1. **Introduction: What Does It Mean To Stand In The Gap?**
   1. Imagery of a **breach in a city wall**… to **stand against the enemy** … (Nehemiah 6:1)
   2. Spiritually, to **invoke repentance & change** and help **turn souls back to God** who have forsaken Him. (Ezekiel 22:8, 12, 26; cf., Ezekiel 13:5; Psalms 106:23; Isaiah 58:12)
   3. In a broad perspective, **to accomplish and of the work God needs done** to bring about **the salvation of souls** according to His good pleasure. (2 Timothy 2:21; Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 13:20-21)
2. **How did The Gap originate Among God’s people?**
   1. **Isaiah 58** - Isaiah 58:12, **Why is there** **a *“breach”* to be repaired**?
      1. Verses 1-3 - Bold reproof for the sins of the nation due to **formality in service w/o substance/ application** & hypocrisy. (Revelation 2:4-5)
      2. Verses 3-6 - their righteous acts rejected because of **their lack of love for each other & hypocrisy**. (cf., vs. 7-9) (Galatians 5:13-15; Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:10)
      3. Verses 10-14 –
         1. Seeking **personal pleasure** instead of **honoring God** in whole-hearted obedience. (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Philippians 3:18-19; Mark 12:29-30)
         2. **Speaking their own words and not God’s word**. (1 Peter 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:2)
         3. **No delight in serving and worshipping God**. (Psalms 1:2; 119:24, 47)
   2. **Isaiah 30** - **Isaiah 30:13, 26**, why is there a ***“breach”*** to be repaired?
      1. Verses 1-2 - **Substitute man’s plans for God’s** (2 Kings 5:11) and **seek refuge from anyone but God**! (cf., vs. 20-21)
      2. Verses 9-11 - **Refusing to listen to God’s word and want their ears tickled** (1 Peter 4:11; Hebrews 2:1)
   3. **Ezekiel 22**, why is there a ***“gap”*** to be stood in?
      1. Verses 7-8 - **Degrading the family and all things holy**! (Ephesians 6:2-3;   
         Matthew 15:5; Hebrews 13:5)
      2. Verse 26 - **Twisting and distorting the scriptures** (2 Peter 3:16; Mark 7:9)
3. **How can Everyone/Anyone Stand in The Gap?**
   1. **Continuously seek instruction from God and take it to heart- accept His discipline**. (Isaiah 30:20-21; Deuteronomy 10:16-20; Hebrews 12:4ff)
   2. **Respect divine authority!** (Isaiah 30:30; Acts 15)
   3. **Learn to “rightly divide the word of truth”.** (2 Timothy 2:15)
   4. **Truly repent!** (Isaiah 30:15, 22; Luke 3:8; Acts 19:18-19)
   5. **Be a good steward of what God has blessed you with**. (Isaiah 58:7; 1 Timothy 6:11-19; Matthew 25:19-21)
   6. **Stop being selfish and seeking selfish pleasures through self-sacrifice and self-denial**. (Isaiah 58:13; Colossians 1:10; Titus 2:12-13)
   7. **Learn to discern (make a distinction) between evil & good (& “excellent”)**   
      (Ezekiel 22:26; Hebrews 5:14; Philippians 1:10; 1 Peter 2:12)
   8. **Obey the gospel, “calling on the name of the Lord” and He will save you!** (Isaiah 58:9; 30:15; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10)
   9. **Confess your sin and truly repent!** (1 John 2:6-9; Acts 8:22-23)