art Direction, Andy Dial & Birgit Eichweide, www.sense-net.net
Production: Horst Neuzner, Cologne
Printed in China
978-3-8365-3830-5

Contents

6 The 1534 Luther Bible, inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register as Documentary Heritage
13 “The Book of Books”
16 The Bible: An ongoing history of its translation
23 The Bible in print
25 German-language Bibles before Luther
39 Bibles in European vernacular languages
46 Luther as reformer
52 Luther as translator
59 The complete edition of 1534
65 Impact and language of the first complete Bible
68 Reformation pamphlets and Luther’s hymnal
74 Other Bible translations

Appendix
76 Notes on the structure and the illustrations of the 1534 edition
94 German Bibles before Luther
96 Abbreviations