

## ~HIGH PLACES (1509)

[Hebrew, *ba-mohth*]

- Centers Of False Worship
- Not All High Places Condemned
- Solomon's Reign And Ten-Tribe Kingdom
- In The Kingdom Of Judah

- The Hebrew word generally translated high places *ba-mohth'* is usually associated with worship, but it can also simply refer to elevations, hills, and mountains
- Yehowah is known by the judgment that he has executed. By the activity of his own hands the wicked one has been ensnared. (Psalms 9:16)
- Yehowah is known by the judgment that he has executed. By the activity of his own hands the wicked one has been ensnared. (Psalms 9:16)
- And it came about the next day that, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they got to find Saul and his three sons fallen upon Mount Gilboa. (1 Samuel 31:8)
- For, look! The Former of the mountains and the Creator of the wind, and the One telling to earthling man what his mental concern is, the One making dawn into obscurity, and the One treading on earth's high places, Yehowah the God of armies is his name. (Amos 4:13)
- For, look! Yehowah is going forth from his place, and he will certainly come down and tread upon earth's high places. (Micah 1:3)
- high waves of the sea, literally, high places of the sea.
- Stretching out the heavens by himself and treading upon the high waves of the sea. (Job 9:8)
- And heights, or high places of the clouds.
- I shall go up above the high places of the clouds, I shall make myself resemble the Most High. (Isaiah 14:14)

- Evidently the expressions, to ride upon earth's **high places** and to tread upon the **high places** are to be understood as signifying victorious subjugation of a land, for one controlling all the **high places**, that is, the hills and mountains of a country, is, in effect, the lord of the land.
- He kept making him ride upon earth's **high places**, so that he ate the produce of the field. And he kept making him suck honey out of a crag, and oil out of a flinty rock. (**Deuteronomy 32:13**)
- Happy you are, O Israel! Who is there like you, a people enjoying salvation in Yehowah, the shield of your help, and the One who is your eminent sword? So your enemies will cringe before you, and you, upon their **high places** you will tread. (**Deuteronomy 33:29**)

### ·· Centers Of False Worship

- **High places**, or the sites or shrines where idolatry was engaged in, were to be found not only on hills and mountains but also in the valleys, in streambeds, in cities, and under the trees.
- You should absolutely destroy all the places where the nations whom you are dispossessing have served their gods, on the tall mountains and the hills and under every luxuriant tree. (**Deuteronomy 12:2**)
- And they too kept building for themselves **high places** and sacred pillars and sacred poles upon every high hill and under every luxuriant tree. (**1 Kings 14:23**)
- However, each different nation came to be a maker of its own god, which they then deposited in the house of the **high places** that the Samaritans had made, each different nation, in their cities where they were dwelling. (**2 Kings 17:29**)
- And you must say; O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said to the mountains and to the hills, to the streambeds and to the valleys; Here I am! I am bringing upon you a sword, and I shall certainly destroy your **high places**. (**Ezekiel 6:3**)

- They were equipped with altars for sacrifice, incense stands, sacred poles, sacred pillars, and graven images.
- And I shall certainly annihilate your sacred **high** places and cut off your incense stands and lay your own carcasses upon the carcasses of your dungy idols, and my soul will simply abhor you. (**Leviticus 26:30**)
- And you must drive away all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their stone figures, and all their images of molten metal you should destroy, and all their sacred **high places** you should annihilate. (**Numbers 33:52**)
- You should absolutely destroy all the **places** where the nations whom you are dispossessing have served their gods, on the tall mountains and the hills and under every luxuriant tree. (**Deuteronomy 12:2**)
- And you must pull down their altars and shatter their sacred pillars, and you should burn their sacred poles in the fire and cut down the graven images of their gods, and you must destroy their names from that place. (**Deuteronomy 12:3**)
- In all your dwelling places the very cities will become devastated and the **high places** themselves will become desolated, in order, that they may lie devastated and your altars may lie desolated and be actually broken and your dungy idols may be actually made to cease and your incense stands cut down and your works wiped out. (**Ezekiel 6:6**)
- At many of the **high places**, male and female prostitutes served.
- And they too kept building for themselves **high places** and sacred pillars and sacred poles upon every high hill and under every luxuriant tree. (**1 Kings 14:23**)
- And even the male temple prostitute proved to be in the land. They acted according to all the detestable things of the nations whom Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (**1 Kings 14:24**)
- On the tops of the mountains they sacrifice, and on the hills they make sacrificial smoke, under massive tree and storax tree and big tree, because its shade is good. That is why your daughters

- commit fornication and your own daughters-in-law commit adultery. (**Hosea 4:13**)
- **I shall not hold an accounting against your daughters because they commit fornication, and against your daughters-in-law because they commit adultery. For, as to the men, it is with the harlots that they get off to themselves, and with the female temple prostitutes that they sacrifice, and a people that does not understand will be trodden down. (**Hosea 4:14**)**
  - **Frequently the **high places** were the scenes of licentious rites, including ceremonial prostitution and child sacrifice.**
  - **Those who are working up passion among big trees, under every luxuriant tree, slaughtering the children in the torrent valleys under the clefts of the crags? (**Isaiah 57:5**)**
  - **And they have built the **high places** of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, in order to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, a thing that I had not commanded and that had not come up into my heart. (**Jeremiah 7:31**)**
  - **And they built the **high places** of the Baal in order to burn their sons in the fire as whole burnt offerings to the Baal, something that I had not commanded or spoken of, and that had not come up into my heart. (**Jeremiah 19:5**)**
  - **There were also houses, or sanctuaries, of the **high places** where priests officiated and where the images of the deities were kept.**
  - **And he began to make a house of **high places** and to make priests from the people in general, who did not happen to be of the sons of Levi. (**1 Kings 12:31**)**
  - **For without fail the word that he called out by the word of Yehowah against the altar that is in Bethel and against all the houses of the **high places** that are in the cities of Samaria will take place. (**1 Kings 13:32**)**
  - **However, each different nation came to be a maker of its own god, which they then deposited in the house of the **high places** that the Samaritans had made, each different nation, in their cities where they were dwelling. (**2 Kings 17:29**)**

- And they came to be fearers of Yehowah and went making for themselves from the people in general priests of **high places**, and they came to be functionaries for them in the house of the **high places**. (2 Kings 17:32)
- And also all the houses of the **high places** that were in the cities of Samaria that the kings of Israel had built to cause offense Josiah removed, and he went on to do to them according to all the doings that he had done at Bethel. (2 Kings 23:19)
- Accordingly he sacrificed all the priests of the **high places** that were there upon the altars and burned human bones upon them. After that he returned to Jerusalem. (2 Kings 23:20)
- And it occurred that it was seen that Moab was made weary upon the **high place**, and he came to his sanctuary to pray, and he could not accomplish anything. (Isaiah 16:12)
- Thus, the designation **high place** may at times refer to such a sanctuary rather than to an elevated site for worship. This is suggested by Ezekiel's reference to **high places** of varied colors.
- And you proceeded to take some of your garments and make for yourself **high places** of varied colors and you would prostitute yourself on them, such things are not coming in, and it should not happen. (Ezekiel 16:16)
- Perhaps these **high places** were tent-like sanctuaries.
- Before entering the Promised Land, the Israelites were commanded to destroy the sacred **high places** of the Canaanites and all the appendages of false worship associated therewith.
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them, you are crossing the Jordan into the land of Canaan. (Numbers 33:51)
- And you must drive away all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their stone figures, and all their images of molten metal you should destroy, and all their sacred **high places** you should annihilate. (Numbers 33:52)
- But the Israelites failed to do this, and after the death of Joshua and the older generation, wholesale apostasy set in.

- **And for your part, you must not conclude a covenant with the inhabitants of this land. Their altars you should pull down. But you have not listened to my voice. Why have you done this? (Judges 2:2)**
- **Then Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Yehowah, died at the age of a hundred and ten years. (Judges 2:8)**
- **So they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres in the mountainous region of Ephraim, on the north of Mount Gaash. (Judges 2:9)**
- **And all that generation too were gathered to their fathers, and another generation began to rise after them that did not know Yehowah or the work that he had done for Israel. (Judges 2:10)**
- **And the sons of Israel fell to doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah and serving the Baals. (Judges 2:11)**
- **Thus they abandoned Yehowah the God of their fathers who had brought them out of the land of Egypt and went following other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them and they began bowing down to them, so that they offended Yehowah. (Judges 2:12)**
- **Thus they abandoned Yehowah and took up serving Baal and the Ashtoreth images. (Judges 2:13)**
- **And they kept offending him with their **high** places, and with their graven images they kept inciting him to jealousy. (Psalms 78:58)**

### **•• Not All High Places Condemned**

- **According to Yehowah's law, sacrifices were to be offered only at the **place he designated**. In the days of Joshua, the Israelites recognized that the unauthorized building of an altar for burnt offering was, in effect, rebellion against Yehowah.**
- **These are the regulations and the judicial decisions that you should be careful to carry out in the land that Yehowah the God of your forefathers will certainly allow you to take possession of, all the days that you are alive on the soil. (Deuteronomy 12:1)**

- You should absolutely destroy all the places where the nations whom you are dispossessing have served their gods, on the tall mountains and the hills and under every luxuriant tree. (**Deuteronomy 12:2**)
- And you must pull down their altars and shatter their sacred pillars, and you should burn their sacred poles in the fire and cut down the graven images of their gods, and you must destroy their names from that place. (**Deuteronomy 12:3**)
- You must not do that way to Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 12:4**)
- But to **the place that Yehowah your God will choose** out of all your tribes to place his name there, to have it reside, you will seek, and there you must come. (**Deuteronomy 12:5**)
- And there you must bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and your tenth parts and the contribution of your hand and your vow offerings and your voluntary offerings and the firstborn ones of your herd and of your flock. (**Deuteronomy 12:6**)
- And there you must eat before Yehowah your God and rejoice in every undertaking of yours, you and your households, because Yehowah your God has blessed you. (**Deuteronomy 12:7**)
- You must not do according to all that we are doing here today, each one whatever is right in his own eyes. (**Deuteronomy 12:8**)
- Because you have not yet come into the resting-place and the inheritance that Yehowah your God is giving you. (**Deuteronomy 12:9**)
- And you must cross the Jordan and dwell in the land that Yehowah your God is giving you as a possession, and he will certainly give you rest from all your enemies round about, and you will indeed dwell in security. (**Deuteronomy 12:10**)
- And it must occur that the place that Yehowah your God will choose to have his name reside there is where you will bring all about which I am commanding you, your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tenth parts and the contribution of your hand and every choice of your vow offerings that you will vow to Yehowah. (**Deuteronomy 12:11**)

- **And you must rejoice before Yehowah your God, you and your sons and your daughters and your man slaves and your slave girls and the Levite who is inside your gates, because he has no share or inheritance with you. (Deuteronomy 12:12)**
- **Watch out for yourself for fear you may offer up your burnt offerings in any other place you may see. (Deuteronomy 12:13)**
- **But in the place that Yehowah will choose in one of your tribes is where you should offer up your burnt offerings, and there you should do all that I am commanding you. (Deuteronomy 12:14)**
- **It is unthinkable, on our part, to rebel of our own accord against Yehowah and to turn back today from following Yehowah by building an altar for burnt offering, grain offering and sacrifice besides the altar of Yehowah our God that is before his tabernacle! (Joshua 22:29)**
- **However, there are indications that, after the sacred Ark was removed from the tabernacle,**
  - **Accordingly the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and they went fleeing each one to his tent, and the slaughter came to be very great, so that out of Israel there fell thirty thousand men on foot. (1 Samuel 4:10)**
  - **And the ark of God itself was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. (1 Samuel 4:11)**
  - **And the ark of Yehowah proved to be in the field of the Philistines seven months. (1 Samuel 6:1)**
  - **And the men proceeded to do accordingly. So they took two cows that were giving suck and hitched them to the wagon, and their young ones they shut up at home. (1 Samuel 6:10)**
  - **Then they put the ark of Yehowah upon the wagon, and also the box and the golden jerboas and the images of their piles. (1 Samuel 6:11)**
  - **And the cows began to go straight ahead on the road to Bethshemesh. On the one highway they went, lowing as they went, and they did not turn aside to the right or to the left. All the**



