

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:
STAND FIRM IN THE GAP

SCRIPTURE TEXT:
EZEKIEL 22:23-31

PREACHER:
MR LEONARD LIM

Big Idea:

God wants us to be sober-minded and watchful and ready to stand firm in the gap.

Introduction

The Israelites in Ezekiel's days have failed to obey God and has allowed evil to breach the land of Israel and the quest to find a man who could stand in the gap to advert God's judgement was in vain.

Ezekiel 22

1. The bloody City and the judgement to come to it. (v 23-29)

God told Ezekiel to declare judgement against Jerusalem.

- a. The sins of Israel's princes (royal house in Israel). (v 23-25)
- b. The sins of Israel's priests (v 26)
- c. The sins of Israel's officials, prophets, and people. (v 27-29)

2. The vain search for a man to stand in the gap. (30-31)

- a. God's search for the right person to stand in the gap was in vain.
- b. God's decision to pour out His indignation on them will come to pass.

3. Fortunately, in Jesus, God did find a Man to stand in the gap for us.

- a. Jesus stood firmly in the gap for all of humanity
- b. Christians are called to do likewise

Conclusion

Be sober-minded and watchful and to be ready to stand firm in the gap to seal up any breach in our faith in Christ.

Questions for discussion

1. Why was Jerusalem called "the bloody city"? What made God pass judgement on them and the whole nation?
2. What do Christians in a secular world do when their national leaders are judged for their various abuses?
3. There is a quest for one man standing in the gap to avert divine judgment. How does this concept apply to contemporary settings?
4. God is often searching for someone to stand in the gap for others. How will you answer this call?