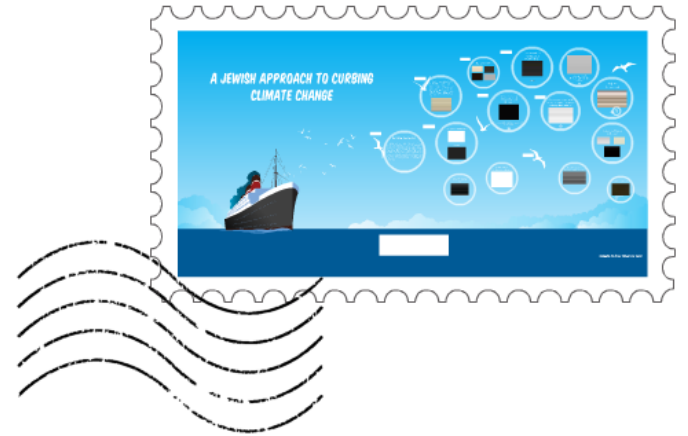


About The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development



To learn more, go to
www.interfaithsustain.com



Rabbi Yonatan Neril

yneril@interfaithsustain.com

A stylized illustration of a large steamship, likely a cruise ship, sailing on a blue sea. The ship has a dark hull and a white upper section with a row of portholes. It features three prominent red funnels with white tops, emitting thick black smoke. A tall black mast with rigging is visible. The sky is a clear blue with a few white birds flying in the distance.



**Interfaith Center
for Sustainable
Development**



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To Drill or Not to Drill

A Jewish teaching: "...Rabbi Shimon Ben Yochai provides an analogy to people who were sitting in a boat. One of them took a borer and began boring a hole in the floor of the boat beneath him. His friends said to him, 'What are you sitting and doing to the boat?!' He replied to them, "What does it matter to you? Am I not boring beneath myself?!" They said to him, "Your actions are of concern to us, because the waters are rising through that hole and flooding the entire boat!"

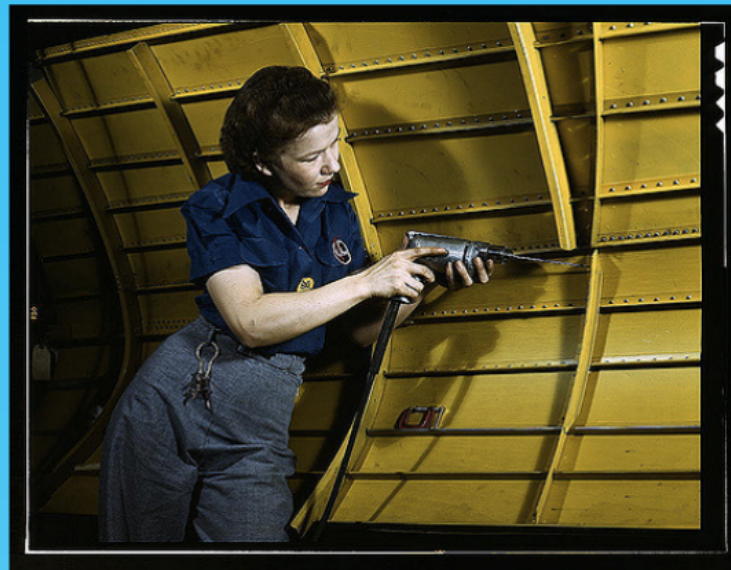


The Jewish Teaching Connects this Teaching to the Book of Job

So said Job, Even if I have erred, my error lodges within me (Job 19:4). [Job's] friends said to him in response, For he adds rebellion to his error, among us "yispok" (ibid. 34:37), meaning, you are bringing punishment among us for your sins.



Why is the person
drilling underneath
their seat?



Can you think of rational reasons for
this behavior?



To fish?



To cool down feet?



To find fresh drinking water?



For oil or other nonrenewable resources?



To harvest seaweed?



To use the facilities?



To fish?



To cool down feet?



To find fresh drinking water?



For oil or other nonrenewable resources?



To harvest seaweed?



To use the facilities?