- while the axis lords of the Philistines were walking after them as far as the boundary of Beth-shemesh. (1 Samuel 6:12)
- **And people of Beth-shemesh were reaping the wheat harvest in the low plain. When they raised their eyes and saw the Ark, they gave way to rejoicing at seeing it. (1 Samuel 6:13)**
  - **And the wagon itself came into the field of Joshua the Beth-shemite and kept standing there, where there was a large stone. And they went splitting up the wood of the wagon, and the cows they offered up as a burnt offering to Yehowah. (1 Samuel 6:14)**
  - **Accordingly the men of Kiriath-jearim came and brought the ark of Yehowah up and took it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and Eleazar his son was the one whom they sanctified to guard the ark of Yehowah. (1 Samuel 7:1)**
  - **And it came about that from the day of the Ark's dwelling in Kiriath-jearim the days kept multiplying, so that they amounted to twenty years, and all the house of Israel went lamenting after Yehowah. (1 Samuel 7:2)**
  - **Approved sacrificing at places other than the tent of meeting was done, not only under special circumstances but, in some cases, also on somewhat of a regular basis.**
  - **And the Philistines came to hear that the sons of Israel had collected themselves together at Mizpah, and the axis lords of the Philistines got on their way up against Israel. When the sons of Israel heard of it, they began to be afraid on account of the Philistines. (1 Samuel 7:7)**
  - **So the sons of Israel said to Samuel; Do not keep silent for our sakes from calling to Yehowah our God for aid, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines. (1 Samuel 7:8)**
  - **Then Samuel took a sucking lamb and offered it up as a burnt offering, a whole offering, to Yehowah, and Samuel began calling to Yehowah for aid in behalf of Israel, and Yehowah proceeded to answer him. (1 Samuel 7:9)**
  - **And you must go down ahead of me to Gilgal, and, look! I am going down to you to offer up burnt sacrifices, to render up communion sacrifices. Seven days you should keep waiting until**

- my coming to you, and I shall certainly let you know what you should do. (**1 Samuel 10:8**)
- **Later Samuel said to the people; Come and let us go to Gilgal that we may there make the kingship anew. (1 Samuel 11:14)**
  - **So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they proceeded to make Saul king before Yehowah in Gilgal. Then they rendered up communion sacrifices there before Yehowah, and there Saul and all the men of Israel continued rejoicing to a great degree. (1 Samuel 11:15)**
  - **And Samuel proceeded to do what Yehowah spoke. When he came to Bethlehem the older men of the city began to tremble at meeting him, and so they said; Does your coming mean peace? (1 Samuel 16:4)**
  - **To this he said; It means peace. To sacrifice to Yehowah is why I have come. Sanctify yourselves, and you must come with me to the sacrifice. Then he sanctified Jesse and his sons, after which he called them to the sacrifice. (1 Samuel 16:5)**
  - **And Solomon continued to love Yehowah by walking in the statutes of David his father. Only it was on the **high** places that he was regularly sacrificing and making offerings smoke. (1 Kings 3:3)**
  - **Then David built there an altar to Yehowah and offered up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices, and he proceeded to call upon Yehowah, who now answered him with fire from the heavens upon the altar of burnt offering. (1 Chronicles 21:26)**
  - **Moreover, Yehowah said the word to the angel, who accordingly returned his sword to its sheath. (1 Chronicles 21:27)**
  - **At that time, when David saw that Yehowah had answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he continued to sacrifice there. (1 Chronicles 21:28)**
  - **But the tabernacle of Yehowah that Moses had made in the wilderness and the altar of burnt offering were at that time on the **high** place at Gibeon. (1 Chronicles 21:29)**
  - **And David had not been able to go before it to consult God, for he**

had been terrified because of the sword of Yehowah's angel. (**1 Chronicles 21:30**)

