

Six Degrees – Our Future on a Hotter Planet by Mark Lynas.  
4<sup>th</sup> Estate 2007.

In his introduction Mark Lynas tells of overhearing two people describing an evening when he had presented some of the material in Six Degrees as 'depressing'. He takes issue with this view, pointing out that while the prognosis in his book is terrifying, its worst scenarios are probably avoidable if the world wakes up to what needs to be done NOW.

Six Degrees is a chapter by chapter analysis, one degree at a time, of the impact on the planet, and all those who dwell on it, of a rise in global temperatures of between one and six degrees over the next century. His conclusion is that we have less than fifty years to take the necessary steps to prevent a warming of more than two degrees.

In each chapter Lynas considers different parts of the world and what would happen to them were the planet to warm steadily above its current levels; he looks at land loss to rising sea levels, extinction of species and the transformation of parts of the earth, such as the Amazonian rainforest into desert, as the temperatures rise.

Mark Lynas, a science writer of the highest quality but not a trained scientist, sets out the technical data in a readily comprehensible manner, and the writing is as compelling as the subject matter is chilling.

Six Degrees is a superb contribution to the ongoing debate about global warming and should have the widest possible readership.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh