**Faith Foundations 2023-2024**

**The Book of Ezekiel**

**Session 10—Ezekiel 17**

**After having read the bridal metaphor describing God’s relationship with Israel in the previous chapter of Ezekiel, we now move to another metaphorical description of Israel’s situation during Ezekiel’s ministry. The meaning of this metaphor, unlike the previous one, is not as obvious and requires some careful interpretation to understand exactly what it is saying. Thankfully, God provides an interpretation within the chapter, so that we can more readily comprehend its message.**

**1.) Read Ezekiel 17:1-10. What does God describe to Ezekiel in this passage?**

**2.) What does the vine do that is portrayed as unwise? What will happen to it as a result?**

**3.) Read Ezekiel 17:11-15. How does God decode the parable for us in this passage? What do the two eagles and the vine represent?**

**4.) What historical events and people does this parable metaphorically describe (see 2 Kings 24)?**

**5.) Read Ezekiel 17:16-21. What will happen to the king who rebels against Babylon and his servants? Who was this king in actual history (see 2 Kings 25)?**

**6.) Will Pharaoh be able to help the rebels?**

**7.) In verse 18, of what does God accuse the rebellious king? In verse 19, how is this action correlated with the way the rebellious king has treated God?**

**8.) Read Ezekiel 17:22-24. What will God do that the first eagle did in the parable? How is this action different from that of the eagle?**

**10.) Of whom does the sprig of cedar in this passage prophesy? What does the great tree it grows into represent?**

**11.) How will the birds that live in this tree relate to God? Whom do the birds represent?**

**12.) How does verse 24 describe God’s work with trees? What does this mean in real life?**

**Through this extended metaphor, God decries the faithlessness of Israel and its kings, using its rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar as a symbol of its rebellion against Him. Israel had proven itself to be faithless and untrustworthy in multiple ways, and it would be punished as a result. But God still provided the faithful Israelites with a glimmer of hope: He would do to Israel what Nebuchadnezzar did, only He would prove to be a kind and gracious ruler. His people would find shelter in His kingdom, which would eventually be inaugurated by the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.**