



Text: *Ezekiel 22:23-31*

Introduction: Hedge - a thicket of thorn bushes or other shrubs or small trees, such as a thicket planted around a field to fence it; to inclose with a hedge; to obstruct with a hedge or to obstruct in any manner; *to protect what is inside from that which is outside.*

Gap - an opening in anything made by breaking or parting; *it was there, but something went wrong. (Proverbs 24:30-34)*

I. The Condition - v. 23 - 29

We see the condition of Israel at this point in history. Likewise, we see the condition of our world, country, churches, families, and individuals today.

1. _____ - The people of God, those who are saved, and supposed to represent Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 2:9-10*
2. _____ - The politicians and political system/government of the nation.
3. _____ - The “preachers” of the day.
4. _____ - The way people treat and interact with each other.

II. The Cry - v. 30a

1. God is searching for someone, “...*that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap...*”
2. People are looking for someone who will care for them. *Psalm 142:4*

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.” - Ez. 22:30

III. The Calamity - v. 30b

“...but I found none.” Why couldn’t God find **even one**?

1. _____ - *Luke 8:14*
2. _____ - *Proverbs 20:4*
3. _____ - *Hebrews 12:1-2; I Peter 2:11-12; I John 2:15-17*
4. _____ - *Philippians 2:20-21*

IV. The Consequences - v. 31

What happens when God cannot find **even one** to stand in the gap? Judgement comes. Not just now, but for generations to come! *Ezekiel 13:5; Proverbs 20:7; II Kings 20:14-19* But it DOESN’T have to be this way!

V. The Choice - Revelation 3:1-2

You can make the choice today to “...make up the hedge, and stand in the gap...” by God’s grace and strength, regardless of what anyone else does! *Ephesians 6:10-13; Philippians 4:13* How can you “...stand in the gap...”?

1. _____ - *Ezekiel 22:30, “...before me...”* Draw nigh to God!
2. _____ - *I Timothy 2:1-4*
3. _____ - *Psalms 145:3-6*
4. _____ - *I Timothy 4:12*
5. _____ - *Jude 1:22-23; I Peter 3:8-9.* Jesus Christ had compassion! (*Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34; Mark 1:41; 5:19; 6:34; 8:2; Luke 7:13*) **Jesus Christ stood in the gap for YOU!** *John 3:16; Romans 5:6-10*

Closing: God is looking for someone to “...make up the hedge, and stand in the gap...” right now, for this generation and the ones to come in our country, our church, our home, our life. What is holding you back from being that one today? **What will God find as he looks here this morning? (Proverbs 15:3) Will He find even one? Or find none?** You can continue to go on through life not caring, or you can get ahold of God right now and stand!

“One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works.” Ps. 145:4-5