

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789100303321
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Titolo	Plots of epiphany : prison-escape in Acts of the Apostles // John B. Weaver
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; New York : , : W. de Gruyter, , [2004] ©2004
ISBN	3-11-091561-8
Edizione	[Reprint 2012]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (347 pages)
Collana	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche ; ; Band 131
Classificazione	BC 7260
Disciplina	226.6/06
Soggetti	Miracles Escapes - Mythology Myth in the Bible
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Slight revision of the author's thesis (doctoral)--Emory University, 2004.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [289]-314) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Prison-escape and myth-criticism -- Epiphanic rescue from prison in ancient myth and history -- "Beginning from Jerusalem" : prison-escape and the mythopoesis of Christian origins in Acts 1-7 -- Rescue and regicide : the poetics and politics of group validation in Acts 12 -- "A door of faith opened to the Gentiles" : prison epiphany and cult foundation in Acts 16.
Sommario/riassunto	Der Autor vergleicht die drei Erzählungen der Apostelgeschichte über Gefängnisausbrüche mit anderen Befreiungswundern in griechisch-römischen und jüdischen Mythen. Eine Analyse dieser Geschichten und ihrer konventionellen Darstellung göttlicher Epiphanie und Kultbegründung ermöglicht neue Einblicke in den kulturellen Kontext und die narrative Darstellung frühchristlicher Geschichte in der Apostelgeschichte. Past scholarship on the prison-escapes in the Acts of the Apostles has tended to focus on lexical similarities to Euripides' Bacchae, going so far as to argue for direct literary dependence. Moving beyond such explanations, the present study argues that miraculous prison-escape was a central event in a traditional and culturally significant story about the introduction and foundation of cults - a story discernable in the

Bacchae and other ancient texts. When the mythic quality and cultural diffusion of the prison-escape narratives are taken into account, the resemblance of Lukan and Dionysian narrative episodes is seen to depend less on specific literary borrowing, and more on shared familiarity with cultural discourses involving the legitimating portrayal of new cults in the ancient world.
