**Faith Foundations 2023-2024**

**The Book of Ezekiel**

**Session 19—Ezekiel 31-32**

**The last several chapters of Ezekiel have been dedicated to pronouncing doom upon the nations that were Israel’s neighbors, because of their idolatry and their unauthorized participation in Israel’s destruction. Even though God was disciplining His people, only He had the right to do so, and the other nations were just taking advantage of Israel’s situation to enrich themselves. And God had reserved his harshest judgment for Egypt, the nation that had allied itself with His people, but had been of no help when they needed it the most. In these next two chapters of Ezekiel, God concludes his tirade against the nations by pronouncing even more judgment upon Egypt and upon Pharaoh, its ruler.**

**Read Ezekiel 31:1-9. When did this oracle come to Ezekiel? When did this occur within the timeline of Israel’s history?**

**With which other nation does God compare Egypt? How are the two nations alike?**

**What metaphor does God use to describe Egypt and this other nation? How does this metaphor aptly describe them?**

**Read Ezekiel 31:10-14. What will God do to the other nation He has just described? Why?**

**How does God use the same metaphor to describe the ultimate fate of this nation?**

**How did these things happen in actual history?**

**Read Ezekiel 31:15-18. How did the creation itself react to the downfall of this nation? Why would this happen?**

**Metaphorically speaking, where did the cedar trees go? How were they “comforted” there?**

**What does God say will happen to Pharaoh and Egypt? How does the other nation serve as an example of God’s judgment upon Egypt?**

**Read Ezekiel 32:1-8. When did this oracle come to Ezekiel? When did this occur during the timeline of Israel’s history?**

**What does Pharaoh consider himself to be? What does God call him instead, and how are these things different?**

**Metaphorically speaking, what will God do to Pharaoh? What will happen to him ultimately?**

**What will happen to the heavens themselves while Pharaoh is being punished?**

**Read Ezekiel 32:9-16. How will the other nations react to Pharaoh’s downfall? Why?**

**Who will be responsible for executing God’s justice against Pharaoh?**

**What will happen to the beasts of Egypt, and what will then happen to its waters? What does the state of the waters signify?**

**Read Ezekiel 32:17-30. What fate does God pronounce upon Egypt?**

**What other nations are present where Egypt is going? What did those other nations do that was like Egypt?**

**What words and phrases does God use to describe each of these nations? What do these terms convey?**

**Read Ezekiel 32:31-32. Why will Pharaoh be “comforted” when he sees the other nations in Sheol?**

**How does God describe Himself in similar terms to the way He described the other nations in this chapter? How does this indicate a reversal of fortune for all of those nations?**

**Like all the other nations who disobeyed God and tormented His people, Egypt and Pharaoh its ruler would be humbled. They would be punished just like everyone else, to the point where they would prefer death to being subject to God’s judgment on earth. God’s wrath against sin is powerful, and He will punish those who have disobeyed Him until it is satisfied.**

**Thankfully, we Christians know that God has poured out His wrath upon His Son, Jesus Christ, in our place. Now, through faith in Him, we receive forgiveness of sins and the blessings of eternal life in His kingdom. The fate that came upon Egypt and the other nations will not come upon us, because God’s love in Christ has saved us from it. Instead, God will punish our true spiritual enemies: sin, death, and the devil. He will have no mercy on them, but in Christ, His mercy for us knows no bounds!**