

Editorial: Ecological Ethics

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25784/jeac.v5i1.1253>



Dear esteemed reader,

the year 2023 brought many negative records in the area of climate change. The measurable warming of the oceans has broken all previous records, and the summer has seen major weather events (forest fires in Canada, flooding in Greece and Libya) on a “biblical scale”, as the media have labeled them. Indeed, from Genesis to the Apocalypse, the Bible speaks of a constant and fundamental threat to ‘heaven and earth’. But how are these texts to be read today in the context of the global, anthropogenic climate crisis? Are there analogies and differences? How can an examination of the ancient texts sharpen, broaden or relativize our view of the current threat? Where do they provide inspiration or even orientation for current narratives on creation and climate ethics in their own way of speaking and thinking? How can the historically informed voice of theology and ethics enrich or criticize the current trivializing or dramatizing apocalyptic discourses?

This issue is dedicated to these questions on the basis of the bridging hermeneutics between antiquity and the present, which has long been discussed in the *e/ac*. It begins with three fundamental contributions from the perspective of the OT (Bührer), the NT (Gradl) and classical philology (Althoff). In the dialog section, the international Earth Bible Project is discussed (Balabanski, Krauter). A miscellany (Chapple) discusses environmental relations in Asian religions. Other miscellanies address the hermeneutical approach of “paradising” (Köhler) or the controversially interpreted key passage 2 Peter 3 (Estes). Due to the wide range of recent publications on the topic, the review section is more detailed than usual (Hieke, Borgardts, Peisker, Jekel, Manomi) and thus provides an insight into current work on the theological ethics of creation from various disciplines. In addition, JEAC 5 contains two reviews that fall within the thematic area of JEAC 4 Perspectives on a Digital Age (Al-Suadi).

We are grateful to Anne Hamann, Felix Heim, Nathalie Schüler and Jutta Nennstiel for their help with proofreading and typesetting. We sincerely hope for a stimulating reading of this issue.