**Faith Foundations 2023-2024**

**The Book of Ezekiel**

**Session 1—Ezekiel 1**

**Now that we have studied some of the historical context of the book of Ezekiel, it is time for us to actually crack open the book itself and start reading. And regardless of what you’ll end up thinking of the rest of the book, you won’t be able to deny that Ezekiel at least starts us off with a major bang. This first chapter of Ezekiel is one of the better-known chapters of the book (relatively speaking), and there’s a good chance you’ve probably encountered it before. That’s because the subject matter of this chapter is so strange and frightening that it makes a big impact on anyone who reads it.**

**Read Ezekiel 1:1-3. According to verse 1, when did the events recorded in this chapter happen? What do these numbers mean (especially the part about the “thirtieth year”)?**

**Where was Ezekiel when the events of this chapter happened? Where is this place, and who was there with him?**

**According to verse 2, when did the events recorded in this chapter happen? How does this verse help us to situate Ezekiel’s ministry in the context of the history of the people of Judah as a whole?**

**According to verse 3, what did God do with/to Ezekiel? What do these things mean?**

**According to verse 3, what was Ezekiel’s job? How might this position have affected his approach to his faith and the task he would soon be called to undertake?**

**Read Ezekiel 1:4-14. What “living creatures” did Ezekiel see in his vision? What features of the vision really stick out at you?**

**Read Ezekiel 1:15-21. What was on the earth beside the living creatures? What did they look like, and what was their function?**

**Read Ezekiel 1:22-25. What were the living creatures holding up with their wings? What were some of its features?**

**Read Ezekiel 1:26-28. Who was above the expanse that the living creatures were holding up? What were some of this person’s features?**

**In verse 28, what description does Ezekiel use to summarize what he has seen?**

**What effect does this vision have on Ezekiel? Why?**

**Read Isaiah 6:1-7 and Revelation 4 to get a couple more glimpses of the glory of God and His angel host. How do all of these visions of the heavenly host affect the way that we perceive God? What attributes of God do they reveal?**

**How does this passage from Ezekiel affect the way we read passages such as the Christmas Gospel (see Luke 2:8-14)? How should we Christians view angels, and is this frightening or comforting for us?**

**Read John 1:14-18. How does Ezekiel’s description of God’s “glory” affect how we look at the incarnation of Jesus Christ? What is the great significance of the incarnation?**

**As we can see, God revealed His glory to Ezekiel in a way that not many other people have seen. He showed Ezekiel just how mighty and powerful He really is, and Ezekiel could do nothing but fall on his face in fear. Thankfully, God has revealed Himself to us Christians as well, but in ways that are not frightening or destructive to us. He has revealed Himself in the person of His Son Jesus Christ, who comes to us today in the ordinary, humble means of Word and Sacrament. God still speaks to His people today, and He reveals Himself to us as our Savior from our spiritual enemies of sin, death, and the devil.**