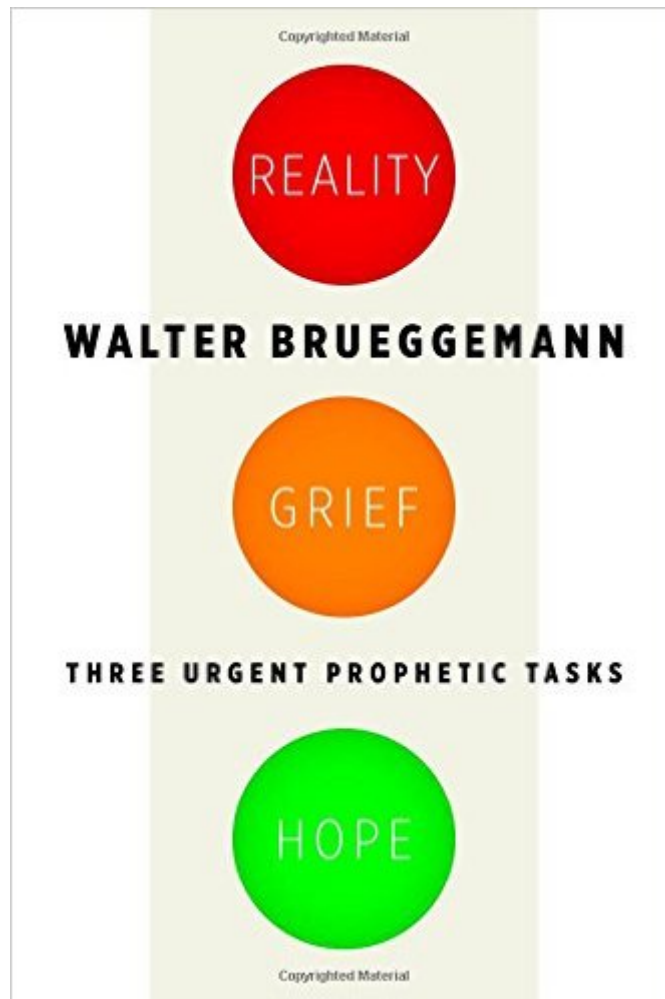


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# Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I learned to read the Psalms with a Brueggemann orientation/disorientation/new orientation perspective in a 1999 NEH seminar in Wisconsin. In *Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks*, Brueggemann introduces a similar sequence. He compares 9/11, as do some others (See *The Harbinger*) to Israel's loss of Jerusalem. Although he admits it's an imperfect analogy, in both cases Jerusalem and the U.S. thought they were exceptional, and so we have a distorted reality that has led us into crisis. Brueggemann wants us to rethink our loss by first facing reality and realizing there are no technical solutions. He also believes we need "neighborly relatedness." This book will

make you think about the role of the Church in these tasks, and our individual responsibilities. Brueggemann promises there is hope.

Brueggemann is one of the world's foremost biblical interpreters. He uses the wisdom often missed by those who simply take the bible as a literal-historic document to address the human striving and mistake in our own times. He calls the church to its exacting and controversial prophetic task in addressing any imperial exceptionalism, particularly the blow dealt to the American form of arrogance that was dashed by the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks and the fourteen years of denial with accompanying fearful patriotic fervor that has ensued. If Brueggemann writes it, I buy it, and I am never disappointed, often stretched, and always challenged by what he has to say. This book is typical and no exception to the insight and wisdom that I expect from this author.

Brueggemann's Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks is an extraordinarily profound and surprisingly opportune reflexion on ancient Israel's sense of choseness and USA's claim of exceptionalism ,which troubles the capacity to clearly see the true dimensions of reality and ,accordingly to realize the grief and hope indispensible to regain the capacity to correct one's conduct to overcome misleading types of behaviour and action.I recommend strongly its reading to whoever is interested in the challenges of the future and the mistakes of the past in order not to repeat them.CordiallyMarcÃ-lio

This is classic Brueggemann! Concise and with lots to think about. He has nailed it again!!Superb book, in fact, maybe his best. I heard him lecture and the gist of this book was his lecture, so it was good to have it in print finally.

Definitely thought-provoking, but probably not for the casual reader.

Vintage Brueggemann. It was more than I expected, although I know Prof. Brueggemann's work well. His linking the loss of the Jerusalem temple to 9/11 was masterful. Highly recommended volume.

I choose 5 star. I like this book very much! I find it insightful and provocative. It calls for thoughtfulness. I am still evaluating it.I would recommend it to other pastors.

Thoughtful, innovative book that broadened my view of our world.

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