

The **BOISI CENTER** *for* RELIGION *and* AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

The 16th Annual Prophetic Voices Lecture

An Ethics for the Coming Storm

A Theological Reflection on Climate Change

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#PropheticVoices



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Interrupting Your Life: Prophecy in a Warming World



“The UNIPCC issued a final report saying human influence on the climate system is clear and growing, with impacts observed on all continents. If left unchecked, climate change increase severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems. The gathering risks of climate change are so profound that they could **stall or even reverse generations of progress against poverty and hunger** if greenhouse gas emissions continue at a runaway pace.

Failure to reduce emission, the groups of scientists and other experts found, could threaten society with food shortages, refugee crisis, the flooding of major cities and entire island nations, the mass extinction of plants and animals and a climate so drastically altered it might become dangerous for people to work or play outside.”

(NYT, International Edition, November 3, 2014.

Listen!

- ...if you will listen constantly and diligently to My commandments that I command you this day, to love HaShem your G-d, and to serve G-d with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give the rain of your land in its right season, the early rains and the late rains, so that you may gather in your grain, and your wine, and your oil. And I will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you shall eat and be satisfied. Watch yourselves, beware, because your heart can be deceived and seduced, and you will turn away astray, and serve other gods, and bow down to them.
- Then the anger of HaShem be blaze against you! And He will shut up the heavens, so that there shall be no rain, and the ground shall not yield her fruit; and you will quickly be banished, starving, from off the good land which HaShem gives to you.

- For half a century, climate scientists have seen the West Antarctic ice sheet, a remnant of the last ice age, as a sword of Damocles hanging over human civilization. The great ice sheet, larger than Mexico, is thought to be potentially vulnerable to disintegration from a relatively small amount of global warming, and capable of raising the sea level by 12 feet or more should it break up. But researchers long assumed the worst effects would take hundreds — if not thousands — of years to occur. Now, new research suggests the disaster scenario could play out much sooner. Continued high emissions of heat-trapping gases could launch a disintegration of the ice sheet within decades, according to a study (this last) March, heaving enough water into the ocean to raise the sea level as much as three feet by the end of this century.

Genesis 5

And He saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And He regretted that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.

And He said: 'I will erase the creatures who I have created from the face of the earth; both humans, and beasts, and creeping things, and fliers of the air; for I regret that I have made them.'

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the HaShem.

Surah 71

Verily, We sent Noah to his people. "Warn your people before there comes to them a painful torment." He said: "O my people! In truth, I warn you plainly: That you should worship Allah, be dutiful to Him, and obey me, He will forgive you of your sins and respite you to an appointed term. The term of Allah when it comes, cannot be delayed, if you but knew."

He said: "O my Lord! Verily, I have called my people night and day But all my calling added nothing but to (their) flight.

Until all-of days-of the·earth seed
and·harvest and·cold and·warmth
and·summer and·winter and·day
and·night no, they-shall not-cease,
lo shabbato.

Two ideas of many we will need.

1. Tithe your time
2. Make a Sabbatical Year

Stop.
And Start.

Thank you

My family, my favorite interrupters

My AAR Board Colleagues and AAR Staff Members

My teachers: Karen LeBacqz, Daniel Boyarin, Elliott Dorff, Carol Robb, Bill O'Neil, David Biale Daniel Matt, Clare Fisher, Herbert Basser, Zev Falk, David Hartman, Gustavo Gutierrez, Barbara Schenkel

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