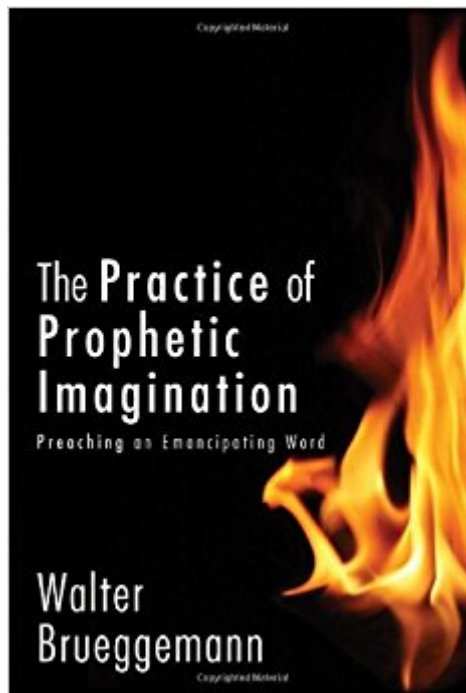




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# The Practice Of Prophetic Imagination: Preaching An Emancipating Word



## Synopsis

The necessary context of prophetic preaching, Walter Brueggemann argues, is "a contestation between narratives." The dominant narrative of our time promotes self-sufficiency at the national level (through militarism) and the personal level (through consumerism). Opposed to it is a countervailing narrative of a world claimed by a God who is gracious, uncompromising - and real. In previous work Brueggemann has pointed us again and again to the indispensability of imagination. Here he writes for those who bear responsibility for regular proclamation in communities of faith, describing the discipline of a prophetic imagination that is unflinchingly realistic and unwaveringly candid.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Walter Brueggemann's early work on prophecy and imagination has become foundational for a whole generation of preachers and scholars, including me. Here he returns to perhaps the most characteristic of all his myriad ventures, with unaltered vigor and razor-sharp edge. Prophets are not just provocateurs: they are those who profoundly love their people, deeply know their tradition, and can't but speak of what they both love and know. Brueggemann both loves and knows. That's what makes him a prophet. Would that we were more like him. Reading this book is a healthy first step."

--Sam Wells, Duke University

Walter Brueggemann is William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament Emeritus at

Columbia Theological Seminary and the author of numerous books including, from Fortress Press, *The Prophetic Imagination*, rev. ed. (2001); *The Word Militant: Preaching a Decentering Word* (2007); and *Like Fire in the Bones: Listening for the Prophetic Word in Jeremiah* (2006).

I love this book. Though written before our current disastrous administration, it provides some ways to put current disturbing events in perspective. In the perspective of the Prophets, who lived thousands of years ago, under often horrendous conditions. Though it does "bog down" in places (from my perspective as a non-pastor) the book provides ways to make use of your intelligence to take more of a bird's eye view (God's eye view) of how things might be, of how our present circumstances can be viewed from the perspective of both the past and the future - how events that are terrible might lead us from arrogance to humility or from suffering to wisdom and a better society.

Brueggeman, helps all who are concerned with more effective, justice seeking ministry to understand the lessons the prophets gave us. By looking at the words of Amos and Hosea the reader can gather an appreciation for lament and grief, for it was in that moment that praise and change could take place. Above anything else Brueggeman uses the theology of lament to help us understand that if we don't provide a safe space in the church to grieve and be broken then we are selling the same bologna the world is selling. His book is not against the world but more the consumer driving narrative of the dominant culture and if we can address that with a counter narrative then we can be a more relevant resource in the empowerment and justice of our communities in the church and out. Excellent book!!!

A liberating view of using poetic imagination as a tool to understand a way biblical prophets and even modern preachers communicate the truth of God's Presence in the world of the past and the world of today. A great help to those who fail to understand the Bible because they can't understand it as "facts" in light of contemporary knowledge. Communicating Truth is different from trying to make images of grace fit into "facts" satisfactory to the modern mind.

Brueggemann once again challenges my thinking and introduces me to the contrast between the dominating narrative of our culture in contrast to the narrative of the prophetic imagination in which God is moving toward truth and meaning.

I really enjoyed this book. It was an awesome read! I highly recommend it to all preacher theologians striving to give a prophetic word challenging and inspiring.

Another great book by Brueggemann.

Great - at your conference in St Joseph, MO

Approaches the subject in a realistic and challenging way, builds on engaging the Church on its place in the world

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