

June 16, 2024

Edward Christian Church

Standing in the gap

-Ezekiel 22:30



Father's Day 2024

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“Fathers”
Spiritual Warfare
The Difference Makers

Father's Day 2024

Front Lines



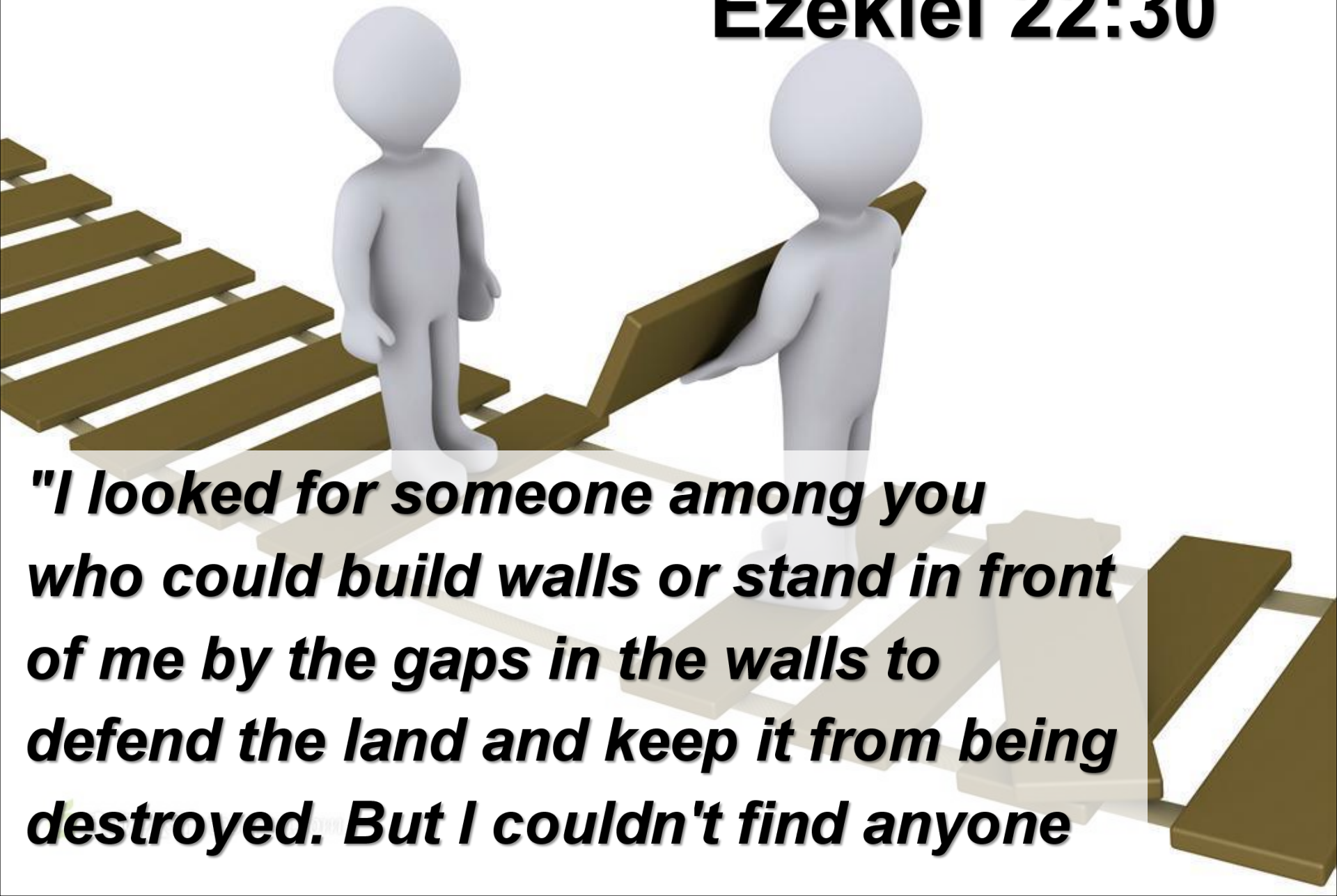
Front Lines

Fathers

Did You Know We Are the
Front Line of Spiritual Warfare?

