

A Different Prophet-Who Should Progressive Jews Listen to Today?

This is the opening paragraph from my essay in *Progressive Judaism, Zionism and the State of Israel*, publication forthcoming, April 2026.

This chapter is about how the religious language that we speak determines who we are. Progressive Judaism, the child of the Reform and Liberal Movements, speaks its mother tongue, which draws on the voices of a small group of prophets. We will listen to two of those voices, whose values fitted so closely with the goals of the thinkers who founded our movements. I will argue that in the global context after October 7th, 2023, that historic ideology creates in us a particular kind of moral and spiritual vulnerability, and that there is an urgent need for a different religious and prophetic language. A prophet who knows how to take a stand within earthly political complexity, to build a different ethics.