Record Nr. Autore Titolo	UNINA9910458563503321 Anderson Gary A. <1955-> Sin [[electronic resource]] : a history / / Gary A. Anderson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, CT, : Yale University Press, 2009
ISBN	1-282-41595-6 9786612415951 0-300-15487-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (288 p.)
Disciplina Soggetti	241/.309 Sin Theological anthropology
	Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter CONTENTS PREFACE ABBREVIATIONS CHAPTER 1. What Is a Sin? CHAPTER 2. A Burden to Be Borne CHAPTER 3. A Debt to Be Repaid CHAPTER 4. Redemption and the Satisfaction of Debts CHAPTER 5. Ancient Creditors, Bound Laborers, and the Sanctity of the Land CHAPTER 6. Lengthening the Term of Debt CHAPTER 7. Loans and the Rabbinic Sages CHAPTER 8. Early Christian Thinking on the Atonement CHAPTER 9. Redeem Your Sins with Alms CHAPTER 10. Salvation by Works? CHAPTER 11. A Treasury in Heaven CHAPTER 12. Why God Became Man NOTES GENERAL INDEX INDEX OF ANCIENT SOURCES
Sommario/riassunto	What is sin? Is it simply wrongdoing? Why do its effects linger over time? In this sensitive, imaginative, and original work, Gary Anderson shows how changing conceptions of sin and forgiveness lay at the very heart of the biblical tradition. Spanning nearly two thousand years, the book brilliantly demonstrates how sin, once conceived of as a physical burden, becomes, over time, eclipsed by economic metaphors. Transformed from a weight that an individual carried, sin becomes a debt that must be repaid in order to be redeemed in God's eyes. Anderson shows how this ancient Jewish revolution in thought shaped the way the Christian church understood the death and resurrection of

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Jesus and eventually led to the development of various penitential disciplines, deeds of charity, and even papal indulgences. In so doing it reveals how these changing notions of sin provided a spur for the Protestant Reformation.Broad in scope while still exceptionally attentive to detail, this ambitious and profound book unveils one of the most seismic shifts that occurred in religious belief and practice, deepening our understanding of one of the most fundamental aspects of human experience.