- Wife
- Children
- Families
- Church

Ezekiel 22:30



"I looked for someone among you who could build walls or stand in front of me by the gaps in the walls to defend the land and keep it from being destroyed. But I couldn't find anyone

The Problem

There's a

G a p

- ***in our Nation, Schools, Families, Homes***
- ***Separation between God and His People***



God's Plan / Pursuit - ***"I sought for a MAN.."***

Not a

- **Committee**
- **Neighbor**
- **Someone Else**
- **Better Time**

But a Man!

Man= Heb

Husband/ Dad, Steward ...

...Champion, Foot-man,

...Mighty Man



**God Looks
for Intercessors
to Stand in the Gap**

**God's Plan / Pursuit -
*"I sought for a MAN.."***

**God Looks
for Intercessors
to Stand in the Gap**

**God's Plan / Pursuit -
*"I sought for a MAN.."***

- **God's Choice-** *"From among them..."*
 - Able to Relate –Close to Heart
- **God's Representative** - *"...before Me..."*
- **God's Burden-** *"..for The Land..."*
 - Our World, Community, Homes, Schools, Neighborhood, Employment.

God's Path -

"..stand in the gap"



God's Path -

"..stand in the gap"

- **Gap** – *breach/ broken wall*
- **Gaps That Only You Can Fill**
 - **Faith**
 - **Family**
 - **Found in the Land**





God's Path -

"..stand in the gap"

- **Stand** –*appointed to arise...*
...and remain firm
- **Time to Get...**
 - **Beyond Ourselves**
 - **Into the Fight**
 - **Stay in the Fight**

God's Path -

"..stand in the gap"

- **Stand** –*appointed to arise*
...and remain firm
- **Time to Get...**
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God's Power –
“to make up the hedge”



STANDING
IN THE GAP

God's Power – *“to make up the hedge”*

Make Up the Hedge

Repair the Breach - close off- build a wall

- **Nehemiah-** *Trowel /Sword*
- **David-** *Israel /Philistines*
- **Jesus-** *Cross made up the Hedge*