What accounts for the
disregard of other people's
welfare?



They think a small hole won't cause real damage.



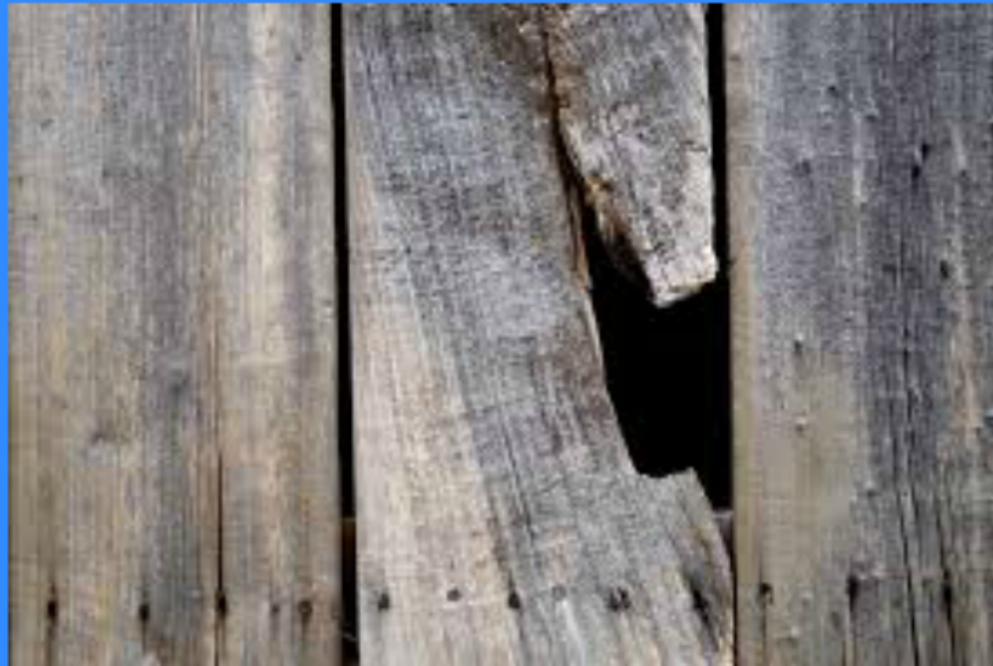
They cannot think about anything beyond their immediate need.



They think the problem is long term;
if the ship sinks, it won't happen for a long time!



They think a small hole won't cause real damage.



They cannot think about anything beyond their immediate need.



They think the problem is long term;
if the ship sinks, it won't happen for a long time!





What can the people on the ship do to convince this person to change their behavior?



Meet the person's needs in a way
that does not involve drilling.



Explain that the person's action will
harm themselves too.



Tell the person that their action
impacts other people.



Meet the person's needs in a way
that does not involve drilling.



Explain that the person's action will harm themselves too.



Tell the person that their action
impacts other people.

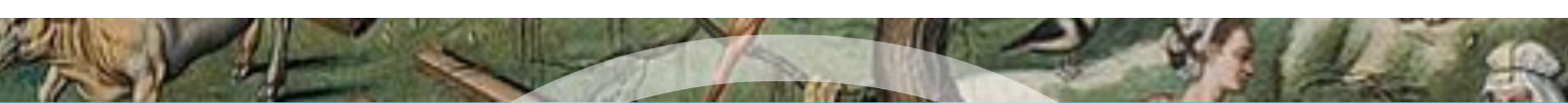


of the
people's

Ship #2: Noah's Ark



What did the
people of Noah's
generation do to
trigger God to
destroy almost all
life on earth?



