The Hebrew Bible and Environmental Ethics

The environmental crisis has prompted religious leaders and laypeople to look to their traditions for resources to respond to environmental degradation. In this book, Mari Joerstad contributes to this effort by examining an ignored feature of the Hebrew Bible: its attribution of activity and affect to trees, fields, soil, and mountains. The Bible presents a social cosmos in which humans are one kind of person among many. Using a combination of the tools of biblical studies and anthropological writings on animism, Joerstad traces the activity of nonanimal nature through the canon. She shows how biblical writers go beyond sustainable development, asking us to be good neighbors to mountains and trees, to be generous to our fields and vineyards. They envision human communities that are sources of joy to plants and animals. The biblical writers’ attention to inhabited spaces is particularly salient for contemporary environmental ethics in their insistence that our cities, suburbs, and villages contribute to flourishing landscapes.

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The Hebrew Bible and Environmental Ethics

Humans, Nonhumans, and the Living Landscape

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