

# OUR SPIRITUAL DEFENSES: THE WALLS OF SALVATION

INTRODUCTION: God gives spiritual defenses around a person or group of people. These defenses can be broken down or removed because of sin. Intercession is then needed to protect these people from the judgment of God and the attacks of Satan until their defenses are rebuilt or restored.

1. GOD GIVES US SPIRITUAL DEFENSES. These are often called a wall or a hedge, Is.26:1, Is.60:18. These defenses can be for a person or for different groups of people, such as:
  - A. A PERSON- in Jer.15:20, God made Jeremiah to be a wall that could not be overcome. In Job 1:10, God had put a hedge around Job. A person can be protected in 3 areas:
    - 1) Spirit- If we cannot control our spirit, we are like a city that has no walls, Prov.25:28. We need to be able to guard our spirit, just as the Bride in the Song of Solomon 4:12-14.
    - 2) Soul- Our minds (II Cor.10:4-5, Phil.4:8) and emotions (S. of Sol.8:8-9) must also be protected and under our control.
    - 3) Body- God took away the hedge and Job was physically afflicted (Job 1:10, Job 2:5-7).
  - B. A FAMILY- In Job 1:4-5 we see how Job kept a hedge around his family, Job.1:10. Abraham's hedge was large enough to protect his nephew Lot, Gen.14:14-16, 19:29.
  - C. A CITY- God declared that He will become a wall of fire to protect Jerusalem, Zech.2:4-5.
  - D. A NATION- Israel was given a hedge, Is.5:2,7.
2. THESE DEFENSES CAN BE BROKEN DOWN OR REMOVED BECAUSE OF SIN- examples are:
  - A. A PERSON: -Paul, II Cor.12:7 (to keep him from pride). The lazy man, Prov.24:30-34.
  - B. A FAMILY- David's sin had broken down the protection upon his family. David's sin had been forgiven but there was not a full restoration or rebuilding of the walls, II Sam.12:7-14, Gal.6:7-8.
  - C. A CITY- King David's sin had broken down the spiritual protection around his city, Ps.51:18, II Sam.15:14.
  - D. A NATION- ISRAEL, Is.5:4-7, Ez.13:3-6; As God is arising to shake the earth with His judgments before the second coming of Christ (Hag.2:6-7), the nations are being judged (like Israel) for their sins.
3. THEN THE MINISTRIES OF INTERCESSION AND RESTORATION ARE NEEDED-
  - A. INTERCESSORS STAND IN THE GAP TO PROTECT THE WEAK DEFENSES:
    - 1) Moses stood in the gap to protect the nation, Ps.106:23, Ex.32:7-14.
    - 2) Queen Esther interceded to save the Jews, Est.5:1-3; 7:2-6; 8:3-8, Heb.4:16.
    - 3) God can send judgment when no intercessor is found, Ez.22:30-31.
    - 4) God is seeking for intercessors to pray until He makes Jerusalem (the Church) a praise in all the earth, Is.62:6-7. Can you hear Him calling to you? (Est.4:14)
  - B. THEN THE MINISTRY OF RESTORATION IS NEEDED TO REBUILD OUR DEFENSES:
    - 1) God judges sin, but **above this** God desires to restore, Is.42:21-43:7, Joel 2:25.
    - 2) Nehemiah rebuilt the walls to protect Jerusalem, Neh.4:6-23; 6:15-16.
    - 3) God is seeking to raise up spiritual leaders with the ministry of restoration, Is.42:22-23; 58:12, Gal.6:1. This will bring us back to righteousness.
  - C. INTERCESSION (for forgiveness) AND RESTORATION (for righteousness) TOGETHER:
    - 1) Saved Nineveh in the day of God's judgment, Jonah 3:5-10.
    - 2) Could have saved Sodom, but did not because: Intercession was stopped too soon (Gen.18:20-33), and righteousness was lacking. Lot was righteous (II Pet.2:7-8), but he had not restored others to God, or even kept his own family, Gen.19:12-36. There were not 10 righteous, so judgment fell.

CONCLUSION: God is preparing His people to be holy and victorious, Eph.5:25-27, Mt.16:18. To accomplish this He often first judges sin, by removing our spiritual defenses and allowing our enemies to attack. But then through the ministries of intercession & restoration He can bring us back into His fulfilled plan, Hos.6:1-3.