

**WANTED: A MAN!      Ezekiel 22:23-31**

Int: Ezekiel served as resident chaplain to 10,000 Judeans taken to Babylon in 598 BC and held in a displaced persons camp on the Chebar Canal. His message was one of unrelenting doom for the homeland. The nation's sins cried out for judgment. Her leaders—prophet, priest and prince—had given themselves over to sin and evil. God needed a man to step up, stem the tide and draw the nation back from the brink of ruin. He found none (22:30)!

Under similar conditions in any country or century, God's need is the same. Any person with 20/20 spiritual vision might well see again in heaven's window God's sign: "WANTED! A MAN!" Note God's

**SEARCH**

"I sought for a man among them." Certainly God looks for the lost to save them. But this passage pictures him seeking a man he can use to carry out his purpose in the world.

God bless the noble band of women that fills the ranks of God's army. But the Hebrew emphasizes that the Lord looks for a man (*ish*) as opposed to a woman (*ishah*), i.e. a "manly man!" A red-blooded, 24-carat, 100% man!

**PURPOSE**

"Who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land that I should not destroy it." In Ezekiel's day there were holes in the walls and wide gaps in the hedge that protected God's people. Absent a man to close up the holes and gaps, disaster would strike. It is so in this day!

There is a gap in the HOME! Children suffer from the "absentee father" syndrome and the lack of masculine spiritual leadership.

There is a gap in the CHURCH! The church falters and fails because men will not leader.

There is a gap in the NATION! It is time for MEN to take a stand for God.

**LAMENT**

"But I found none." Had God found "a" man, even one man, he might have spared the nation. But no one answered his call. Judgment fell in 586 BC. Nebuchadnezzar returned with his Babylonian storm troopers, broke down the gates and walls of Jerusalem, robbed and destroyed the temple, burned the city, killed thousands and scattered the rest among strange nations—where some remain to this day.

Unless the men of this generation move to fill the gaps and make up the hedge, God will have to destroy home, church and nation---or apologize to Jerusalem and Judea on judgment day!

Con: There is a man listening who never really made a total commitment to Christ. Will you step up and come right out for Christ? There is another man who used to be part of the walls of protection for his family, his church and his nation, but no more. God is looking for you! Will you say to God today, "I am your man!"