

## Barbara Rossing: Annotated Bibliography for Enhancing Life Studies

- Brock, Rita Nakashima, and Rebecca Ann Parker. *Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2008. This wide-ranging study looks at catacomb art, mosaics, frescoes in Turkey, and a wealth of texts to make the case that paradise in this world lay at the heart of early Christianity. Not until the early Middle Ages did crucifixion, judgment and the afterlife of the individual become the primary focus of Christian eschatology. Texts such as Ephrem's Hymns on Paradise, and art such as the mosaics of Ravenna, can help us re-claim and re-imagine sacraments, healing and other images of abundant life for a vibrant, earth-focused future today.
- Conradie, Ernst. *Hope for the Earth: Vistas on a New Century*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2000. Conradie's rigorous systematic analysis and clear typologies give one of the best introductions to the whole field of eschatology available today. Drawing on Moltmann's question of how the Lord's prayer for the coming of the kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven" got replaced by the longing to go to heaven itself, he leads the reader through the history of eschatology and constructs an ecological eschatology from his South African context that is relevant to multiple contexts.
- Maathai, Wangari. *Replenishing the Earth: Spiritual Values for Healing Ourselves and the World*. New York: Doubleday, 2010. Founder of the Green Belt tree-planting movement in Kenya Wangari Maathai frames our global environmental crisis as an insatiable "craving for more," like the Israelites' craving in the wilderness (Numbers 11). Healing for the planet's wounds, and our own wounds, requires a respect for limits, lest we become like the "quail eaters" who were buried in the "graves of craving" (Numbers 11:33). Stories of women's groups working for hope, ecological restoration, and community transformation in the world, come to life in this beautifully crafted volume about healing.
- Wainwright, Elaine, *Habitat Human and Holy: An Eco-Rhetorical Reading of the Gospel of Matthew*. (The Earth Bible Commentary 6; Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2016). A leader in the international Earth Bible Project, feminist New Testament scholar Wainwright interprets the Earth as the central habitat for Jesus' mission and ministry. Fresh lenses on healing stories, the Sermon on the Mount and other texts, in terms of the social imaginary of place and space, make this commentary on Matthew a great read.
- Westhelle, Vitor. *Eschatology and Space: The Lost Dimension in Theology Past and Present*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. Westhelle overturns the priority given to time over space in most Christian eschatological thinking. He makes a biblically and theologically persuasive case of "latitudinal" eschatological categories such as "crossing" and "place" that can speak to migrants, the landless, and all who experience the *eschata* at the margins today.