

# CONFIDENCE IN THE CHAOS



## August 23, 2020 | Confidence in the Chaos Part 18: Standing in the Gap

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**Ezekiel 22:23-31** Again the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>24</sup> “Son of man, say to the land, ‘You are a land that has not been cleansed or rained on in the day of wrath.’ <sup>25</sup> There is a conspiracy of her princes within her like a roaring lion tearing its prey; they devour people, take treasures and precious things and make many widows within her. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey; they shed blood and kill people to make unjust gain. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the foreigner, denying them justice. <sup>30</sup> “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. <sup>31</sup> So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign Lord.”

**Summary Statement:** This passage challenges those of us who are Christians to stand in the gap and pray for God to intervene for our country, state, city, and world.

Introduction:

### The One Thing:

It only takes one \_\_\_\_\_ to make a difference, so who among us will be the \_\_\_\_\_ to take a stand and \_\_\_\_\_?

Let us look at the \_\_\_\_\_ of not standing in the gap before \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ had once again turned its \_\_\_\_\_ on God. The prophet condemned four groups of people for their sins.
  - A. He mentions the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. He condemns the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. He blames the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - D. He calls out the \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. God searched for someone to build the wall and stand in the gap but \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. God had no \_\_\_\_\_ but to pour out his \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ upon the nation.

**Invitation to do something: Pray!**

1. Repent of the evil and sin of our nation—millions of unborn babies aborted each year.
2. Confess that we have turned our back on God.
3. We need to confess we have depended upon ourselves instead of God.
4. Pray that those in government will govern for the nation and not gain for themselves.
5. Pray that we would turn back to God and declare His faithfulness.
6. Pray for pastors, staff, and spiritual leaders in our nation.
7. Pray for each other that we would be strong and stand in the gap for our country, state, city, world, and church.