- On the **high place** at an unnamed city in the land of Zuph, a structure had been erected where, it seems, the communion sacrifices could be eaten. The dining hall there accommodated about 30 men, if not more. Even the girls in the city were familiar with the sacrificial procedure there.
- They themselves came into the land of Zuph, and Saul, for his part, said to his attendant that was with him; Do come, and let us return, that my father may not quit attending to the she-asses and actually become anxious about us. (**1 Samuel 9:5**)
- While they were going up on the ascent to the city, they themselves found girls going out to draw water. So they said to them; Is the seer in this place? (**1 Samuel 9:11**)
- Then they answered them and said; He is. Look! He is ahead of you. Hurry now, because today he has come to the city, for there is a sacrifice today for the people on the **high place**. (**1 Samuel 9:12**)
- As soon as you men come into the city, you will directly find him before he goes up to the **high place** to eat, because the people may not eat until his coming, for he is the one that blesses the sacrifice. First after that those who are invited may eat. And now GO up, because him, just now you will find him. (**1 Samuel 9:13**)
- Then Samuel took Saul and his attendant and brought them to the dining hall and gave them a place at the head of those invited, and they were about thirty men. (**1 Samuel 9:22**)
- Later Samuel said to the cook; Do give the portion that I have given to you, of which I said to you, Put it away by you. (**1 Samuel 9:23**)
- At that the cook lifted off the leg and what was on it, and put it before Saul. And he went on to say; Here is what has been reserved. Put it before yourself. Eat, because to the appointed time they have reserved it for you that you may eat with those invited. So Saul ate with Samuel on that day. (**1 Samuel 9:24**)

- Subsequently they went down from the **high** place to the city, and he continued speaking with Saul on the housetop. (**1 Samuel 9:25**)
- It may also have been a practice for families to have a yearly sacrifice, not at the tabernacle, but in their own cities.
- If your father should miss me at all, then you must say; David earnestly asked leave of absence of me to run to Bethlehem his city, because there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family. (**1 Samuel 20:6**)
- And he went on to say; Send me away, please, because we have a family sacrifice in the city, and it was my own brother that commanded me. So now, if I have found favor in your eyes, let me slip away, please, that I may see my brothers. That is why he has not come to the king's table. (**1 Samuel 20:29**)
- The sacrificing on **high places** was excused on the ground that no house had been built to the name of Yehowah. Hence, Solomon had to sacrifice on the great **high place** at Gibeon, where the tabernacle was located at the time.
- Only the people were sacrificing on the **high places**, for a house had not been built to the name of Yehowah down to those days. (**1 Kings 3:2**)
- And Solomon continued to love Yehowah by walking in the statutes of David his father. Only it was on the **high places** that he was regularly sacrificing and making offerings smoke. (**1 Kings 3:3**)
- Accordingly the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great **high place**. A thousand burnt sacrifices Solomon proceeded to offer upon that altar. (**1 Kings 3:4**)
- Then he left there before the ark of the covenant of Yehowah Asaph and his brothers to minister before the Ark constantly, according to the requirement of each day. (**1 Chronicles 16:37**)
- And Obed-edom and his brothers, sixty-eight, and Obed-edom the son of Jeduthun and Hosah as gatekeepers. (**1 Chronicles 16:38**)

