

STANDING IN THE GAP

William Barclay: "When the _____ of a nation or individual is healthy, moral behavior toward human beings will flow from that _____ . When the faith collapses, it undermines the foundation of the _____ life, so that crime and immorality flourish."

When the faith of a nation is anemic, _____ abounds.
As _____ decreases, _____ increases.

Ezekiel 22:6-13a, 23-31

1. THE C _____

- ⇒ M _____ and no respect for the sanctity of life
- ⇒ I _____
- ⇒ Lack of respect for _____
- ⇒ Extortion, stealing, L _____
- ⇒ Taking advantage of _____, orphans and immigrants
- ⇒ Making the _____ "their OWN _____"
- ⇒ S _____, sexual sin, bribery, charging unfair interest
- ⇒ They forgot _____

vs. 13 God is about to "strike his hands" =
God is F _____. "E _____!"

2. THE C _____

"I looked for someone" = "I looked for O _____".

40% of our country is completely U _____ to any religion.

"Standing in the gap" illustrates a _____. The one in the gap is one who M _____, pleading with both sides.

Two great "gap standers" in the Bible were M _____ and A _____. They show that a "gap stander" must be a _____ representative of the people.

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A holy representative who will:

G _____ over sin

Ezekiel 21:12 - "Cry out and wail, son of man, for it is against my people;

Why? Because the sword of His _____ is coming against those who continue in their sinful ways.

Ezekiel 21:6 - "Groan, son of man. Groan before them with broken _____ and bitter _____."

Why? Because of the news that is coming! Every heart will melt with _____ and every hand will go limp; every spirit will become faint and every leg will be with _____."

Why is it appropriate to "grieve" over sin?

1. Because life could be _____ for those caught in the grip of sin.
2. Because of their eventual J _____.
3. Because we know ultimately -- sin _____.

A knowledge _____

Ezekiel 22:2 - "C _____ [Jerusalem] with all her detestable practices and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says....'"

God searches for someone who isn't prone to minimize sin and _____ on a person's life.

P _____ on behalf of others

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 _____ it."

God is looking for one. Will you be the one?