**Faith Foundations 2023-2024**

**The Book of Ezekiel**

**Session 5—Ezekiel 8-9**

**Throughout the first several chapters of the book of Ezekiel, God has condemned His people of Israel for their sin and idolatry. He has prophesied against the people, against their city of Jerusalem, and against the entire land itself. Now God sets His sights on the Jerusalem temple, which should have been the seat of pure worship for Israel, but instead had turned into a cesspool of idols. God has just as many harsh words for the temple itself as He does for other aspects of Israel, as we will see in the next several chapters.**

**Read Ezekiel 8:1-6. When did the events recorded in this chapter take place? When did these things occur in relation to the events of the first seven chapters?**

**What appeared before Ezekiel? What was this person in actuality?**

**Where did God take Ezekiel in his visions?**

**What did Ezekiel see in the inner court? What does this mean (see Exodus 20:1-6)?**

**What else did Ezekiel see in the temple? Where had he seen this before?**

**How does God describe the things that the people of Israel are doing in the temple?**

**Read Ezekiel 8:7-15. Where does God take Ezekiel next? How does he get into the temple?**

**What does Ezekiel see in the temple court? According to verse 12, how are the elders justifying what they are doing?**

**What does Ezekiel see at the north temple gate entrance? What does this mean?**

**Read Ezekiel 8:16-18. What are the men doing at the temple entrance? Which direction are they facing, and why is this significant?**

**What does God threaten to do to the people of Israel because of their sins?**

**Read Ezekiel 9:1-2. Whom does God call, and for what purpose? Who comes with them?**

**Read Ezekiel 9:3-7. What does God tell the man with the writing case to do? Why is he supposed to do this?**

**What does God tell the executioners to do? To what types of people are they supposed to do this?**

**What does God tell the executioners to do with the people with the mark on their foreheads? Why?**

**What does God mean when He tells the executioners to “defile the house?” How does this show the urgency and importance of what He is telling them to do?**

**Read Ezekiel 9:8-11. How does Ezekiel react to these events? Why?**

**What is God’s response to Ezekiel?**

**What does the man with the writing case report back to God? Did he and the executioners carry out their task in a physical manner, or in a spiritual one (i.e.—were the people literally slaughtered, or were they condemned to eternal death at God’s final judgment)?**

**As we can see, God singles out the Jerusalem temple and the people worshiping in it for special condemnation. This temple was supposed to be the place where His people came to worship Him, but instead they were using it for idolatrous ceremonies, which was clearly unacceptable to Him. In the next chapter in particular, we will read about the final consequences of the temple’s desecration for Jerusalem and for Israel as a whole.**