- And Zadok the priest and his brothers the priests before the tabernacle of Yehowah on the **high place** that was at Gibeon. (**1 Chronicles 16:39**)
- To offer up burnt offerings to Yehowah on the altar of burnt offering constantly morning and evening and for all that is written in the Law of Yehowah that he laid in command upon Israel. (**1 Chronicles 16:40**)
- And all the people proceeded to go each one to his own house. Accordingly David went around to bless his own house. (**1 Chronicles 16:43**)
- But the tabernacle of Yehowah that Moses had made in the wilderness and the altar of burnt offering were at that time on the **high place** at Gibeon. (**1 Chronicles 21:29**)
- Then Solomon and all the congregation with him went to the **high place** that was at Gibeon, for there was where the tent of meeting of the true God, which Moses the servant of Yehowah had made in the wilderness, happened to be. (**2 Chronicles 1:3**)
- So Solomon came from the **high place** that was at Gibeon, from before the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem and continued to reign over Israel. (**2 Chronicles 1:13**)

**See Also ALTAR**

**See Also OFFERINGS**

### ·· **Solomon's Reign And Ten-Tribe Kingdom**

- Toward the latter part of his reign, King Solomon built **high places** for the false gods worshiped by his foreign wives. This contributed to the Israelites abandoning the true worship of Yehowah and serving false gods.
- Therefore, Yehowah, by means of his prophet Ahijah, indicated that ten tribes would be ripped away from the son of Solomon and that Jeroboam would rule over these.
- It was then that Solomon proceeded to build a **high place** to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem, and to Molech the disgusting thing of the sons of Ammon. (**1 Kings 11:7**)

- **And that was the way he did for all his foreign wives who were making sacrificial smoke and sacrificing to their gods. (1 Kings 11:8)**
- **Ahijah now took hold of the new garment that was on him and ripped it into twelve pieces. (1 Kings 11:30)**
- **And he went on to say to Jeroboam; Take for yourself ten pieces, for this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Here I am ripping the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and I shall certainly give you ten tribes. (1 Kings 11:31)**
- **And the one tribe is what will continue his for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel. (1 Kings 11:32)**
- **The reason why is that they have left me and begun to bow down to Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, to Chemosh the god of Moab and to Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon, and they have not walked in my ways by doing what is right in my eyes and my statutes and my judicial decisions like David his father. (1 Kings 11:33)**
- **But I shall not take the entire kingdom out of his hand, because a chieftain I shall set him for all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes. (1 Kings 11:34)**
- **And I shall certainly take the kingship out of the hand of his son and give it to you, even ten tribes. (1 Kings 11:35)**
- **Although Jeroboam had Yehowah's assurance that his kingship would be secure if he continued serving God in faithfulness, as soon as he became king he feared that the Israelites would revolt if they continued going up to Jerusalem for worship. For this reason he instituted calf worship at Dan and Bethel and there built high places.**
- **And it must occur that, if you obey all that I shall command you, and you do walk in my ways and actually do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, just as David my servant did, I will also prove to be with you, and I will build you a lasting house, just as I have built for David, and I will give you Israel. (1 Kings 11:38)**

- **And Jeroboam began to say in his heart; Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. (1 Kings 12:26)**
- **If this people continues going up to render sacrifices in the house of Yehowah in Jerusalem, the heart of this people will also be bound to return to their lord, Rehoboam the king of Judah, and they will certainly kill me and return to Rehoboam the king of Judah. (1 Kings 12:27)**
- **Consequently the king took counsel and made two golden calves and said to the people; It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here is your God, O Israel, that brought you up out of the land of Egypt. (1 Kings 12:28)**
- **Then he placed the one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. (1 Kings 12:29)**
- **And this thing came to be a cause for sin, and the people began to go before the one as far as Dan. (1 Kings 12:30)**
- **And he began to make a house of **high** places and to make priests from the people in general, who did not happen to be of the sons of Levi. (1 Kings 12:31)**
- **And Jeroboam went on to make a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival that was in Judah, that he might make offerings upon the altar that he had made in Bethel, to sacrifice to the calves that he had made, and he put in attendance at Bethel the priests of the **high** places that he had made. (1 Kings 12:32)**
- **And he began to make offerings upon the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had invented by himself, and he proceeded to make a festival for the sons of Israel and to make offerings upon the altar to make sacrificial smoke. (1 Kings 12:33)**
- **As long as the ten-tribe kingdom existed, idolatrous worship continued at **high places**. The sons of Israel went searching into the things that were not right toward Yehowah their God and kept building themselves **high places** in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen clear to the fortified city.**

