



Podcast 12: Listening to echoes of hope: Evidence-based climate stories and a hopepunk God

Steven van den Heuvel, Elin Kelsey and Emma Pavey

What resonated most with you in listening to this podcast?

What gave you pause for thought?

Some quotes to reflect on:

- * Elin: “The narrative of doomism has been so dominant because of the assumption that fear and shame is how we mobilise around really important issues...However, what holds us to stay engaged with really difficult things are things like relationship and compassion and pride...the kinds of emotions that come with hope.”
- * Elin: “42% of people in the world are 25 years of age and younger and the largest international survey to date of people in that age show three out of four of them feeling greatly fearful about the future and suffering profound feelings of eco-anxiety.”
- * Steven: “There are many reasons for us to slow down when it comes to consumption [and] adopt a more appreciative attitude to life and to what is given, that is not necessarily materially less, but appreciates the materiality.”
- * Elin: “There’s even genetics researchers who look at hedonistic vs eudamonic pleasure... They’ve been able to show a higher immune response when we act on behalf of the greater good.”
- * Steven: “[A] focus on [eschatology], the last things, let’s say, how does that relate to climate change? For some Christians, the realisation that this world will end is actually something from which they don’t feel motivated to be engaged in ameliorating climate change for example, because they see it as actually working against something that should come about, namely the ending of this world. For other Christians, this is radically different... Looking at the Christian tradition, our understanding of the end of the world does not mean that we can relish in climate change as a foreboding of the last things to come, not at all, no. It is actually a threat to God’s good earth which he has given to us.”

The Susanna Wesley Foundation



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Resources mentioned:

- * IUCN Green List: iucngreenlist.org/about
- * Find out about Elin Kelsey's work: www.elinkelsey.org
- * **Interdisciplinary Hope Project**, which Steven is involved in.
- * Open access publication ***Historical and Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Hope.***
- * Find out about **hopepunk**.