Bridged the Gap

Jesus + Dads *Make Up the Hedge for our
wives, children, families, churches*

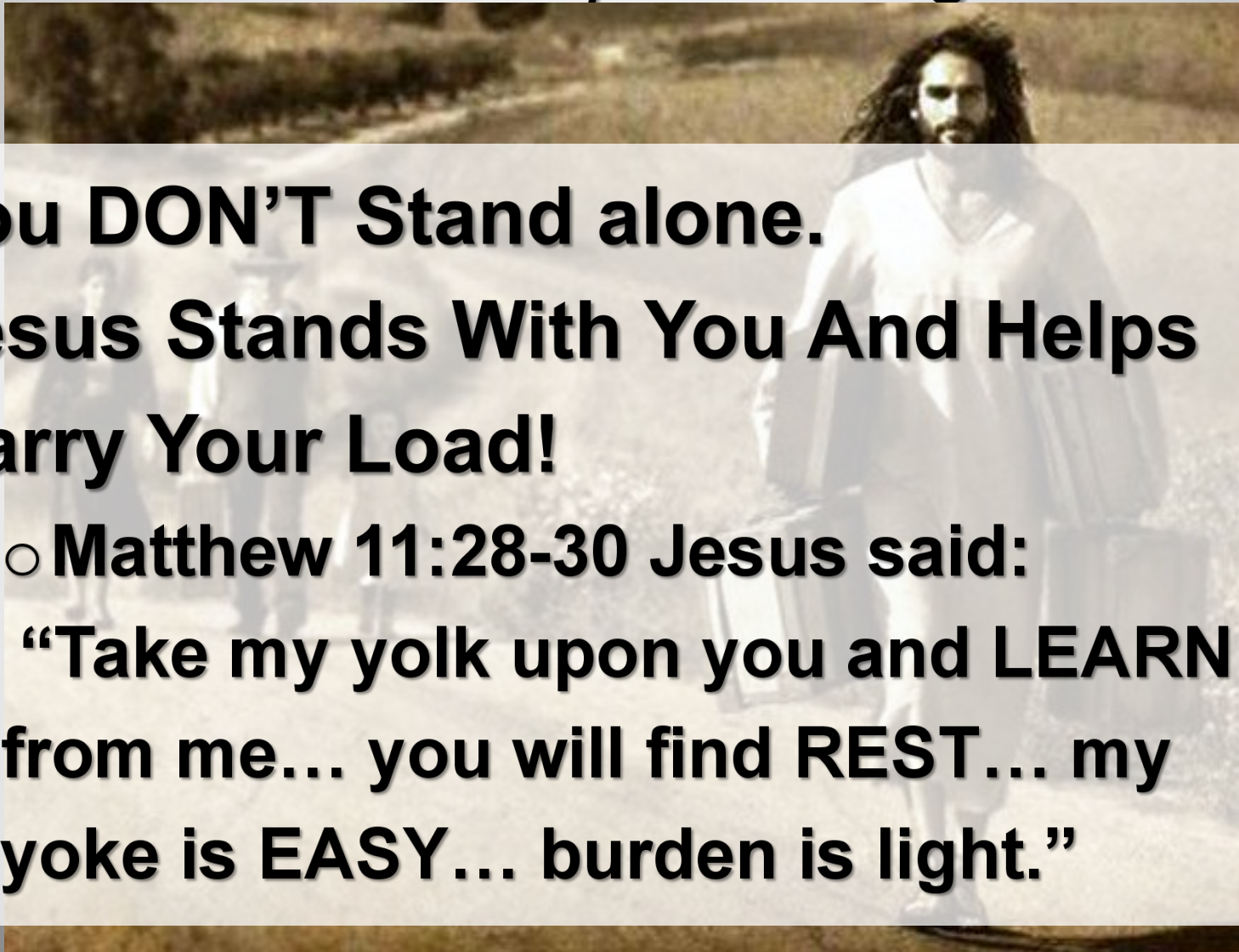
God's POWER

“to make up the hedge”



God's POWER

“to make up the hedge”



You DON'T Stand alone.

**Jesus Stands With You And Helps
Carry Your Load!**

○ **Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said:**

**“Take my yolk upon you and LEARN
from me... you will find REST... my
yoke is EASY... burden is light.”**

God's *Purpose* –

“...that I should not destroy it...”