What did the
people of Noah's
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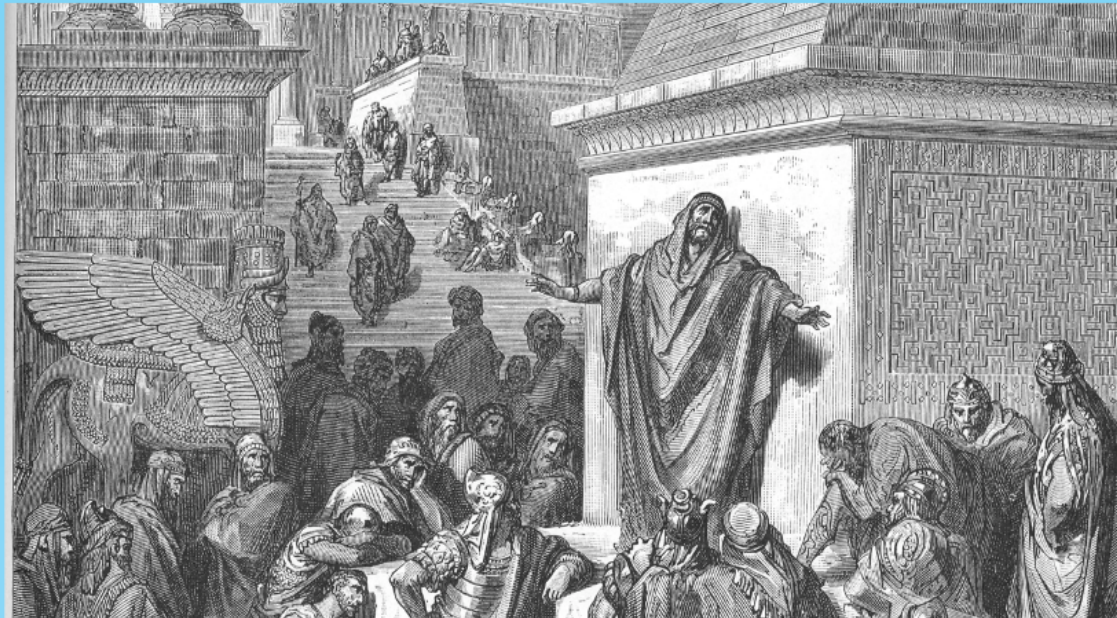
Midrash on stealing peanuts at the market



Ship #3: Jonah and the Repentance of Nineveh



Why did the people of
Nineveh change course?

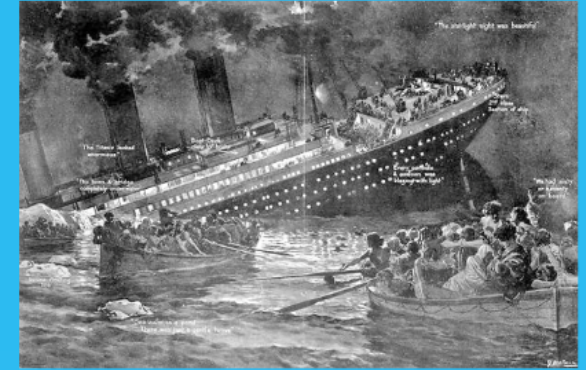




Captain Smith was
warned about
icebergs ahead...



So why did he sail full-steam ahead?



An equivalence of 46,000 horses powered the Titanic, making it an apt metaphor for powering industrial society.



He thought the ship was unsinkable based on this belief that industrial society is stronger than nature.



He thought he would be able to avoid a collision in time, yet they only had 35 seconds after spotting the iceberg.



People on board assumed that the captain is taking care of them... Not consuming prime ribs and cocktails 2 hours before they hit the iceberg.



An equivalence of 46,000 horses powered the Titanic, making it an apt metaphor for powering industrial society.



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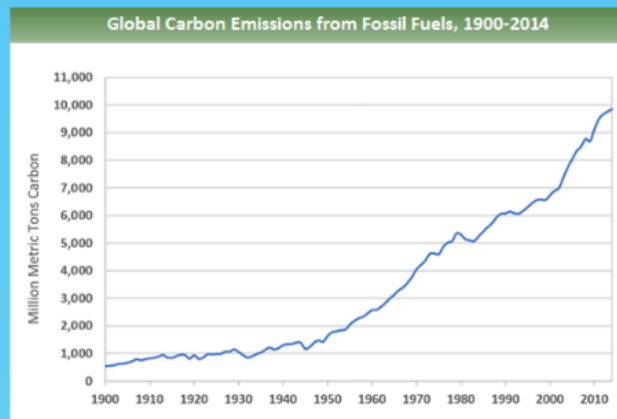


