**Faith Foundations 2023-2024**

**The Book of Ezekiel**

**Session 7—Ezekiel 12-13**

**Up to this point in the book of Ezekiel, God has shown the prophet what He plans to do to the holy city of Jerusalem and its people in response to their idolatry. He will destroy their city and kill many of them, and His glory will depart from the temple. God had told Ezekiel to inform the exiles who were already in Babylon what would happen to their homeland, and Ezekiel had done so. Now he was to tell them what would happen to the rest of their countrymen who would survive the coming destruction of Jerusalem.**

**Read Ezekiel 12:1-7. How did God describe the people among whom Ezekiel lived? How does this contrast with His description of the exiles in chapter 11?**

**What did God tell Ezekiel to do? What was the purpose of this symbolic act?**

**Read Ezekiel 12:8-16. What was Ezekiel supposed to tell people who asked him what he was doing?**

**What would happen to the prince of the Israelites specifically? How was this prophecy fulfilled (see 2 Kings 25:1-7, especially 7)?**

**What would happen to the rest of the people? For what purpose would some of them be allowed to survive?**

**Read Ezekiel 12:17-20. What was Ezekiel supposed to do? What reason was he supposed to give his countrymen for doing this?**

**Read Ezekiel 12:21-28. What were some of the Israelites telling themselves about the prophecies of God? How did God respond to their attitude?**

**How is it easy for us Christians today to fall into the same trap as the Israelites? How do we avoid doing this?**

**Read Ezekiel 13:1-7. According to verse 2, from where are these false prophets prophesying? Why is this significant?**

**What metaphor does verse 4 use to describe the false prophets? Why might this be?**

**What could the false prophets have done that would have been useful to Jerusalem? What had they done instead?**

**How have these false prophets broken the Second Commandment?**

**Read Ezekiel 13:8-16. What would God do to the false prophets?**

**How had the false prophets deceived the people of Israel? What false things had they said?**

**What metaphor does God use to describe the work of the false prophets in verses 10-16? How does God use the same metaphor to prophesy their destruction?**

**Read Ezekiel 13:17-23. What did God have to say to the women of Jerusalem? Why?**

**What had the Israelite women been “hunting?” What does this mean?**

**How had the women gained from their lies and idolatry?**

**What consequences would God inflict upon the women for their sin?**

**Those who had led the Israelites astray are singled out for special condemnation. The false prophets and women who had forsaken their God and encouraged other Israelites to do the same would be punished. In the next several chapters, God will continue to prophesy doom against those who had rejected Him.**