**Faith Foundations 2023-2024**

**The Book of Ezekiel**

**Session 21—Ezekiel 34**

**The thirty-fourth chapter of Ezekiel marks the first time in the entire book that an extended section of Gospel proclamation is found. There are some short passages of encouragement and grace in the previous chapters, but most of such passages in Ezekiel are found beginning in this chapter. Most of the rest of Ezekiel is dedicated to promising mercy and restoration for God’s people or judgment upon their enemies, both of which are welcome words from God. But before we can get to the good stuff, we have one more extended section of judgment upon God’s people in this chapter.**

**1.) Read Ezekiel 34:1-6. To whom does God want Ezekiel to prophesy specifically in this passage? Who are these people?**

**2.) How does God metaphorically describe the actions of these people? What does this mean that they actually do?**

**3.) How does God metaphorically describe what has happened to Israel? What does this mean has actually happened to them?**

**4.) Read Ezekiel 34:7-10. What will God do to those against whom He is prophesying? Why?**

**5.) What will God do for his people, and what metaphor does He use to describe this?**

**6.) Read Ezekiel 34:11-16. What has God promised that He will do for His people? How does He use the same metaphor to describe this?**

**7.) From where will God rescue His people, and where will He take them?**

**8.) What metaphorical role will God play for His people? What does this image convey?**

**9.) To whom will God be kind and generous? Whom will He punish?**

**10.) Read Ezekiel 34:17-19. To whom does God turn His attention in this passage? Between whom is He judging now?**

**11.) Of what does God accuse some of the people He is targeting in this passage? What does this mean in real life, and how has it affected everyone else?**

**12.) Read Ezekiel 34:20-24. How will God judge between His people? Which ones will receive punishment, and which will receive grace?**

**13.) What have some of God’s people done to others? How does the main metaphor of this passage describe these actions?**

**14.) Whom will God set over His people? What will this person do?**

**15.) Read Ezekiel 34:25-31. What kind of covenant will God make with His people? What will this covenant entail?**

**16.) What will happen to the land around God’s people?**

**17.) What does God promise to break in verse 27, and what will this teach the Israelites?**

**18.) How does this promise contrast with all the other times that God has proven Himself to be the true God in the book of Ezekiel?**

**19.) How will God’s people relate to the other nations of the world?**

**20.) According to verse 30, what will Israel know about God? How does the addition “with them” change the meaning of this phrase that has been repeated many times throughout Ezekiel?**

**21.) Read Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 15:1-7, John 10:1-18, and Romans 1:1-5. How are all of God’s promises in Ezekiel 34 fulfilled in Jesus Christ?**

**When God has wrathful things to say, they are quite wrathful indeed. But when He has gracious things to say, they are quite gracious indeed! In this chapter, and in most of the following chapters, God promises to restore Israel to its former glory and rule over it with justice and righteousness. He will shepherd His people and set His servant David over them as their king. And of course, we Christians know that God ultimately fulfilled all of these promises in His Son Jesus Christ, and He will bring them to their final consummation on the last day when Jesus returns to earth. The covenant of peace that God made with His people of Israel applies to all of us as well, since we trust in Jesus for salvation. We are not Israelites by blood, but we are certainly Israelites by faith in Christ.**