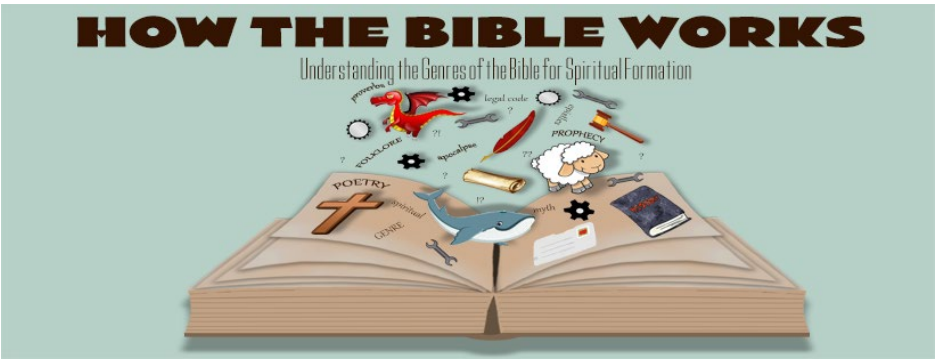

Discussion Guide for "How to Read the Prophets"

How the Bible Works Week 3

We imagine the Biblical prophets as fortune tellers promising far off blessings. But the prophets were political activists, called to speak truth to power. So how do we read their ancient messages for spiritual formation today?

Scriptures for Further Reading

Jeremiah 29:1-23
Isaiah 1:1-31
2 Samuel 12:1-14
2 Timothy 3:15-17

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a step-by-step guide here. The passage for this week's sacred reading is Isaiah 1:1-31.

Questions for Discussion

1. When you hear the word 'prophet', what do you think of? Why?
2. Prophets aren't fortune tellers, but persons who speak truth to power. What does that mean?
3. Revisit Jeremiah's letter in chapter 29. What was the core message of the prophet? How did the future prediction influence that core idea?
4. JR. said prophecy is political but not partisan. What does that mean? How does the idea that prophecy is political make you feel?
5. Has your understanding of the prophetic books changed at all? How?