

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910453939003321
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Titolo	Heaven and earth in the Gospel of Matthew [[electronic resource] /] / by Jonathan T. Pennington
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; Boston, : Brill, 2007
ISBN	1-281-93667-7 9786611936679 90-474-2184-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (403 pages)
Collana	Supplements to Novum Testamentum, , 0167-9732 ; ; v. 126
Disciplina	226.2/06
Soggetti	Heaven - Biblical teaching Electronic books. Earth Biblical teaching
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [353]-376) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / J.T. Pennington -- Introduction / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter One. Challenging The Circumlocution Assumption / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Two. A Survey Of Heaven In The Old Testament And Second Temple Literature / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Three. A Survey Of Heaven In Matthew / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Four. Heaven And Earth In The Context Of Matthean Studies And Theology / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Five. And In The Septuagint And Second Temple Literature / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Six. Opano And Oypanoi In Matthew / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Seven. Heaven And Earth In The Old Testament And Second Temple Literature / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Eight. Heaven And Earth In Matthew / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Nine. God As Father In The Old Testament And Second Temple Literature / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Ten. The Father In Heaven In Matthew / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Eleven. The Kingdom Of God In The Old Testament And Second Temple Literature / J.T. Pennington -- Chapter Twelve. Matthew'S 'Kingdom Of Heaven' / J.T. Pennington -- Conclusion. Heaven And Earth In The Gospel Of Matthew / J.T. Pennington -- Appendix Data. From A Synoptic Comparison Of Oypano / J.T. Pennington -- Bibliography / J.T.

Sommario/riassunto

A much-overlooked aspect of the Gospel of Matthew is the theme of heaven and earth. Rather than being a reverential circumlocution for God, 'heaven' in Matthew is part of a highly developed discourse of heaven and earth language. Matthew's idiolectic way of using heaven language consists of four aspects: 1) a distinction in meaning between singular and plural forms of ouranos ; 2) frequent use of the heaven and earth word pair; 3) regular reference to the Father in heaven; and 4) the recurrent use of the Matthean expression, kingdom of heaven. This book examines the historical precedents for each of these aspects and shows in Matthew how they serve one overriding theological purpose: to highlight the tension that currently exists between heaven and earth or God and humanity, while looking forward to its eschatological resolution.