**Faith Foundations 2023-2024**

**The Book of Ezekiel**

**Session 8—Ezekiel 14-15**

**In the previous chapter of Ezekiel, God condemned some of the most important spiritual leaders of Israel: the prophets who were supposed to proclaim God’s truth, but were actually telling lies in His name. In this section of the text, Ezekiel turns his attention from the prophets to another category of spiritual leaders: the elders who were supposed to provide wise counsel and mentorship to the nation. Like the prophets, the elders too had failed in their appointed task, and the people of Israel had fallen into sin and idolatry as a result. Now God through His prophet would have some rather harsh words to say to them.**

**1.) Read Ezekiel 14:1-5. According to verse 1, what did the elders of Israel do with Ezekiel? Why might they have done this?**

**2.) How did God describe the elders to Ezekiel? Because of their spiritual state, was God inclined to answer the questions?**

**3.) What was Ezekiel supposed to say to the elders who came to inquire of him? How was he supposed to treat them, and why?**

**4.) Read Ezekiel 14:6-11. What was the basic message that Ezekiel was supposed to preach to the people? Why?**

**5.) What would God do to the idolater who asked His prophets for help?**

**6.) Why might the prophet speak lies to the idolater? What kinds of lies might he speak?**

**7.) According to verse 9, who is responsible for deceiving the lying prophets? Why might He do this, and how should we understand this statement?**

**8.) What will God do to the lying prophets? What is His ultimate purpose in doing this?**

**9.) Read Ezekiel 14:12-20. What punishments does God threaten against His people and their land in this passage?**

**10.) Why does God mention Noah, Daniel, and Job in this passage? What kinds of men were they?**

**11.) Hypothetically, what would the righteousness of Noah, Daniel, and Job do for the idolatrous people who lived in the same land? Would it help to turn away God’s wrath?**

**12.) Who would be delivered by Noah, Daniel, and Job’s righteousness? What does this mean for us Christians today who might be surrounded by unbelievers (in our families, workplaces, communities, etc.)?**

**13.) Read Ezekiel 14:21-23. What does God promise to His people, even as He decrees their destruction?**

**14.) What will the survivors of Jerusalem do? How will this console the nation of Israel?**

**15.) Read Ezekiel 15:1-8. How does God describe the wood of a vine in this passage? What can you do with it, and what can you *not* do with it?**

**16.) What does fire do to the wood of the vine? How useful is it after it has been burned?**

**17.) How are the people of Jerusalem like the wood of the vine?**

**18.) According to verse 7, what will God’s treatment of the people prove?**

**As He has done so many times now, God is warning His people that they will be severely punished if they do not repent. And as they have done so many times, they ignore Him and continue on with what they are doing, with predictable results. However, God is patient, and He gives His people many opportunities to return to Him. Thus, He will persist in calling them to repentance in many and various ways, which we will continue to see in the next several chapters of Ezekiel.**