Study questions for

Ezekiel
Believers Church Bible Commentary

by Millard C. Lind

Discussion Questions for Sunday Schools, Book Clubs, Pray Breakfasts, and other settings

An International Prophet Redefines History: Believers Church Bible Commentary, Ezekiel by Millard C. Lind

After 35+ years of teaching the book of Ezekiel, I sum up the message of the book in five words: "An International Prophet Redefines History" (pages 17-22). The questions below are taken from this essay, though they reach out into Ezekiel's book itself.

1. The book of Ezekiel has an international setting; its place of origin is ancient Babylon where Ezekiel lived with refugees from Judah, and from other Near Eastern states. This international setting is apparent in Ezekiel's knowledge of international commerce (chapter 27) and of Near Eastern myths of power (chapter 28). The international refugee is a commonality between the ancient Near East and today. What might it mean to approach the book through the eyes of such a refugee or deportee, especially a deportee who has biblical faith? Contact a knowledgeable member of the African-American Christian community to learn what the book of Ezekiel has meant to them.

2. Note how Ezekiel's image as an international sentinel brackets oracles both against Jerusalem and the nations. How does this relate to the vocation of God's

people? How does Ezekiel's interest in history differ from that of a typical American or Canadian journalist?

3. How does the structure of Ezekiel's book relate to Israel's ancient hymnology? Note how Exodus 15:1-18 and the book of Exodus end, as does Ezekiel, with an emphasis on the reign of God from the sanctuary (cf. p. 380). How does this "redefine history?"

4. What may it mean for the nations to recognize the Lord? What may be the place of God's people in this?

5. How does Ezekiel's message challenge both the individualism and statism of our century?

6. What does all of this say about leadership in the church? In national and international affairs?