Record Nr.	UNINA9910806833603321
Titolo	Cities of God : the Bible and archaeology in nineteenth-century Britain / / [edited by] David Gange and Michael Ledger-Lomas [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-139-89033-6
	1-107-50183-0
	1-107-50060-5
	1-107-50607-7 1-107-51644-7
	0-511-78364-7
	1-107-49628-4
	1-107-50345-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 363 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	SOC003000
Disciplina	220.9/3094109034
Soggetti	Archaeology - Great Britain - History - 19th century
	Middle East Antiquities
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction / Michael Ledger-Lomas and David Gange Troy / David Gange and Rachel Bryant Davies Jerusalem / Simon Goldhill Nineveh / Tim Larsen Pithom / David Gange Babylon / Michael Seymour Sodom / Astrid Swenson Bethlehem / Eitan Bar-Yosef Ephesus / Michael Ledger-Lomas Rome / Jane Garnett and Anne Bush.
Sommario/riassunto	The history of archaeology is generally told as the making of a secular discipline. In nineteenth-century Britain, however, archaeology was enmeshed with questions of biblical authority and so with religious as well as narrowly scholarly concerns. In unearthing the cities of the Eastern Mediterranean, travellers, archaeologists and their popularisers transformed thinking on the truth of Christianity and its place in modern cities. This happened at a time when anxieties over the

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unprecedented rate of urbanisation in Britain coincided with critical challenges to biblical truth. In this context, cities from Jerusalem to Rome became contested models for the adaptation of Christianity to modern urban life. Using sites from across the biblical world, this book evokes the appeal of the ancient city to diverse groups of British Protestants in their arguments with one another and with their secular and Catholic rivals about the vitality of their faith in urban Britain.