

## Brueggemann, “The **Alternative Community of Moses**”

### A few Questions for Class Discussion

1. Walter Brueggemann sees the contemporary American churches as having little power to act. What does he see as the reason for this inability?
2. According to Brueggemann, both liberal and conservative Christians misinterpret the Hebrew prophets because they view their role incorrectly. Describe the way conservatives (according to Brueggemann) view the role of prophets, then describe the way liberals view the role of prophets.
3. What is the “task of prophetic ministry” according to Brueggemann?
4. Describe the way Brueggemann himself views the three main roles of *the prophetic imagination*. What are those roles? How does Brueggemann describe each one?
5. Describe what Brueggemann means by a “prophetic perspective.”
6. What does Brueggemann mean by “the freedom of God” (page 6), and how does the Exodus story proclaim God’s freedom?
7. Brueggemann argues that the narrative of the Exodus is designed to show the radical criticism and radical delegitimizing of the Egyptian empire (page 9). What evidence from the story itself suggests that he is right about this?
8. Brueggemann states that “the alternative consciousness” brought about by Moses “is characterized by criticizing and energizing (pages 9 and following). Describe what he means by “criticizing.” What does “grieving” have to do with prophetic criticism?
9. Describe what Brueggemann means by “prophetic energizing” (pages 14–18).