

Voting as an Act of Intercession

“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one” (Ezek. 22:30).

This verse is commonly cited by those describing the vital place of intercession—the role of prayer—Christians have for our nation. That application seems acceptable, as it describes one who will “stand in the gap” on behalf of others. But is that the full interpretation of this passage?

If you look into the context and examine the previous few verses, the Lord indicts the Israelites with the following charges: leaders who conspire for personal gain, priests who violate His Word, killing of the innocent, extortion, oppression, immorality, and injustice. Was this man the Lord was actively seeking to “stand in the gap” simply to pray? The Scripture does not mention prayer at all. The Hebrew word used here is *perets*, meaning “bursting forth” or “breach.” This lends a connotation to this passage of the necessity to burst forth with a representation of God’s heart for the land to stop the outbreak of wickedness that was so rampant.

As we look to apply the Word of God in our day, isn’t voting a critical act of intercession? Are we not standing in the gap in the ballot box? When we cast our vote for the persons we feel would best bring God’s heart and destiny to this nation, is this not standing in the breach between God’s ideals and mere human goals? We have the opportunity to stand in the gap this year, not only by praying for our nation, but also by voting in a way that God’s purpose for the U.S. will be accomplished.