

BRIDGING THE GAP

Text: Ezekiel 22:30

Key Word: Bridge

Key Thought: We must Trust God to Build a Bridge That Is Impossible for Us to Build

God is looking for people who will step out in faith and see their cities turned around for God.

The prophet Ezekiel lived during a time of great sin in his nation. The clouds of God's wrath were pressing in upon them. Everyone could see the problems but no one was willing to do anything about the overwhelming problems confronting them.

God always rises up men and women during these times to proclaim His standards. A city without a wall was considered as one unable to defend itself against its enemies. All the great cities of history surrounded themselves with walls of protection. Sometimes because of neglect or lack of funds, holes would begin to form in the walls. These would become weak points where the enemy would gain entrance to the city.

Our day and age is witnessing something totally different. Instead of building up walls we are tearing them down (i.e. - Germany; EU; Globalization). What is happening in the political, and national realms are also beginning to take place in the spiritual realm. What are we to make of it all?

Some say we are setting ourselves up for the antichrist's reign. Others believe that this is indeed the work of the Holy Spirit preparing the Bride for the return of Jesus Christ.

Instead of filling in the gaps we are learning to bridge some gaps that we never thought we could. **What are some of the things we need to know to discern what is the work of God and what is the work of the devil? How can we keep from being deceived?**

1. Make sure that the Bible agrees with everything we do!
2. Make sure that it receives the Lord's blessing!
3. Make sure that the glory is going to God!
4. Make sure that no one individual is in control!
5. Make sure that it is bathed in prayer!
6. Make sure that godly leaders support it!
7. Make sure that it develops us more into the image of Christ.

I. MAN'S BRIDGE BUILDING

II. GOD'S BRIDGE BUILDING

I. MAN'S BRIDGE BUILDING

*** The largest bridge in North America is The Lake Pontchartrain Causeway holds that record, at 23.87 miles. The second largest in North America is the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. This bridge-tunnel structure was an engineering marvel when the first portion opened to traffic in 1964. At the time the American Society of Civil Engineers named it “**One of the Seven Engineering Wonders of the Modern World,**” and the bridge-tunnel remains an awe-inspiring journey for travellers.

Built with a combination of trestles, bridges, two tunnels, four artificial islands and a causeway, the bridge-tunnel connects Virginia Beach and Virginia’s Eastern Shore. A second above-water span opened in 1999. That’s a matter of debate among bridge buffs, as it is measured at 17.6 miles from shore to shore, although the CBBT Commission lists the total length as 23 miles, including approach roads.

The Danyang–Kunshan Grand Bridge is the world’s longest bridge. It is a 164.8 kilometres (102.4 mi) long viaduct on the Beijing–Shanghai High-Speed Railway where the geography is characterized by lowland rice paddies, canals, rivers and lakes.

These are all amazing accomplishments but all of them are limited to man's engineering skills. It also is limited to the resources which we know are available to us.

II. GOD'S BRIDGE BUILDING

There is something that God is doing which is far beyond anything we can do. While attending the Billy Graham School of Evangelism God gave me a picture of what He is able to do. Some would call this a vision.

*** The picture I was given was a broad canyon that appeared very dry and desolate. It was simply an attraction for tourists but yet it had a greater potential. It reminded me of the Grand Canyon gorge of the Colorado River in N.W. Arizona.

Anyone who has looked down at the bottom of the canyon would agree that it would be next to impossible to fill in the giant gorge. There is only one reasonable way to get across it. **There must be a bridge built.** Yet that would also be a massive undertaking.

(Contd.)

II. GOD'S BRIDGE BUILDING (Contd.)

*** While I was contemplating this vision, I began to witness the building of a bridge that seemingly was being held up without the use of any ropes, or anything. It was like an unseen hand was keeping it raised above the dangerous canyon. In fact, I watched the bridge form without any human workers being seen. It was as if God wanted me to recognize that it was Him and not us who was the Master builder.

He never expected us to fill in all the gigantic gap. He had a better way. God always does! **The Spirit reminded me of what He had done in the past.** ***

"Stand still and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

14. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Exodus 14:13-14

As in the time of Moses God it is only God who is able to make a way where there is no way. The Church is standing at a place that it doesn't know what to do. It seems like our enemies are surrounding us and have brought us to an immense canyon. We must either stand in fear or trust God that He will make a way where there is no way in order to bring glory to Himself.

"The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

Exodus 14:18

The picture that I saw was just as disheartening as the Israelites saw on that day of their deliverance. Nothing in the natural could save them. **It is time for the Church to realize that it cannot save itself.** It is time to let God take over.

God's hand must be stretched over the impossibility as Moses took the rod and stretched it out over the sea. **All that night God performed a miracle.** When the Israelites set out what appeared to be their path of destruction, became their path of deliverance.

God is bringing His Church to the Sea again. Our enemies are in swift pursuit. They expect to conquer us soon. Little do they realize that they are approaching their greatest defeat. **It's time to let God build the bridges across the gaps that we feel are impossible to cross.**

The gorges of religious denominationalism; family relationships; financial hardships; national tragedies are more than able to be conquered. God is able to build what we cannot. He is willing and able to span the impossible gaps that continue to prevent us from advancing.

Let us be the ones to lead our families into a faith that will believe God to accomplish the impossibilities of our lives. Let us stand as Moses did in the midst of those who were filled with fear and watch His glory unfold a miracle. Lets watch our Grand Canyons being spanned by the hand of an Almighty God. The Spirit is beckoning to people of faith to stand and be counted as He sweeps before us in majesty.

May God give to the Church new songs of deliverance (ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS NAME! I WILL SING UNTO THE LORD! THROUGH OUR GOD WE SHALL DO VALIANTLY).

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Date: Aug 21/16

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Victory Song

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II. GOD'S BRIDGE BUILDING

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14. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."*

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