

Study Guide for Chapters 8 and 9

The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage By Richard Rohr

Discussion Questions

Chapter 8 — The Three Isaiahs: The Heart of Prophecy

I Isaiah

1. Rohr says I Isaiah shows that the suffering of others and the pain of the world can be “suffered and held and allowed to change” us, as the path from disorder to reorder. What does that mean to you?

II Isaiah

1. Israel experienced helplessness in exile (disorder), which enabled them to evolve in their relationship to a loving, compassionate God (reorder). Why is it difficult to trust and cooperate with this dynamic in our lives?

III Isaiah

1. Rohr says “...the rejected and silenced ones always expose what the culture actually idealizes.” How do you see this at work today in our world, or in your own life?
2. Rohr gives reasons for the mixture of vengeance/retribution/punishment verses in III Isaiah, and verses of healing and universal salvation. How does that strike you?

The Classic Pattern in All of the Three Isaiahs

1. Is the pattern of order, disorder, and reorder in Isaiah obvious to you or not?
2. Rohr says that “Isaiah is proclaiming a new illogical logic of unconditional love...”. Does this come across clearly as you read Isaiah?

Chapter 9 — Ezekiel: Redemption and the Grace of God

1. Rohr says Ezekiel’s notion of Grace is that it is freely given and unearned, and thus an “ego humiliation.” How do you understand this?
2. If God bestows love/grace without requiring reciprocity, does that affirm or challenge your view?

It’s All About Eating the Scroll

1. Rohr says that “...only love can handle the great truths.” What does this mean to you?