

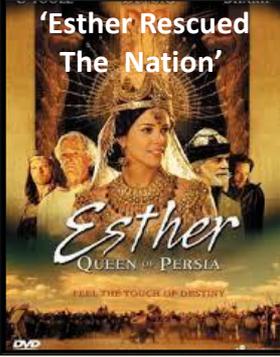
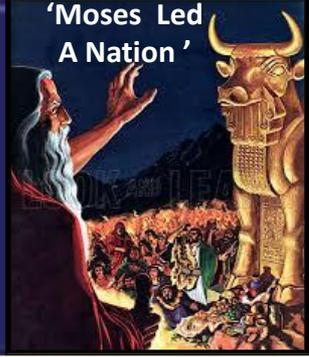
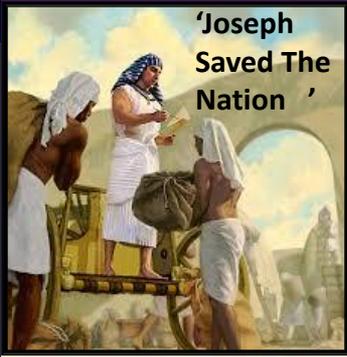
"Standing In The Gap With Prayer"

Part of our responsibility as followers of Jesus is to pray for God's intervention in the lives of others. The idea of "standing in the gap" comes from Ezekiel 22:30: "I looked for someone 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 no one." (Ezekiel 22:40) Clearly, God's heart is moved to act when people cry out on behalf of others. In fact, this verse indicates that God is searching and waiting for people to stand in the gap so He may respond mercifully. The word "intercessor" is commonly used by Christians to describe someone who acts as a go-between, pleading to God on behalf of those in dire circumstances. We read in Galatians 6:2 that we are to "carry each other's burdens." One way we do that is by lifting others' concerns to God in prayer. "If a friend is in trouble, don't annoy him by asking if there is anything you can do. Think up something appropriate and do it." — Edgar Watson Howe

When the circumstances or our brothers and sisters become overwhelming, we can be their voice, calling out to God for help. We are also called to stand in the gap for those who have not yet found salvation in Christ. The Apostle Paul implied that praying for the salvation of others should be at the top of our list: "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people ... This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1) Pray this prayer today on behalf of someone who needs us to stand in the gap? "I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:16-21).

"If One Part Suffers, Every Part Suffers With It"

No matter where we are, no matter where in the Kingdom we live, we are all called to be a part of the army of God. Even when we can't see the entire picture, we need to understand that each of us has a place along the wall that protects His Kingdom. If a gap opens up and we don't protect it, the enemy will pour in. "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26 NIV).



God uses people all the time to stand in the gap so that His purposes can be accomplished. Here are a few examples from the Bible: God used Joseph to save his family from starvation by bringing them to Egypt (Genesis 50:20). "Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as He is doing today." Moses begged God not to destroy the Hebrews when they had worshipped the golden calf (Psalm 106:23) "Therefore He said He would destroy them had not Moses, His chosen one, stood in the breach before Him, to turn away His wrath from destroying them." Esther stood in the gap with prayer and fasting for her people, saving them from Haman who wanted them destroyed (Esther 8:3-5). "Then Esther spoke again to the king; she fell at his feet, weeping and pleading with him to avert the evil design of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews. The king held out the golden scepter to Esther, and Esther rose and stood before the king. She said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have won his favor, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I have his approval, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote giving orders to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king."

"Jesus Stands In The Gap"



After God created the earth, He said, "It was very good" (Genesis 1:31). There was no divide between God and anyone on the earth; however, after Adam and Eve disobeyed, sin created a gap between God and humanity, cutting all future generations off from God's best for their lives. Fortunately, God Himself stood in the gap for us by sending His Son, Jesus, in human form, to live as a man, die for our sins, and rise from the dead so we could be restored into a personal relationship with Him.

"Love Fills In The Gaps"

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

To Fill The Gap In Your Life, You Need To Give Love. Because It Is In Giving That You Will Receive. The More You Share, The More You Will Have.

To Get Love, Give Love.



If there is something missing in your life then read about the definition of love and understand which one you are not doing or which one do you need... Do you need more patience? More kindness? You need to be more loving – more patient and kind with others. You cannot change others but choose to accept and respect others because we are all created unique.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Remember love does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

"God And Others Fill In The Gaps"



Remember also that there is gap in your fingers because it is meant to fill the gap of other fingers. Choose to love others and fill those gaps in their life. Loving others is the key that will open the gates of your life to profound peace and happiness. You need to be more loving – more patient and kind with God. When God doesn't answer your

prayer, that means He has something better planned for you. Remember that God has a plan for every life – plan to prosper and give you a beautiful future. Remember that God's plan for your life is more rewarding, more fulfilling, better than you've wished for – Be Patient, Be Hopeful, Trust and Have faith because God is in control of your life.

"God Called Nehemiah To Fill In The Gaps"

The prophet Nehemiah had been called by God back to Israel to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. It was a difficult time in history with lots of opposition to the rebuilding. There were times during the rebuilding when they stood with one hand on the work with the other hand on their sword to protect themselves (4:17-18). Other times, half the people worked while the other half stood guard over them (4:16, 4:21).



During biblical times, cities were protected by walls. These walls kept invaders from just walking in and conquering the population. Because these walls were so vital, their maintenance was of the utmost importance. When a gap became apparent, it must be repaired immediately so that the enemies of the city did not sneak through.

But God has an even more important wall He expects us to build and maintain. Brick by brick we are to build up a wall to protect ourselves from the advances of the enemy. Using His Word as the foundation, we, together with fellow believers, construct a fortress, a barrier as it were, against the forces of evil that threaten to destroy us. Individually we are weak but together our bond can be impenetrable. Each of us, using the gifts He has bestowed up us through the Holy Spirit, are important to the constructing of that fortress. If a gap opens up in the wall around the fortress the enemy has a way to sneak inside. Sometimes he can even boldly walk through the gap you failed to see while you are concentrating on protecting the gate that is so obviously shut. So it is important to make sure that not only are we working together to constantly look for gaps that might open up, but if we do find one then we must have someone stand there protecting the opening while we work to rebuild it.

"In Our Weakness, Actually Become The Gap In The Wall"

Sometimes we, in our weakness, actually become the gap in the wall. Through trials, pain, discouragement and sin, we allow ourselves to forget how important we are as members of the Body of Christ. We fall to the ground unable to stand before the onslaught of the world. But because we have a God who is full of mercy and grace, He has given us the Holy Spirit who, through His gifts, has provided warriors to stand in the gap for us.

"So What Does The Term "Standing In The Gap" Mean For You And Me?"



Sometimes someone is physically unable to stand perhaps through illness, injury, or exhaustion. In Exodus 17 we are given the example of Aaron and Hur physically supporting Moses as he led the Israelites in battle against the Amalekites. Because of their actions, the battle was won. Nowhere in that chapter does it say that Moses asked for help. Aaron and Hur obviously saw the weakness and stepped in

to be strong for him. And so it goes with our fellow Christians. We must be diligent in seeking the whispers of the Holy Spirit about who needs our help.