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Autore	Gomes Jules
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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Acknowledgements -- Table of Contents -- Abbreviations -- Chapter One. Introduction -- Chapter Two. Bethel in the Books of Kings: From Restoration to Destruction -- Chapter Three. Bethel in the Book of Genesis: Sanctuary of the Patriarchs -- Chapter Four. Bethel in the Books of Joshua, Judges and 1 Samuel: Territorial Conquest and Tribal Claims -- Chapter Five. Bethel in the Books of Amos, Hosea and in Particular Psalms: House of God or House of Sin? -- Chapter Six. Bethel in Post-Exilic Biblical Writings: The Revival of a Central Sanctuary -- Chapter Seven. Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index of Biblical References
Sommario/riassunto	After Jerusalem, Bethel is the most frequently cited sanctuary in the Hebrew Bible. The book offers a detailed analysis of Bethel and its sanctuary from archaeological and biblical evidence. It reconstructs the history of Bethel and by analysing the presence of pro- and anti-Bethel propaganda, it argues that the latter, with its own pro-Jerusalem/Judah bias, has resulted in an unfair denigration of Bethel as an idolatrous place of worship. The study suggests that Bethel was a legitimate Yahwistic shrine and continued to be so even after the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to the Assyrians. Hence, Bethel in a real sense was the principal means of configuring Israelite identity.