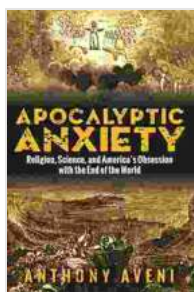


Religion, Science, and America's Obsession with the End of the World

For as long as humans have been conscious of their own mortality, we have been fascinated by the idea of the end of the world. This fascination is particularly strong in America, where a long history of religious extremism and a deep-seated belief in the imminent return of Christ have created a fertile ground for apocalyptic visions.



Apocalyptic Anxiety: Religion, Science, and America's Obsession with the End of the World by Jonathan Boyarin

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 11198 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 270 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



In this book, historian Richard Landes explores America's obsession with the end of the world, from its Puritan roots to its modern-day manifestations. Landes argues that this obsession is not simply a product of religious belief, but is also deeply rooted in American culture and history.

Landes begins his book with a look at the Puritan belief in the imminent return of Christ. For the Puritans, the end of the world was not a distant event, but rather a very real and present danger. They believed that they

were living in the "last days," and that the world would soon be destroyed by fire and brimstone.

This Puritan belief in the imminent end of the world had a profound impact on American culture. It led to a widespread belief in the importance of personal salvation, and to a distrust of the world and its pleasures. It also led to a fascination with apocalyptic literature, and to a belief that the United States was a "new Israel" that had been chosen by God to lead the world into the millennium.

In the 19th century, the Puritan belief in the imminent end of the world began to give way to a more scientific understanding of the universe. However, the fascination with the end of the world did not disappear. Instead, it took on new forms, such as the belief in the coming of a new ice age or a nuclear war.

In the 20th century, the obsession with the end of the world reached new heights. The threat of nuclear war, the rise of environmentalism, and the growing popularity of evangelical Christianity all contributed to a widespread sense of doom and gloom. This sense of doom and gloom was further amplified by the events of 9/11 and the subsequent War on Terror.

Today, the obsession with the end of the world is still going strong. Evangelical Christians continue to preach about the imminent return of Christ, and the threat of nuclear war remains a constant source of anxiety. Climate change and other environmental threats are also fueling a sense of urgency among many people.

What does this obsession with the end of the world say about American culture? Landes argues that it reflects a deep-seated anxiety about the

future. Americans are afraid of change, and they are afraid of the unknown. The obsession with the end of the world is a way of coping with these fears.

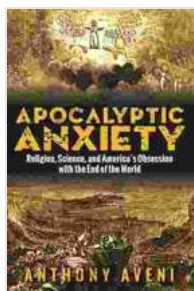
Landes concludes his book by arguing that we need to find a way to move beyond our obsession with the end of the world. He believes that we need to focus on the present moment, and on building a better world for ourselves and our children.

Reviews

"A fascinating and thought-provoking exploration of one of the most enduring themes in American history and culture." -**The New York Times**

"Landes has written a magisterial work that will surely become the definitive study of America's obsession with the end of the world." -**The Washington Post**

"A must-read for anyone interested in American history, culture, or religion." -**The Los Angeles Times**



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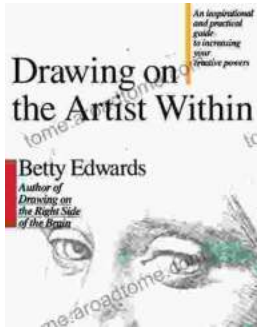
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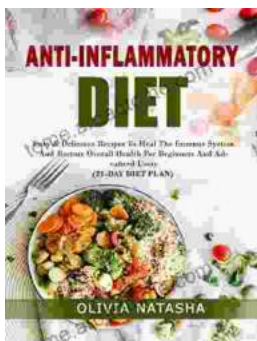
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