People on board
assumed that the
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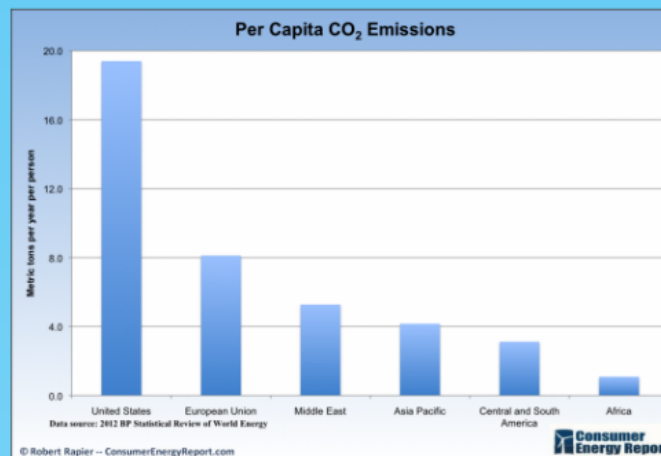
Ship #5: Planet Earth



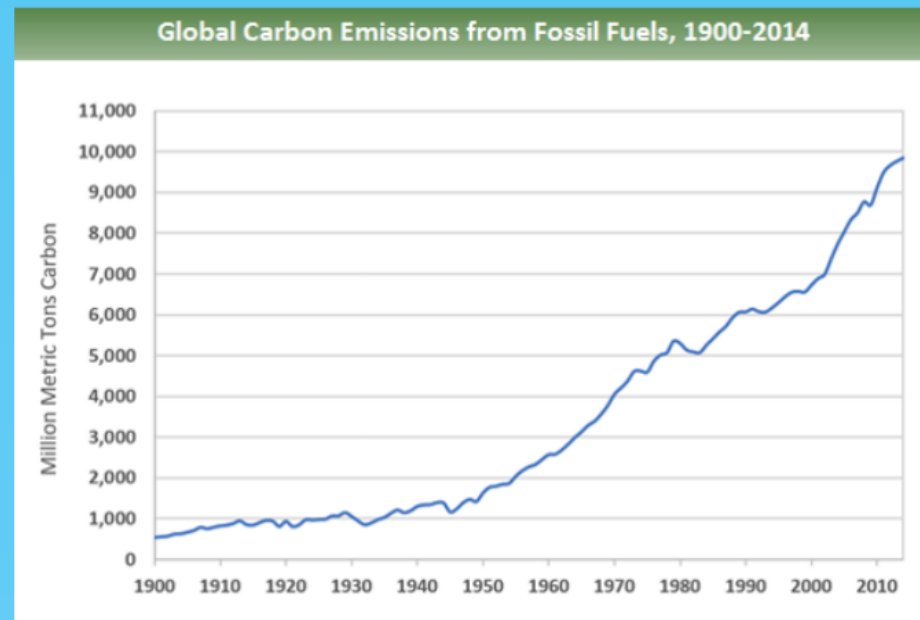
The Atmosphere as the Bottom of the Ship



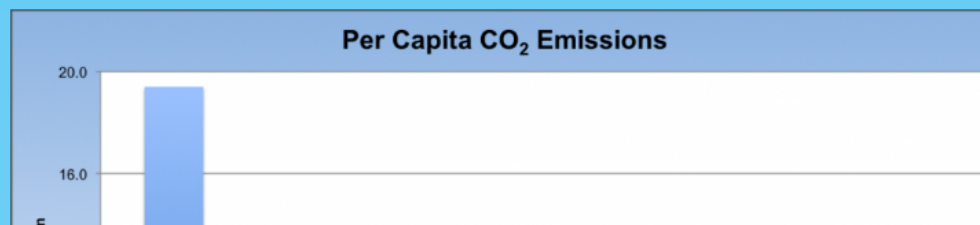
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The Atmosphere as the Bottom of the Ship

