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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Abbreviations -- 1. Introduction and Methodological Considerations -- 2. Exegesis of Deuteronomic Slave Laws -- 3. Comparative Studies of Biblical Slave Manumission Laws -- 4. Comparative Studies of ANE Slave Laws -- 5. The Laws and the Concepts of Human Rights in the ANE Law Books and in Deuteronomy -- 6. Conclusion: Summary, Contributions, and Further Avenues of Research -- Appendix A: A Compilation of Biblical and Cuneiform Law Collections -- Appendix B: Biblical and ANE Slave Laws and ANE Laws Related to Slave Issues -- Bibliography -- Index of Authors -- Index of Scripture References
Sommario/riassunto	The humanitarian concerns of the biblical slave laws and their rhetorical techniques rarely receive scholarly attention, especially the two slave laws in Deuteronomy. Previous studies that compared the biblical and the ANE laws focused primarily on their similarities and developed theories of direct borrowing. This ignored the fact that legal transplants were common in ancient societies. This study, in contrast, aims to identify similarities and dissimilarities in order to pursue an understanding of the underlying values promoted within these slave

laws and the interests they protected. To do so, certain innovative methodologies were applied. The biblical laws examined present two diverse legal concepts that contrast to the ANE concepts: (1) all agents are regarded as persons and should be treated accordingly, and (2) all legal subjects are seen as free, dignified, and self-determining human beings. In addition, the biblical laws often distinguish an offender's "criminal intent," by which a criminal's rights are also considered. Based on these features, the biblical laws are able to articulate YHWH's humanitarian concerns and the basic concepts of human rights presented in Deuteronomy.
