Preface

Series Foreword

Introduction: Judaism and the Natural World

A Kabbalah for the Environmental Age
Toward a Jewish Theology of Nature

The Ecology of Eden

How Much Is Too Much? Conventional versus Personal Definitions of Pollutions in Rabbinic Sources

Jewish Death Practices: A Commentary on the Relationship of Humans to the Natural World

Response: Mastery and Stewardship, Wonder and Connectedness: A Typology of Relations to Nature in Jewish Text and Tradition

Nature’s Answer: The Meaning of the Book of Job in Its Intellectual Context

Creation in the Bible and in the Liturgy

The Doctrine of Creation and the Idea of Nature

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Concepts of Torah and Nature in Jewish Thought

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Response: Construction, Discovery, and Critique in Jewish Ecological Ethics

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Synopsis

Jewish ecological discourse has shown that Judaism harbors deep concern for the well-being of the natural world. However, the movement has not articulated a Jewish theology of nature, nor has it submitted the sources of Judaism to a systematic, philosophical examination. This volume intends to contribute to the nascent discourse on Judaism and ecology by clarifying diverse conceptions of nature in Jewish thought and by using the insights of Judaism to formulate a constructive Jewish theology of nature. The twenty-one contributors consider the Bible and rabbinic literature, examine the relationship between the doctrine of creation and the doctrine of revelation in the context of natural law, and wrestle with questions of nature and morality. They look at nature in the Jewish mystical tradition, and they face the challenges to Jewish environmental activism caused by the tension between the secular nature of the environmental discourse and Jewish religious commitments.

Biography

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