

“Gap People!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. In London "*Mind the Gap*" is a warning to train passengers to remind them of the significant gap between the train door and the station platform.
 - 1.1.1. It's announced on the underground train; it's on signs, it's painted on the train floor, & on the platform, it's everywhere!
 - 1.1.2. God was looking for, & is looking for, a few good men/women to "mind the gap!"

2. **THE COURT! (1-16)**

- 2.1. **LOOK AT THIS!** (1-5)
- 2.2. The prophet became a prosecuting attorney as he indicted Judah for her sins.¹
- 2.3. (3) Jerusalem the bloody city – because of its violent crimes, & because of the child sacrifice to Molech.
 - 2.3.1. As a result God would judge the city so it would be a city scorned by the nations.
- 2.4. **8 OUT OF 10!** (6-12)
- 2.5. Ezekiel specifically condemns the nation for its violation of the Mosaic Covenant (i.e. 10 commandments). [#5(7); #1(8); #4(8); #6(9); #7(10); #10(11); #8(12); #9(12)]
 - 2.5.1. You notice that with the loss of a true conception of God, there follows the loss of loving piety, moral purity, & civic justice!
 - 2.5.2. So because of their sin, they had forgotten God & violated the heart of the law.
- 2.6. **PURIFICATION!** (13-16)
- 2.7. The purpose was the nation's purification. (get them out of the land to purify it)
 - 2.7.1. Opposite of Chernobyl – People removed because land was polluted.
 - 2.7.2. Here people were removed from His land because they were polluted

3. **THE FURNACE! (17-22)**

- 3.1. **DROSS!** (17-22)
- 3.2. Nebuchadnezzar/Babylon became the furnace when they encamped around Jer.
- 3.3. There was no good metal left in the city; all was dross.
 - 3.3.1. Dross = something worthless; scum on metal.
 - 3.3.2. The nation was "cheapened" by sin!
 - 3.3.3. Israel was no better than dross.

¹ Warren Wiersbe; pg.546.

- 3.4. Again to purify the nation, God made Jerusalem a melting pot in which he would place the Israelites.
- 3.4.1. Removing the dross & leaving the precious metal of **righteous lives!**

4. **THE WALL! (23-31)**

- 4.1. **4 P'S IN A POD!** (23-29)
- 4.2. 4 classes mentioned: **Prophet's Priests, Princes, & People.**
- 4.2.1. The **prophet's** were like **lions**, & the **princes** were like **wolves.**
- 4.2.2. All fighting to get what they could from the people.
- 4.3. (26) Note the **priests did not make a distinction** between what was **holy** & what was **unholy**; what was **clean** & what was **unclean**; **pure** & what was **impure.**
- 4.3.1. **Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.** Mt.7:6
- 4.4. (28) **Plastered** - They had **whitewashed** the nation's sins & **covered** its weaknesses.
- 4.5. **GAP PEOPLE!** (30)
- 4.6. The Lord searched & couldn't find **a righteous person** who would **intercede** on behalf of the nation.
- 4.6.1. **No one** to build up **the wall of righteousness.**
- 4.6.2. **No one** to stand in **the spiritual gap.**
- 4.7. **In London "Mind the Gap"** is a **warning to train passengers** to remind them of the sometimes **significant gap** between the **train door** and the **station platform.**
- 4.8. God desires **Gap People!**
- 4.8.1. God is still looking for people who will not only **build strong walls** but **become walls** by **standing in the gap** in the hour of danger.
- 4.9. **What are Gap People?**
- 4.9.1. **Intercessors** – pleading on someone's behalf. Trying to resolve a conflict(settling a dispute).
- 4.10. **Who are Gap People?**
- 4.10.1. In the history of Israel, God raised up "**gap people**" to stand in the breach & stay off the judgment.
- 4.10.2. **Abraham** interceded for Sodom & Gomorah.
- 4.10.3. **Moses (Ps.106:19-23)** – Interceded for them in **golden calf** ordeal.
- 4.10.4. **Phinehas (Ps.106:28-31)** – Javelin through **Baal of Peor** couple.
- 4.10.4.1. **Zeal against immorality of Israel w/Moabite women.** (Numb 25:7)
- 4.10.5. **Joseph (Ps.105:17)** – God sent him to help children of Israel during the famine.
- 4.10.6. **Samuel (1 Sam.3)** – Because Eli didn't restrain his sons.
- 4.10.7. **Jesus (Jn.10:7)** – I am the door of the sheep (sheepcote).

- 4.11. What can Christians do to stand in the gap **spiritually**?
- 4.12. What can Christians do to stand in the gap for their **community**?
- 4.13. What can Christians do to stand in the gap for their **government**?
- 4.14. How can we become *Gap People*?
 - 4.14.1. Today, God needs **Gap People** with the **courage to stand** for what is right, even if they must **stand alone!**
 - 4.14.2. In conversations at work...**who will stand?**
 - 4.14.3. When you hear friends slander another friend...**who will stand?**
 - 4.14.4. He desires **gap moms** to intercede for their children;
 He desires **gap wives** to plead for their husbands;
 He desires **gap dads** to mediate like Job did for his kids.
 He desires **gap husbands** to intercede for their wives;
 He desires **gap employees** to intervene for fellow employees;
 He desires **gap singles** to ask on behalf of other single friends;
 He desires **gap seniors** to plead for their grandchildren;
 He desires **gap Christians** to plead & intercede for a fallen world.
 - 4.14.5. Don't "**Fall into the Gap**" "**Mind the Gap**"!