Record Nr. UNINA9910459826703321 Autore Mermelstein Ari Titolo Creation, covenant, and the beginnings of Judaism: reconceiving historical time in the Second Temple period / / by Ari Mermelstein Pubbl/distr/stampa Leiden, Netherlands:,: Brill,, 2014 ©2014 **ISBN** 90-04-28165-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (228 p.) Collana Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism., 1384-2161; Volume 168 Disciplina 229/.06 Apocryphal books (Old Testament) - Criticism, interpretation, etc. Soggetti Judaism - History - Post-exilic period, 586 B.C.-210 A.D Time - Religious aspects - Judaism Judaism - History Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Preliminary Material -- 1 Introduction: The Relationship between Time and History in Second Temple Literature -- 2 Wisdom of Ben Sira: Jewish History as the Unfolding of Creation -- 3 Wisdom of Ben Sira: Timelessness in Support of the Temple-State -- 4 The Book of Jubilees: Timeless Dimensions of a Covenantal Relationship -- 5 The Animal Apocalypse: The Timeless Symbols of History -- 6 Fourth Ezra: Time and History as Theological Critique -- 7 Synthesis and Conclusions --Bibliography -- Index of Ancient Primary Sources. Sommario/riassunto This study examines the relationship between time and history in Second Temple literature. Numerous sources from that period express a belief that Jewish history began with an act of covenant formation and proceeded in linear fashion until the exile, an unprecedented event which severed the present from the past. The authors of Ben Sira,

Jubilees, the Animal Apocalypse, and 4 Ezra responded to this theological challenge by claiming instead that Jewish history began at creation. Between creation and redemption, history unfolds as a series

of static, repeating patterns that simultaneously account for the

disappointments of the Second Temple period and confirm the eternal nature of the covenant. As iterations of timeless, cyclical patterns, the difficult post-exilic present and the glorious redemption of the future emerge as familiar, unremarkable, and inevitable historical developments.