Judaism, environmentalism and the environment: Mapping and analysis
Gerstenfeld, M.

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Manfred Gerstenfeld lives in Jerusalem. An international consultant, he specializes in business and environmental strategy. He is a former director in a consultancy whose other shareholders included four of the world's largest banks, and has been an advisor to governments and the boards of some of the world's leading multinational corporations in 20 countries over 35 years. He has been on several boards, including one of Israel's largest investment companies, and has been involved in Jewish public affairs for four decades. His books have been published in several languages. He co-authored the bestselling *Rivalutare l'Italia* (Revaluing Italy) with Lorenzo Necci. His other books are *Environment and Confusion; Israel's New Future – Interviews;* and *Lo Stato Come Azienda* (The State as a Business-Do-it-Yourself Political Forecasting).
Manfred Gerstenfeld provides a much-needed overview of Judaism's interactions with environmentalism and the environment. Here he analyzes a multitude of references in the Bible, Talmud and later writings to environmental issues which, today, are grouped together in a problem complex that has become one of society's major preoccupations. The author demonstrates that Jewish law, the Biblical narrative and the Midrash literature reflect a coherent approach. He introduces new analytical tools which help the reader to understand Judaism's stance.

This lucid text provides a balanced assessment of a wide range of ancient and modern sources which are not accessible together elsewhere. It makes a compelling case for a new academic field: Jewish environmental studies. Both professional and lay readers will be greatly helped by this well-informed and insightful book.

Professor A. Friedman
Head, The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies

As far as I know, there is no equivalent available as to the number and scope of Jewish sources covered and the number of environmental issues dealt with. The strategic perspective developed by Gerstenfeld will, in all probability, have a major impact on future studies of the interaction between Judaism, environmentalism and the environment.

Professor Lucas Reijnders
Environmental Studies, University of Amsterdam

As few people are familiar with both classical Jewish sources and the environmental discourse, it is very important for such a survey to be easily accessible. The author's earlier work "Environment and Confusion" already shows that he is qualified to address a wide audience with respect to the environment. This new manuscript is well written and erudite without being cumbersome, for all that it refers to many different areas of study. It displays clear, coherent and well-ordered reasoning.

Joseph Agassi
Professor Emeritus, Department of Philosophy
Tel-Aviv University and York University, Toronto

Manfred Gerstenfeld's book on Judaism and the Environment draws on the great wealth of Jewish insight on the spectrum of issues on this subject, addressing some of the most pressing challenges that contemporary society faces. As a result, the reader is both edified by the wisdom of Jewish tradition and gains a deeper understanding of how these modern challenges may be effectively addressed.

Abraham H. Foxman, National Director
Anti-Defamation League, New York
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