

# STAND IN THE GAP

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

Ezekiel 22:23-31

It was around 580B.C. when God spoke to Ezekiel. Ezekiel lived during a time of international upheaval and turmoil, just like today.

God was very unhappy with Israel, they had drifted way from God.

God through Ezekiel spoke to the people of Israel and told them that their land and the people are in bad shape.

The words: *“You are a land that has had no rain or showers in the day of wrath.”* (Ezekiel 22:24), speak of the condition of the land and her people and their physical and Spiritual drought.

The political and religious system and the people had become corrupt and had rejected God.

God said to Ezekiel: *“There is a conspiracy”*, they all have united together to say and support the same thing; and they have been the cause of the destruction of souls, and the death of many.

All classes of society are guilty before God – Their rulers and the people are guilty of corruption.

**Ezekiel 22:26** – *“Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things, they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.”*

They whose lips should be clean and should be teaching my laws are violating my law.

Not only in their private conduct and life, but in their careless and corrupt ways of serving in my Temple, God says ....

*“They do not distinguish between the Holy and the common, they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean”* - very little has changed today, as a matter of fact things are worst. People are confused, they don't know what is right and what is wrong. Sin is no longer called **sin** but rather **life style**.

God speaking about the Officials says: *“Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey; they shed blood and kill people to make unjust gain. Her prophets whitewash these deeds for them by false visions and lying divinations. They say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says’ – when the LORD has not spoken. (vss. 27-28)*

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In other words: Even those who claim to be my messengers and prophets, have been and still are unfaithful to me and their office; they cover up sin and sooth people who continue in their sins, and they pretend to have heavenly messages and revelations, when I had not spoken to them.

And then God turns to the people of the land to see if there were any faithful, and God found none.

**Ezekiel 22:29-30** – *“The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery, they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the alien, denying them justice. I looked for a man 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 none.*”

God looked for anyone among them to save Jerusalem, *“but He found none.”* Everyone was busy doing his own thing.

God would have used anyone then, and He can use anyone today. You can be that “anyone” today to **bridge the gap** and bring the good news to someone in your own world.

God’s desire **was not** and **is not** to destroy the world, but to save the world. That is why Jesus His Son came to die on the cross, and bridge the gap.

**John 3:16-17** – *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”*

When finally God deals with our world in His Sovereign way and time no one will have the right to complain about His justice.

Just remember that God is not looking for new methods or programs; God is always looking for someone to stand in the gap, one person can make the difference.

That “PERSON” does not mean just one person, e.g. Minister, Evangelist, Missionary, etc. It means you and I and any believer.

God is asking us, you and me – Would you stand up for me? Will you stand in the gap?

God will honour you and bless you for standing up for Him.