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Autore	Cooley Jeffrey L
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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface and Acknowledgments -- Chapter 1 The Study of Ancient Near Eastern Celestial Science and Literature -- Chapter 2 Celestial Science in Mesopotamia -- Chapter 3 Celestial Science in Mesopotamian Literature -- Chapter 4 Celestial Science at Ugarit and in Ugaritic Literature -- Chapter 5 Celestial Science in Ancient Israel -- Chapter 6 Celestial Science in Ancient Israelite Literature -- Chapter 7 Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Indexes
Sommario/riassunto	Modern science historians have typically treated the sciences of the ancient Near East as separate from historical and cultural considerations. At the same time, biblical scholars, dominated by theological concerns, have historically understood the Israelite god as separate from the natural world. Cooley's study, bringing to bear contemporary models of science history on the one hand and biblical studies on the other hand, seeks to bridge a gap created by 20th-century scholarship in our understanding of ancient Near Eastern cultures by investigating the ways in which ancient authors incorporated their cultures' celestial speculation in narrative. In the literature of ancient Iraq, celestial divination is displayed quite prominently in important works such as Enuma Elis and Erra and Isum. In ancient Ugarit as well, the sky was observed for devotional reasons,

and astral deities play important roles in stories such as the Baal Cycle and Shajar and Shalim. Even though the veneration of astral deities was rejected by biblical authors, in the literature of ancient Israel the Sun, Moon, and stars are often depicted as active, conscious agents. In texts such as Genesis 1, Joshua 10, Judges 5, and Job 38, these celestial characters, these "sons of God," are living, dynamic members of Yahweh's royal entourage, willfully performing courtly, martial, and calendrical roles for their sovereign. The synthesis offered by this book, the first of its kind since the demise of the pan-Babylonianist school more than a century ago, is about ancient science in ancient Near Eastern literature.

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