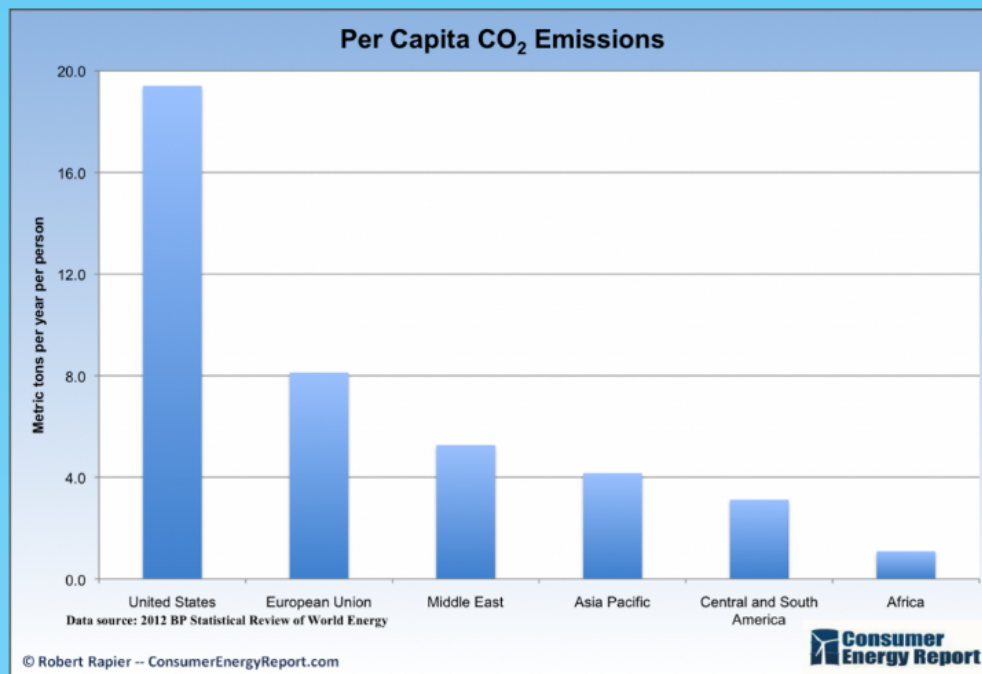


Continued...





Continued...





Bringing it all together



Planet Earth as our Ship



How can people act now to avert danger in the future?



We are all drilling on the collective ship through our daily consumption.



Religious teachers can help us think long-term, moderate consumption, and find greater pleasure in the spiritual and community.

How can people act
now to avert danger in
the future?



We are all drilling on the
collective ship through
our daily consumption.





Religious teachers can help us think long-term, moderate consumption, and find greater pleasure in the spiritual and community.

How are we drilling on
Earth today?



A stylized illustration of a large steamship, likely a cruise ship, sailing on a blue sea. The ship has a dark hull and a white upper section with a row of portholes. Three large funnels are visible, emitting thick white smoke. A tall mast with rigging is positioned towards the rear of the ship. The sky is a clear, bright blue.



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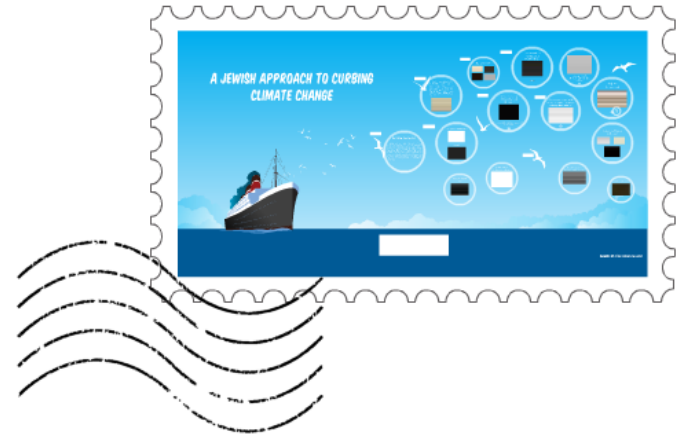


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