

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910461333203321
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Titolo	The symbol of water in the Gospel of John / / Larry Paul Jones
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Sheffield, England : , : Sheffield Academic Press, , [1997] ©1997
ISBN	1-283-19252-7 9786613192523 0-567-10865-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (273 p.)
Collana	Journal for the study of the New Testament. Supplement series ; 145
Disciplina	226.5/064
Soggetti	Water in the Bible Symbolism in the Bible Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Originally presented as the author's thesis (doctoral)--Vanderbilt University, 1995.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [243]-255) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	CONTENTS; Acknowledgments; Abbreviations; Chapter 1; INTRODUCTION; Chapter 2; WATER AND THE BEGINNING OF THE MINISTRY OF JESUS; Chapter 3; LIVING WATER AND TROUBLED WATERS; Chapter 4; LIVING WATER AND DIVIDED PEOPLE; Chapter 5; WATER AND THE HOUR; Chapter 6; CONCLUSION; Bibliography; Index of References; Index of Authors
Sommario/riassunto	This study explores the meaning and function of water as a literary symbol in the Gospel of John. Jones first gives an account of symbol: it points beyond itself, it defies clear and definitive perceptual expression, and it in some way embodies that which it represents. Then he examines the narrative sections of John that involve water, plotting the expanding meaning and function of the symbol as the narrative unfolds. The study concludes that water serves primarily as a symbol of the Spirit and therein symbolizes Jesus. The symbol of water calls a wide variety of readers to a decision and fun