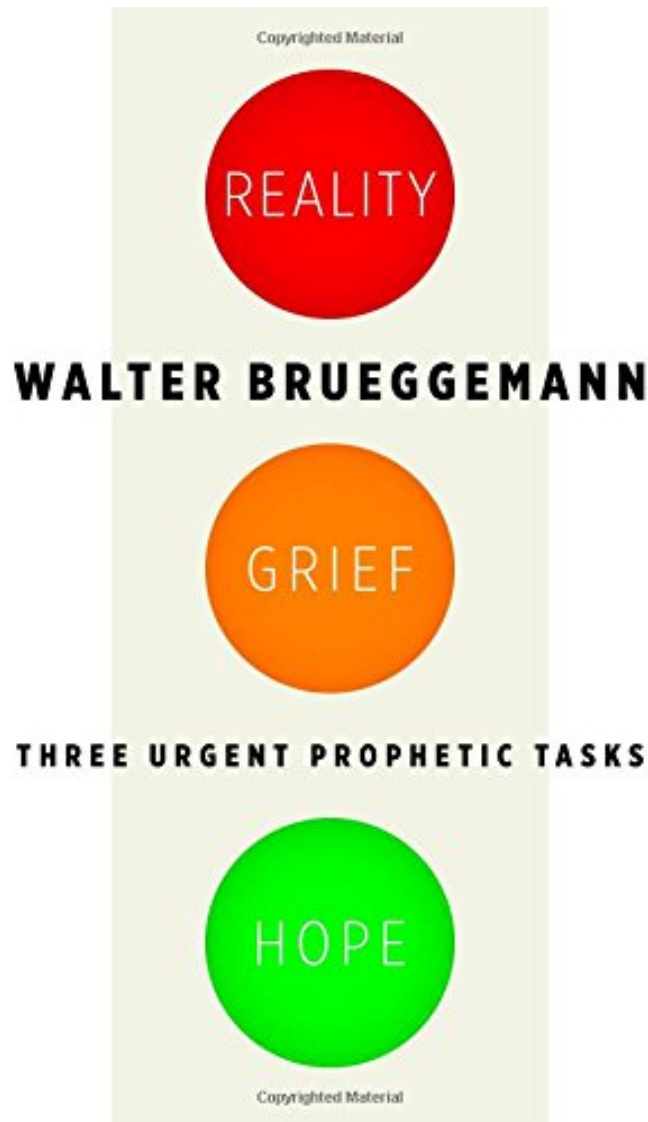


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Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks

Walter Brueggemann

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Walter Brueggemann is one of the most highly regarded Old Testament scholars of our time; talk-show host Krista Tippett has even called him "a kind of theological rock star." In this new book Brueggemann incisively probes our society-in-crisis from the ground up. Pointing out striking correlations between the catastrophe of 9/11 and the destruction of ancient Jerusalem, Brueggemann shows how the prophetic biblical response to that crisis was truth-telling in the face of ideology, grief in the face of denial, and hope in the face of despair. He argues that the same prophetic responses are urgently required from us now if we are to escape the deathliness of denial and despair. Brueggemann's Reality, Grief, Hope boldly confronts the dominant forces of our time, taking on principalities and powers that vie for our souls, and calls the church to courageous action.

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reality of cultural brokenness so that we may have hope in restoration and healing through the church."Mennonite Brethren Herald "As one of the world's most prolific and significant Old Testament writers, Walter Brueggemann continues to do what he has done for more than four decades: read Scripture in ways that confront, convict and nurture the church. ... One cannot read this book and be unmoved. In keeping with the prophetic spirit, it is intentionally provocative and calls for a response. ... Offers deep and significant thoughts about Israel's prophets and our present hearing of them that deserve careful attention and uneasy wrestling in our lives together."Bible Today "Walter Brueggemann is well known as one who looks deeply into the biblical prophetic soul and finds there both the challenge and the sustenance for believers to live in the contemporary world in a prophetic way. ... The reflections in this book are grounded in biblical theology, but they have the authenticity that comes from seasoned prayerful pondering."Spirit Life "If you are willing to be challenged regarding your own ideas of Americanchosenness,this book is for you."Anvil "A refreshing and challenging read. ... Brueggemann's call to the contemporary church to learn from the prophets and to engage with the dominant ideologies of our day in a way that is founded upon a belief in the sovereignty of God is one that challenges all who are concerned with the church's engagement with our post-Christendom consumer society."Regent's s "For Brueggemann, the prophetic practice of the church is `indispensable for the future viability of our society. It is, moreover, work that is likely to remain undone until it is undertaken by a faithful, courageous, emancipated church.'Reality, Grief, Hopecontinues Brueggemann's consistent challenge to take this prophetic calling seriously."The Christian Chronicle "A counter-narrative to the dominant civil religion of our day. If readers can move past presuppositions that the author is simply waging one more left-leaning battle in the `culture wars,' the result will be confrontation with an unsettling claim reality, grief and hope are the elemental truths that belong to the identity and life of the church."Theology "Respected and popular Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann has described theological crises in Ancient Israel and contemporary society, identifying three prophetic tasks pertinent for both. ... Many commentators on this book have praised Brueggemann's exegetical analysis, honesty, straightforwardness, boldness and deft application of ancient prophetic responses to contemporary Church and society. But it's hard to move from this praise of Brueggemann's work to the bold prophetic action for which the book calls. We have a tendency to domesticate our prophets, making their messages palatable. Are we, with all our praise and admiration, ready to accept these prophetic tasks and the rejection of `empire' that accompanies them?"The Two Cities "While not everyone will agree with the ways that Brueggemann suggests the socio-political aspect should be developed, he provokes his reader to continually be attentive to the prophetic voice of God and to be open to hear its reformation of our view of reality. ...Reality, Grief, Hopestands as a needed warning against complacency and arrogance in the light of God's ultimacy."Ministry Today "I like Brueggemann's books, so I came to this one with keen anticipation of something good, and I wasn't disappointed. As always, the author writes with engaging, highly readable clarity, great erudition, and burning passion. Brueggemann is no ivory-tower academic, but a profoundly earthy prophet. . . . Buy this book it could give your ministry a focus and a direction which will make sense of so much of what is happening in the world, the church and your neighbourhood."