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Autore	Davies John A
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This book examines the portrayal of Israel as a royal-priestly nation within Exodus and against the background of biblical and ancient Near Eastern thought. Central to the work is a literary study of Exodus 19:4-6 and a demonstration of the pivotal role these verses and their main image have within Exodus. This elective and honorific designation of Yahweh's cherished people has a particular focus on the privilege of access to him in his heavenly temple. The paradigm of the royal grant of privileged status has profound implications for our understanding of the Sinai covenant.
