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Sommario/riassunto	This study of dream accounts in the Bible and in ancient Near Eastern literature suggests two main lines of interpretation: on the one hand it defines the function of dream accounts from a literary, social, political and religious point of view on the basis of literary genre (practitioners" manuals, royal inscriptions, prophetic texts, etc.). On the other hand, in adopting a rather larger typology than is usual (message dreams, symbolic dreams, but also prophetic, premonitory and judgment dreams), it seeks to clarify both the relationship between the fiction implied by the literary form and t