

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910815227203321
Autore	BeDuhn Jason
Titolo	Augustine's Manichaeian dilemma . 1 Conversion and apostasy, 373-388 C.E. [[electronic resource] /] / Jason David BeDuhn
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2010
ISBN	1-283-89838-1 0-8122-0742-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	viii, 402 p
Collana	Divinations
Disciplina	270.2092 B
Soggetti	Conversion - Christianity Manichaeism Apostasy - Christianity
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- Chapter One: Becoming Manichaeian -- Chapter Two: Inhabitation -- Chapter Three: Indoctrination -- Chapter Four: Faustus -- Chapter Five: Exile -- Chapter Six: The Apostate -- Chapter Seven: Conversion -- Chapter Eight: Rationalizing Faith -- Chapter Nine: A New Man? -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	Augustine of Hippo is history's best-known Christian convert. The very concept of conversion owes its dissemination to Augustine's Confessions, and yet, as Jason BeDuhn notes, conversion in Augustine is not the sudden, dramatic, and complete transformation of self we likely remember it to be. Rather, in the Confessions Augustine depicts conversion as a lifelong process, a series of self-discoveries and self-departures. The tale of Augustine is one of conversion, apostasy, and conversion again. In this first volume of Augustine's Manichaeian Dilemma, BeDuhn reconstructs Augustine's decade-long adherence to Manichaeism, apostasy from it, and subsequent conversion to Nicene Christianity. Based on his own testimony and contemporaneous sources from and about Manichaeism, the book situates many features of Augustine's young adulthood within his commitment to the sect, while

pointing out ways he failed to understand or put into practice key parts of the Manichaean system. It explores Augustine's dissatisfaction with the practice-oriented faith promoted by the Manichaean leader Faustus and the circumstances of heightened intolerance, anti-Manichaean legislation, and pressures for social conformity surrounding his apostasy. Seeking a historically circumscribed account of Augustine's subsequent conversion to Nicene Christianity, BeDuhn challenges entrenched conceptions of conversion derived in part from Augustine's later idealized account of his own spiritual development. He closely examines Augustine's evolving self-presentation in the year before and following his baptism and argues that the new identity to which he committed himself bore few of the hallmarks of the orthodoxy with which he is historically identified. Both a historical study of the specific case of Augustine and a theoretical reconsideration of the conditions under which conversion occurs, this book explores the role religion has in providing the materials and tools through which self-formation and reformation occurs.