- And the sons of Israel went searching into the things that were not right toward Yehowah their God and kept building themselves **high places** in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen clear to the fortified city. (**2 Kings 17:9**)
- Under inspiration, the prophet Amos foretold that the **high places** of Isaac would become desolated. The **high places** of Isaac evidently refer to the sacred **high places** where the Israelites of the ten-tribe kingdom, descendants of Isaac through Jacob, or Israel, practiced apostate worship.
- This is also indicated by the fact that the expression, **high places** of Isaac, runs parallel with sanctuaries of Israel.
- And the **high places** of Isaac will certainly be laid desolate, and the sanctuaries themselves of Israel will be devastated, and I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with a sword. (**Amos 7:9**)
- Their heart has become hypocritical. Now they will be found guilty. There is one who will break their altars. He will despoil their pillars. (**Hosea 10:2**)
- For now they will say; We have no king, for we have not feared Yehowah. And as regards the king, what will he do for us? (**Hosea 10:3**)
- They speak words, making false oaths, concluding a covenant, and judgment has sprouted like a poisonous plant in the furrows of the open field. (**Hosea 10:4**)
- For the calf idol of Beth-aven the residents of Samaria will get frightened, for over it its people will certainly mourn, as well as its foreign-god priests who used to be joyful over it, on account of its glory, because it will have gone into exile away from it. (**Hosea 10:5**)
- Even if someone will bring to Assyria itself as a gift to a great king. Shame is what Ephraim himself will get, and Israel will be ashamed of its counsel. (**Hosea 10:6**)
- Samaria and her king will certainly be silenced, like a snapped-off twig on the surface of waters. (**Hosea 10:7**)



- And the **high places** of Beth-aven, the sin of Israel, will actually be annihilated. Thorns and thistles themselves will come up upon their altars. And people will in fact say to the mountains; Cover us! And to the hills; Fall over us! (**Hosea 10:8**)
- From the days of Gibeah you have sinned, O Israel. There they stood still. In Gibeah war against the sons of unrighteousness did not get to overtake them. (**Hosea 10:9**)
- When it is my craving I shall also discipline them. And against them peoples will certainly be gathered when there is a harnessing of them to their two errors. (**Hosea 10:10**)
- After the king of Assyria took the ten-tribe kingdom into exile, the **high places** continued to exist for a time, since the foreign peoples who were moved into the territory of Samaria by the king of Assyria continued employing the **high places** in their worship.
- Subsequently the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon and Cuthah and Avva and Hamath and Sepharvaim and had them dwell in the cities of Samaria instead of the sons of Israel, and they began to take possession of Samaria and to dwell in its cities. (**2 Kings 17:24**)
- However, each different nation came to be a maker of its own god, which they then deposited in the house of the **high places** that the Samaritans had made, each different nation, in their cities where they were dwelling. (**2 Kings 17:29**)
- And the men of Babylon, for their part, made Succoth-benoth, and the men of Cuth, for their part, made Nergal, and the men of Hamath, for their part, made Ashima. (**2 Kings 17:30**)
- As for the Avvites, they made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites were burning their sons in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech the gods of Sepharvaim. (**2 Kings 17:31**)
- And they came to be fearers of Yehowah and went making for themselves from the people in general priests of **high places**, and they came to be functionaries for them in the house of the high places. (**2 Kings 17:32**)

