

Stand in the Gap –May 31, 2023

We're not so different from Biblical times. Just modern conveniences...

Ezekiel 22 – In his time . . . God grew tired of the way people were living.

- Shed innocent blood. - Commit lewd acts, incest, adultery.
- Accept bribes, profit off the poor, extort unjust gain; robbery.
- Treat father & mother w/ contempt;
- Oppress the foreigner & mistreat the fatherless & the widow.
- Prophets “whitewash” deeds & priests make no difference clean/un
- **Vs. 12** - “**You have forgotten me,**” declares God.
 - God is fiery mad.

Ezekiel 22:30 – NIV: “I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one. So I will pour out my wrath on them...”

Wall - best means of protection in ancient times; **Breach** in wall lets enemy in
Defenders must fix the breach. Repair the gap.

If a breach was left unattended or unrepaired, the city would fall.

- No gap menders. False prophets: “The Lord declares” – nothing.

Ez.13:5 –“You have not gone up to the breaches in the wall to repair it for the people of Israel so that it will stand firm in the battle on the day of the Lord. 6 Their visions are false and their divinations a lie.”

- God is looking for someone to intercede. To step forward & step in.
 - Build a wall & stand in the gap.

1 **Moses – gap mender & wall builder.**

Ps. 106:19-23 – “At Horeb they made a calf & worshiped an idol cast from metal. They exchanged their glorious God for an image of a bull, which eats grass. They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt, miracles in the land of Ham & awesome deeds by the Red Sea. So he said he would destroy them had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him to keep his wrath from destroying them.”

- King David recognized Moses as an interceder.

Moses' story: **Ex. 32:9–14** – Moses is on Mount Sinai w/God.

- God said to Moses - these are “stiff-necked people” who are corrupt.
- Moses spoke to God on their behalf. Egyptians will think God is evil.
 - God: remember your promise to Abraham.

- And God changed His mind!

- Build up the wall & Stand in the gap – who will do it?
 - Build the wall – Don't let this world forget about God.
 - Be a witness. Live life for God. God is Protector.
 - Stand in the gap - pray for others. Be like Samuel.

② Samuel – the prophet. He testifies for God. Wall builder & gap mender

- People wanted a king even tho God was their king. Saul appointed.
- They ask Samuel to pray for them

1 Sam. 12:23-24 – “As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.”

- Samuel prays for the people & is a witness. We can do the same.

③ Genesis 18 - Abraham intercedes for Sodom.

- Don't destroy the whole city of Sodom. Surely, God, there are righteous people in the city. 50? 45 40 30 20 10? God agrees.
 - Abraham intercedes for Sodom. We can do the same.

④ Paul - Romans 10:1 - “Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved.”

- Is that our prayer? Are we living with that longing? It's God's.

⑤ Acts 7 - Stephen is witnessing to the Sanhedrin; they drag him out.

- Stephen prayed for those stoning him. “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” **Acts 7:60**

⑥ Jesus interceded, and still does. Father, forgive them...

Perfect 7? It's us. God is looking for someone to stand in the gap.

Song of the week – “Standing in the Gap” – Babbie Mason