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GAP MEN

The Public Meeting of the Society was held in Winter Street Church on Wednesday afternoon. Rev. Dr. Ide, of Medway presided, and after preliminary services, a discourse was preached by Rev. Dr. Cheever, of New York.

Now is the time for trials—rest hereafter. To *stand* is to conquer, though dying. For illustration the speaker related the case of a pilot on Lake Erie. The boat, crowded with passengers, took fire. All seemed lost, though they were a mile off land, but the pilot, John Maynard, stood firm to the helm. The flames raged around him, driving everybody else from that part of the vessel, but John *stood*. When one hand was burnt till he could no longer endure it, he seized the helm with the other hand, and kept the boat on her course. She neared the shore, assistance was at hand, and all were saved, but John Maynard. For him, it was too late; he had died in conquering. These are the men that are needed; such as Ezekiel speaks of, gap men. Sometimes God inquires for them and does not find them, and a whole people or nation are destroyed for want of them. *“And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none. Therefore, have I poured out my indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath.”* Would that there were more *gap* men in our day.

(— p. 1, c. 4)

Ezekiel 22:30-31
King James Bible

New International Version:

I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.

Berean Study Bible:

I searched for a man among them to repair the wall and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, so that I should not destroy it. But I found no one.