**Faith Foundations 2023-2024**

**The Book of Ezekiel**

**Session 15—Ezekiel 24**

**We have now reached a turning point in the narrative of Ezekiel. All of the oracles that God had given to Ezekiel thus far came during the years between Ezekiel’s deportation and Nebuchadnezzar’s final siege of Jerusalem. The oracles against Jerusalem and against Israel concerned punishments that would soon be coming upon God’s people. Now, with the beginning of the siege, God’s warnings were coming to pass. Soon, Babylon would break through the walls, destroy the city, and cart Jerusalem’s leadership off into exile. And, as we have seen so far in Ezekiel’s prophecies, the people had only themselves to blame.**

**1.) Read Ezekiel 24:1-5. What day is specifically mentioned at the beginning of this passage? When is this day in relation to the beginning of the Jewish exile in Babylon?**

**2.) What momentous event has occurred on this day?**

**3.) What parable does God use to describe Jerusalem? How does this describe what will happen to the city?**

**4.) Read Ezekiel 24:6-14. What is in the pot, and what does this symbolize?**

**5.) What will God do to the pot and everything in it? How did this occur in actual history?**

**6.) Why will God do these things? What has Israel done to deserve them?**

**7.) According to verse 13, how long will this punishment last?**

**8.) Read Ezekiel 24:15-18. What did God tell Ezekiel He would do to him? How was Ezekiel supposed to react?**

**9.) How did God fulfill this prophecy that same evening?**

**10.) Read Ezekiel 24:19-24. How would God do something to the Israelite exiles that was similar to what He did to Ezekiel? What would He take away from them?**

**11.) How were the exiles supposed to model their reaction to the tragedy after Ezekiel’s reaction to his personal tragedy? Why?**

**12.) Read Ezekiel 24:25-27. How would Ezekiel learn the news about Jerusalem?**

**13.) What would happen when Ezekiel heard the news? What does this imply about his physical state beforehand?**

**14.) What would the change in Ezekiel show God’s people?**

**The seriousness of this situation would be illustrated by the death of Ezekiel’s wife, which was one of the worst things that any of God’s prophets had to endure. Ezekiel would have been overcome with grief; nevertheless, he needed to avoid showing it as a sign to the people that they had no right to mourn over their lost city because of their sins. For a faithful prophet like Ezekiel, this would have been a very difficult pill to swallow. However, he could still rest confidently in the grace of God, knowing that in the end, God would provide for him and for his people. He promised forgiveness of sins and eternal life to those who trusted in Him, and that included Ezekiel and his wife. Weeping was his lot now, but in the end he would experience the joy of eternity spent in the presence of His Lord.**