

Standing in the Need of Prayer
Ezekiel 22:30-31

30 "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. 31 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."

- I. A Prayerful people are God's greatest **desire**. (v.30a)

"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

1. A Prayerful people will **Build** a Wall of protection. (Ezra 9:9)

Though we are slaves, our God has not deserted us in our bondage. He has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia: He has granted us ***new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins***, and he has given us ***a wall of protection*** in Judah and Jerusalem.

2. A Prayerful people will stand **boldly** before His Presence. (Numbers 16:48)

He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped.

3. A Prayerful people will fill the gap on **Behalf** of the Land. (v.30)

"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

- II. A Prayerless people are God's greatest **disappointment**. (v.30b)

but I found ***none***.

1. The **Princes** were charged with prayerlessness. (Ezekiel 22:25)

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.

2. The **Priests** were charged with prayerlessness. (v.26)

Her ***priests do violence to my law*** and profane my holy things; ***they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean***;

3. The **Politicians** were charged with prayerlessness. (v.27)

Her ***officials*** within her are ***like wolves tearing their prey***; they ***shed blood and kill people*** to make unjust gain.

4. The **Prophets** were charged with prayerlessness. (v.28)

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.

5. The **people** were charged with prayerlessness. (v.29)

The **people** of the land **practice extortion** and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the alien, denying them justice.

III. A Proudful people receive God's greatest **discipline**.(v.31)

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."

1. God's declares His **love** with His Discipline. (Hebrews 12:6)

the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

2. God declares His **Holiness** with His discipline. (Hebrews 12:10)

God disciplines us for our good, **that we may share in his holiness**.

3. God declares His **judgment** with His discipline. (1 Peter 4:17)

For it is time for **judgment to begin with the family of God**; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

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