

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

“A BORE,” I SWORE 1

CHAPTER 2

SIGNS AND MYSTERIES 11

CHAPTER 3

SACRAMENTS IN THE SCRIPTURES 25

CHAPTER 4

As HIGH AS SEVEN 39

CHAPTER 5

WHAT’S THE BIG IDEA?: THE MEANING OF
COVENANT (AND EVERYTHING ELSE) 59

CHAPTER 6

DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR?: SACRAMENTS AS
COVENANT OATHS 75

CHAPTER 7

WHEN WORDS ARE DEEDS 89

CHAPTER 8

THE ENGINE OF HISTORY 99

CHAPTER 9
TRUST AND TREACHERY 117

CHAPTER 10
TO TELL THE TRUTH 129

CHAPTER 11
SUNDAY SWEARING 139

CHAPTER 12
SEX, LIES, AND SACRAMENTS 153

CHAPTER 13
THE SACRED REALM OF RISK 165

CHAPTER 14
REAL PRESENCES 181

CHAPTER 15
STRETCHING TOWARD INFINITY 191

Sources and References 201