

## I Sought a Man Who Should Build the Wall and Stand in the Gap

From the time that God created man, He has not ceased to seek that special person who will build walls and stand in the gap on behalf of a country or people so that He would not destroy them; a man who will stand in the gap for righteousness and justice. The Word of the Lord that came to the prophet Ezekiel while he and the nation of Israel were captives in Babylon were words of judgment against the sins of that nation. Israel laid bare before her Lord and her sins were exposed before Him. God's love and patience over Israel and all other nations are evident in the length of time He waits before He sends judgment. Meanwhile He seeks intercessors who will stand in the gap in His presence for the land and for its people. He told Ezekiel that He had sought a man among Israel who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Him for the land, that he should not destroy it, but He found none. Therefore, He said, Have I poured out My indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their own way have I repaid upon their own heads, says the Lord God (Ezekiel 22: 30-31).

The most powerful intercessor Who ever stood in the gap before God for the sake of men's salvation was His Own Son, YAHSHUA. He stood crucified on a tree between heaven and earth pleading for them and justifying them through His death. It has never been the will of our Lord to send men to hell. The death of His Son proves the fact. YAHSHUA commanded the disciples to stand in the gap by spreading the message of repentance and salvation to the entire world, beginning at home. Today, God continues seeking men who will stand in the gap, so that men will not go to hell. Paul admonished Timothy do to that in his first letter to him: He said, I admonish and urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men: for kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility, that we may pass a quiet and undisturbed life, a peaceable one in all godliness and reverence and seriousness in every way, for such [praying] is good and right, and pleasing and acceptable to God our Savior, Who wishes all men to be saved and to perceive and recognize and discern and know precisely and correctly and divine Truth (I Tim. 2:1-3).

In another of Ezekiel's visions, he witnessed judgment coming to those who did not sigh and groan over the abominations committed in the midst of Jerusalem. But those who did, a mark was set on their foreheads differentiating and separating them from those who were to receive judgment. God's love for men is so great, it cost the life of His Only Son.

We stand in the gap by intercession. The word intercession comes from the Latin word inter=between and ced= go; that is, go in between.

A gap happens in a wall when the mortar, the thing that keeps the wall together, is broken. When that happens, it develops a gap, a space where weakness is set in. That portion is no longer connected with the strength of the wall, causing it to be vulnerable to danger. Applying this concept to the Christian spiritual life, the mortar is like the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life, keeping us united in Him and with His body. However, when we fall into temptation, the mortar is broken, forming a gap from where the enemy inflicts us with diseases and mental torment. But we do have a responsibility before God to restore our brothers and sisters who have fallen into sin, by standing on the gap for them.

To stand in the gap is to protect against assailing danger in someone's life; "it is to take the place of a fallen defender or a supporter." It is the place for intercessors to step in and secure the gap with prayer of protection against the evil one, who came to steal, and to kill. The Prophet Samuel considered it to be a sin not to intercede for Israel. He said, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you (1 Sam. 12:23). When Isaiah heard the call to stand in the gap for Israel, he answered, Here I am use me (Isaiah 6:8). Joseph stood in the gap to save his family from famine. After the death of their father he expressed assurance of his continuous care for his brothers: he said, As for you, you thought evil against me, but God meant it for good to bring about that many people should be kept alive, as they are this day. Therefore, do not be afraid. I will provide for and support you and your little ones. And he comforted them and spoke to their hearts [kindly]. Before his death he confirmed to his brothers, that God was going to surely visit them and bring them out of Egypt to the land He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob [to give you] (Gen. 50).

Moses stood in the gap when the Israelites practiced idolatry against the Lord. He said to Moses, I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people; now

therefore let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them; but I will make of you a great nation. But Moses besought the Lord his God and said, Lord, why does Your wrath blaze hot against Your people, whom You have brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Then the Lord turned from the evil He had thought to do to His people. But Moses also stood in the gap for righteousness and let the Levites slay many of their brothers at that time- about 3,000 men. The next day he brought the people to conviction and let them know that he was going to stand in the gap for them by saying, You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin. Moses returned to the Lord and said, Oh, these people have sinned a great sin and have made themselves gods of gold! Ye, now, if You will forgive their sin- and if not, blot me, I pray You out of Your book which You have written! But the Lord said to Moses, whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him [not you] out of My book (Gen. 32:9-11, 27- 33).

Two kinds of people the Lord is looking for: the one to stand in the gap and for the one to build the wall in relationship to His body (His church). His intention is the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints, [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body, until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood, the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him (Eph. 4: 12-13).

The mortar that binds the body of Christ together is also love. We can only stand in the gap for our brothers and sisters compelled by love. Love forgives, love erases a multitude of sins, love is not selfish; love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious, or boils over with jealousy , is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily; it is not conceited; it is not rude and does not act unbecomingly; love does not insist on its own rights or its own way for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it... love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and it endures everything (I Cor. 13). Only dressed in the perfect love of God we can stand in the gap for others. Let's love one another, for love comes from God!