

A brick wall with a large gap in the center, set against a background of a cloudy sky. The wall is made of dark, weathered bricks. The sky is a mix of light blue and white, with some faint, wispy clouds. The overall tone is somewhat somber and contemplative.

REPAIR

**THE
WALL**

Standing in the Gap

Ezekiel 22:23-31

Ezekiel's word from the Lord..

Ezekiel 22:23-31 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ²⁴ "Son of man, say to her: 'You *are* a land that is not cleansed in the day of indignation.' ²⁹ The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger.

³⁰ So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

God's mercy with Israel..

Ezekiel's prophecies focus on Israel's history

- God had delivered them and shown His mercy
- From Egypt, through the wilderness, to the Promised Land, Israel had been unfaithful.
- God will use Nebuchadnezzar to discipline them, but His new exodus will restore a covenant relationship
- This covenant will be permanent with the Messiah

God is looking for someone to stand in the gap..

God could find anyone to depend on..

- Ezekiel 22:30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.
- Jeremiah 5:1 Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places If you can find a man, If there is *anyone* who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will pardon her.

EZEKIEL 21-22

The walls are broken down

- **21:24** Because you have made your iniquity to be remembered, in that your transgressions are uncovered, so that in all your doings your sins appear..you shall be taken in hand.
- **22:6** you have forgotten Me,” says the Lord GOD.
- **22:16** the house of Israel has become dross to Me
- The walls are broken down.. the people are full of sins
- God looks to find the righteous man.. but finds none

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- The walls are broken down.. the people are full of sins
- God looks to find the righteous man.. but finds none who are willing to stand

God can use one person

- One man Abraham began a nation by obeying God
- Joseph saved the nation by resisting temptation
- One man Moses led the people out of slavery
- One boy David fought for the nation to face Goliath
- One woman Esther risked her life to rescue her people
- One man Paul spread the gospel to the Gentile world

God is looking on our nation..

- 2 Timothy 3:1-5 in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, ..lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power.
- 2 Timothy 4:1-5 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Who will stand in the gap?

- In our homes..
 - Fathers and husbands – Ephesians 5:25-28, 6:4
 - Mothers and wives – Proverbs 31:10-31, 2 Tim 1:5, Titus 2:3-5
- In Christ's church..
 - People who are holy – 1 Peter 1:14-16, 2:9-10
 - Leaders who stand in the gap – 1 Tim 3:1; Acts 20:29-30; Mark 10:42-45

EZEKIEL 21-22

Jesus stood in the gap for us

- John 10:17-18 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.



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