

**Teach Us to Pray:
Standing in the Gap**

*O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen on your walls;
they will pray day and night, continually.
Take no rest, all you who pray to the Lord.
⁷ Give the Lord no rest until he completes his work,
until he makes Jerusalem the pride of the earth.
Isaiah 62:6-7 (NLT)*

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
Colossians 4:2 (NIV)*

*Because I love Zion,
I will not keep still.
Because my heart yearns for Jerusalem,
I cannot remain silent.
I will not stop praying for her
until her righteousness shines like the dawn,
and her salvation blazes like a burning torch.
Isaiah 62:1 (NLT)*

*"I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one.
Ezekiel 22:30 (NLT)*

But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious. ⁸ They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

¹⁰ Then the people of Judah began to complain, "The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves."

Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, "Before they know what's happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work."

¹² The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, "They will come from all directions and attack us!" ¹³ So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows.

When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall. ¹⁶ But from then on, only half my men worked while the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon. ¹⁸ All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm.
Nehemiah 4:7-13,15-18 (NLT)

The people made a calf at Mount Sinai;
they bowed before an image made of gold.
²⁰ They traded their glorious God
for a statue of a grass-eating bull.
²¹ They forgot God, their savior,
who had done such great things in Egypt—
²² such wonderful things in the land of Ham,
such awesome deeds at the Red Sea.
²³ So he declared he would destroy them.
But Moses, his chosen one, stepped between the Lord
and the people.
He begged him to turn from his anger and not destroy them.
Psalm 103:19-23 (NLT)

Then this message came to me from the Lord: ¹⁸ "Son of man, the people of Israel are the worthless slag that remains after silver is smelted. They are the dross that is left over—a useless mixture of copper, tin, iron, and lead. ¹⁹ So tell them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Because you are all worthless slag, I will bring you to my crucible in Jerusalem. ²⁰ Just as silver, copper, iron, lead, and tin are melted down in a furnace, I will melt you down in the heat of my fury. ²¹ I will gather you together and blow the fire of my anger upon you, ²² and you will melt like silver in fierce heat. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have poured out my fury on you.'"
Ezekiel 22:17-22 (NLT)

"I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I

found no one. ³¹ So now I will pour out my fury on them, consuming them with the fire of my anger. I will heap on their heads the full penalty for all their sins. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken!"

Ezekiel 22:30-31 (NLT)

The Lord looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.

He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.

Isaiah 59:15-16 (NIV)

"The Redeemer will come to Jerusalem
to buy back those in Israel
who have turned from their sins,"
says the Lord.

Isaiah 59:20 (NLT)

HEAD EXPLODING REALIZATION: THIS IS ABOUT _____!

Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
Isaiah 53:1 (NIV)

Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53:4-5 (NIV)

But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him. ³⁸ This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted:

"Lord, who has believed our message?
To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?"^[1]

³⁹ But the people couldn't believe, for as Isaiah also said,

⁴⁰ "The Lord has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts—
so that their eyes cannot see,
and their hearts cannot understand,
and they cannot turn to me
and have me heal them."

Isaiah was referring to Jesus when he said this, because he saw the future and spoke of the
Messiah's glory.
John 12:37-40 (NLT)