

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910809757203321
Autore	Russell Jeffrey Burton
Titolo	Paradise mislaid : how we lost heaven--and how we can regain it // Jeffrey Burton Russell
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford ; ; New York, : Oxford University Press, 2006
ISBN	019534779X 9780195347791
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	x, 210 p
Disciplina	236/.2409
Soggetti	Heaven - History of doctrines
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 185-193) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Preface -- CHAPTER 1 Shut and Open -- CHAPTER 2 Up -- CHAPTER 3 Enchantment -- CHAPTER 4 Ahead -- CHAPTER 5 Back -- CHAPTER 6 In and Out -- CHAPTER 7 Forward -- CHAPTER 8 Here -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- A -- B -- C -- D -- E -- F -- G -- H -- I -- J -- K -- L -- M -- N -- O -- P -- Q -- R -- S -- T -- U -- V -- W -- Z.
Sommario/riassunto	The Christian concept of heaven flourished for almost two millennia, but it has lost much of its power in the last hundred years. Indeed today even theologians tend to avoid the topic. But heaven has always been a central tenet of the Christian faith, writes Jeffrey Burton Russell. If there is no heaven, no resurrection of the dead, the entire Christian story makes no sense. In this stimulating book, Russell sets out to rehabilitate heaven by forcefully attacking a series of ideas that have made belief in heaven, not to mention belief in God, increasingly difficult for modern people. Russell provides elegant and persuasive refutations of arguments ranging from the idea that science has disproved the existence of the supernatural, to the notion that biblical criticism has emptied the scripture of meaning. Along the way, as Russell looks at the ideas of Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer, Mark Twain and Alfred Lord Tennyson, Marx and Freud, and a host of others, he sheds light not only on the history of Christian thought, but on the process of secularization in the West. One by one, Russell refutes these anti-religious ideologies, pinpointing the deficiencies of their

reasoning. Throughout the book, Russell invites the reader, whatever his or her beliefs, to take the concept of heaven seriously both as a worldview in itself and as one with enormous influence on the world. It is a book that will be welcomed by thinking Christians, who often feel beleaguered by the forces of modernity and sometimes find it hard to defend their own beliefs.

---