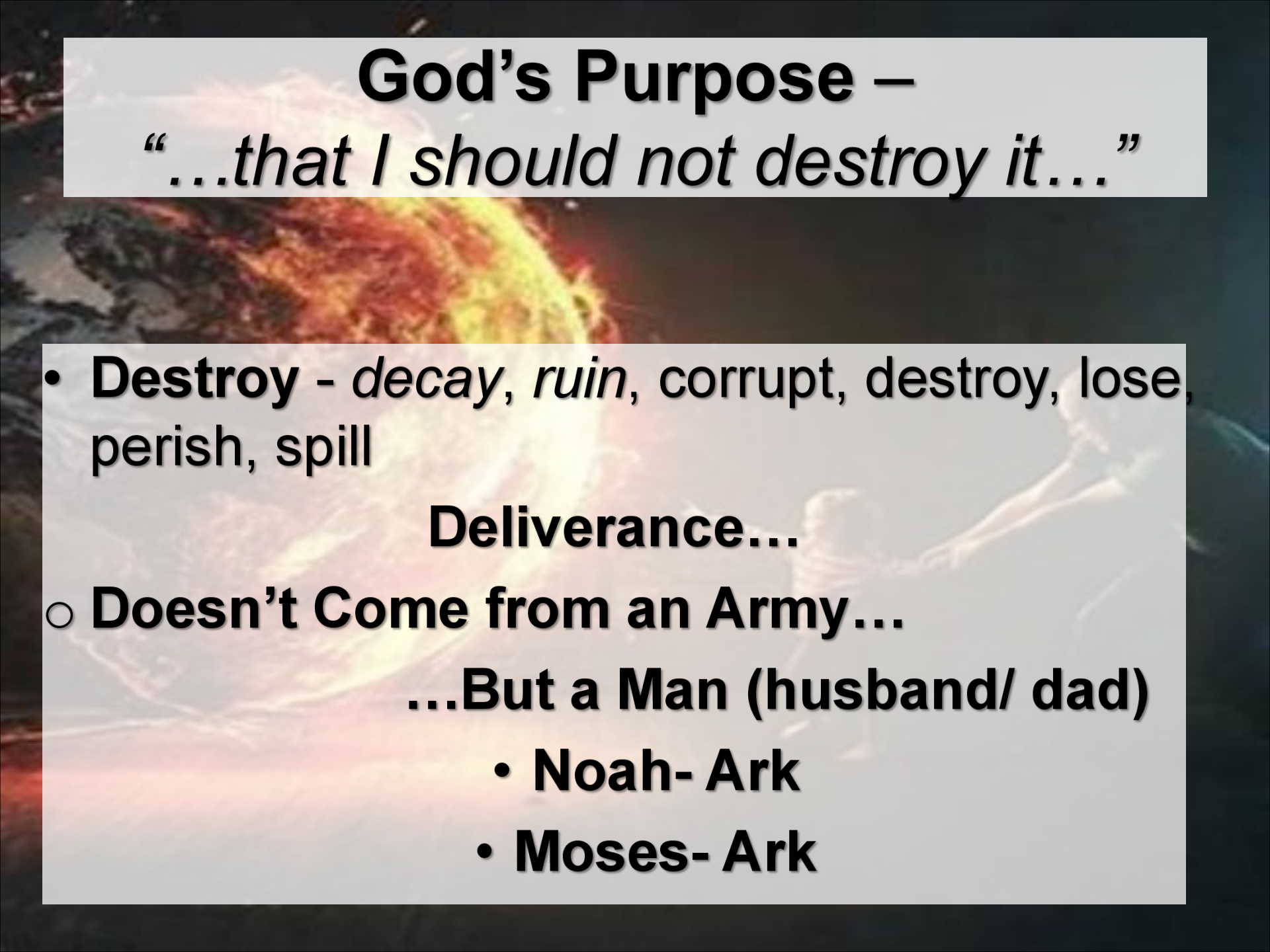


God's *Purpose* –

“...that I should not destroy it...”

- **Destroy** - *decay, ruin, corrupt, destroy, lose, perish, spill*
- **Make up the Hedge** – Repair the Breach
- **Stand** - to *stand, abide (behind), arise, remain, repair, + serve, stand fast/ firm*
- **In the Gap** - *a breach, a break*





God's Purpose –

“...that I should not destroy it...”

- **Destroy** - *decay, ruin*, corrupt, destroy, lose, perish, spill

Deliverance...

- **Doesn't Come from an Army...**

...But a Man (husband/ dad)

- **Noah- Ark**
- **Moses- Ark**



God's Purpose

“...that I should not destroy it...”

Ezekiel 22:30-31 The Message (MSG)

“I looked for someone to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defenses of the city, to take a stand for me and stand in the gap to protect this land so I wouldn't have to destroy it. I couldn't find anyone. Not one.”

God's Purpose

“...that I should not destroy it...”

Ezekiel **Ezekiel 22:30-31 DLV** (MSG)

“I looked for a dad to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defenses of the family, / to take a stand for me and stand in the gap to protect this country so I wouldn't have to destroy it. I couldn't find anyone. Not one.”

Gap Standers



Gap Standers

**The Bible is Full of Gap Standers
i.e. “*Difference Makers*”**

Common Factors

- **Sent**
 - **God Called**
- **Selfless**
 - **It's Never About Them**
- **Service**
 - **It's About Helping Others**

Gap Standers

The Bible is Full of Gap Standers

i.e. “*Difference Makers*”

FATHERS who stood in the gap:

- **Noah: Righteous; obediently put his family in the ark to save them**
- **Jacob: Provided for his family; learned to sew (made a coat for Joseph)**
- **Jairus: Prayed (went to Jesus) for his daughter's healing**

Gap Standers

**The Bible is Full of Gap Standers
i.e. “*Difference Makers*”**

STEP-Fathers Who Stood in the Gap:

- **Mordecai: Raised Esther; continued to advise her once she was grown and out of the house**
- **Joseph: Protected and defended Jesus’ mother, Mary; Raised Jesus as his own and taught him his profession**



Fathers Remember...
We Are the
Front Line of Spiritual Warfare

- Wife
- Children
- Families
- Church

They Are Depending on It!!!



STAND *in the* GAP

Be Encouraged Men...
We are the Priests of Our Homes
Not by Accident but Design
We Have Heavenly Power When We...
Pray
Proclaim the Word
Protect/ Provide for Our Family
When We Stand Up to Our Challenge...
...God Stands With Us!!!

STAND *in the* **GAP**