

Stand in the Gap

Pastor Ron McCants

Ezekiel 22:30

Grace towards any who have sinned – who hasn't sinned?!?

Col 4:2-6 NIV

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Ezek 22:17-31

30 "I looked for someone to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defenses of the city, to take a stand for me and stand in the gap to protect this land so I wouldn't have to destroy it. I couldn't find anyone. Not one. 31 So I'll empty out my wrath on them, burn them to a crisp with my hot anger, serve them with the consequences of all they've done. Decree of God, the Master."

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To Stand In the Gap means:

1. **to stand before God** (prayer / worship) – to come before God personally
 - a. Elijah before Ahab
 - b. Jethro to Moses – stand before God for the people...bring difficulties to him
 - c. Angels in Rev 8:2 – with 7 trumpets
2. **to cry out to God** – intense prayer / intercession – to bring people to God
 - a. Is 53:12 (Jesus) – *bore the sins of many, & made intercession for the transgressors.*
 - b. (Paul to Timothy) 1 Tim 2:1 – *requests, prayers, intercession & thanksgiving be made for everyone – kings & those in authority....*
3. **to protect the land** – a watchman / guardian – to bring God to people
 - a. Ez 3:17 – *Son of Man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak & give them warning from me.*
 - b. Ezek 33:6 – *But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.'*

Sanctity (holiness, sacredness) of human life:

1. To honor human life – do no harm
2. To do more than 'do no harm' – do something good!
3. To assist those who are doing more than cursing the darkness – lighting a candle!
 - a. Example of church in Houston: 200 members, adopted 74 kids, senior pastor adopted 4!
 - b. Life – Pregnancy Centers
 - c. Adoption / Foster services