

# Hope in the Gap

A close-up photograph of a lit oil lamp. The flame is bright yellow and orange, with a blue base. The lamp is dark, and the background is black, making the light stand out. The lamp is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

Ezekiel 22:23-31



## Ezekiel 22:

23 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,  
24 "Son of man, say to her, 'You are a land that is not  
cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.'<sup>25</sup>  
"There is a conspiracy of her prophets in her midst like  
a roaring lion tearing the prey. They have devoured  
lives; they have taken treasure and precious things;  
they have made many widows in the midst of her. <sup>26</sup>  
"Her priests have done violence to My law and have  
profaned My holy things; they have made no  
distinction between the holy and the profane, and



## Ezekiel 22:

They have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. 27 "Her princes within her are like wolves tearing the prey, by shedding blood *and* destroying lives in order to get dishonest gain. 28 "Her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD has not spoken. 29 "The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery,



## Ezekiel 22:

and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice. 30 "I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. 31 "Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord GOD.

# INTRO:

- Filthy, Dry & Desolate with NO blessing
- This describes many places today...
  - Europe, Africa, South America...America!
- Sin brings DEATH without fail!
- Is there HOPE for such a place?
- Is there RESPONSE??

# BROKEN COVENANT

- The Players:
  - Prophets, Priests, Princes, People
  - All had failed the Covenant of God
  - Parents, idols, bloodshed, bribery – soap opera!
  - All in **GOD'S LAND!!!**
- Lions (25); Wolves (27)

# BROKEN GOD

- GOD SEES ALL!!!
- Make up the HEDGE – place of protection
  - The Law of God, Ezk 13:5; Isa 5:2,5
  - Without this, the enemy rushes in!
- Stand in the Gap – place of intercession
  - Moses Ps 106:23; Ex. 32:10-14; Num 16:48



Ezk 13:3 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Woe to the foolish prophets who are following their own spirit and have seen nothing.<sup>4</sup> "O Israel, your prophets have been like foxes among ruins.<sup>5</sup> "You have not gone up into the breaches, nor did you build the wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of the LORD.

Psalm 106:23 Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood in the breach before Him, To turn away His wrath from destroying *them*.



# BROKEN PEOPLE

- Jeremiah had been forbidden to pray
- WE HAVE A MANDATE TO PRAY!!!!
  - John 15:16- burned branches...
  - Rom 8:26; Eph 1:18; 6:18,19 ; 2 Thess 3:1
  - 2 Chron 7:14
  - **Jer 29:4-11** – CONTEXT? CITY!!!! (7)

# APPLICATIONS:

- Our World and Land is in trouble!
- God sees and **MUST** judge prideful sin!
- He calls to those who hear...
- The Hedge must be restored!
- The Gap needs **PEOPLE!!!!**
- **THERE IS HOPE FOR TOMORROW!!!!**



## Isaiah 62:6-7

I have set my watchmen upon thy walls,  
O Jerusalem, which will never hold their  
peace, day or night: ye that make  
mention of the Lord keep not silent,  
And give him no rest til he establish, and  
make Jerusalem a praise in all the earth.