- About 100 years after this, faithful King Josiah of Judah pulled down the altar and the **high place** at Bethel and desecrated the altar by burning human bones upon it.
- He also removed all the houses of the high places in the cities of Samaria, sacrificed or killed all the priests of the **high places**, and burned human bones upon the altars.
- And also the altar that was in Bethel, the **high place** that Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin, had made, even that altar and the high place he pulled down. Then he burned the **high place**, he ground it to dust and burned the sacred pole. (2 Kings 23:15)
- When Josiah turned, he got to see the burial places that were there in the mountain. So he sent and took the bones from the burial places and burned them upon the altar, that he might make it unfit for worship, according to Yehowah's word that the man of the true God had proclaimed, who proclaimed these things. (2 Kings 23:16)
- Then he said; What is the gravestone over there that I am seeing? At this the men of the city said to him; It is the burial place of the man of the true God that came from Judah and proceeded to proclaim these things that you have done against the altar of Bethel. (2 Kings 23:17)
- So he said; Let him rest. Do not let anyone disturb his bones. Consequently they let his bones alone along with the bones of the prophet that had come from Samaria. (2 Kings 23:18)
- And also all the houses of the **high places** that were in the cities of Samaria that the kings of Israel had built to cause offense Josiah removed, and he went on to do to them according to all the doings that he had done at Bethel. (2 Kings 23:19)
- Accordingly he sacrificed all the priests of the **high places** that were there upon the altars and burned human bones upon them. After that he returned to Jerusalem. (2 Kings 23:20)
- This fulfilled a prophecy uttered over 300 years earlier by an unnamed, man of God.
- And here there was a man of God that had come out of Judah by

the word of Yehowah to Bethel, while Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make sacrificial smoke. (1 Kings 13:1)

- Then he called out against the altar by the word of Yehowah and said, O altar, altar, this is what Yehowah has said; Look! A son born to the house of David, whose name is Josiah! And he will certainly sacrifice upon you the priests of the **high** places that are making sacrificial smoke upon you, and men's bones he will burn upon you. (1 Kings 13:2)

## •• In The Kingdom Of Judah

- King Rehoboam followed the apostasy of his father Solomon, and his subjects continued building **high** places and practicing licentious rites.

- As for Rehoboam the son of Solomon, he had become king in Judah. Forty-one years old Rehoboam was when he began to reign, and seventeen years he reigned in Jerusalem, the city that Yehowah had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah the Ammonitess. (1 Kings 14:21)

- And Judah went on doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, so that they incited him to jealousy more than all that their forefathers had done by their sins with which they sinned. (1 Kings 14:22)

- And they too kept building for themselves **high** places and sacred pillars and sacred poles upon every high hill and under every luxuriant tree. (1 Kings 14:23)

- And even the male temple prostitute proved to be in the land. They acted according to all the detestable things of the nations whom Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (1 Kings 14:24)

- Rehoboam's son and successor Abijam went on walking in all the sins of his father.

- And in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah. (1 Kings 15:1)

- Three years he reigned in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was

Maacah the granddaughter of Abishalom. (1 Kings 15:2)

- And he went on walking in all the sins of his father that he did prior to him, and his heart did not prove to be complete with Yehowah his God, like the heart of David his forefather. (1 Kings 15:3)
- Asa, who succeeded Abijam to the throne, served Yehowah in faithfulness and put forth decisive efforts to rid the kingdom of all appendages of false worship.
- And Asa proceeded to do what was right in the eyes of Yehowah, like David his forefather. (1 Kings 15:11)
- Accordingly he had the male temple prostitutes pass out of the land and removed all the dungy idols that his forefathers had made. (1 Kings 15:12)
- As for even Maacah his grandmother, he went on to remove her from being lady, because she had made a horrible idol to the sacred pole, after which Asa cut down her horrible idol and burned it at the torrent valley of Kidron. (1 Kings 15:13)
- He removed from all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense stands.
- And Asa proceeded to do what was good and right in the eyes of Yehowah his God. (2 Chronicles 14:2)
- So he removed the foreign altars and the high places and broke up the sacred pillars and cut down the sacred poles. (2 Chronicles 14:3)
- Further, he said to Judah to search for Yehowah the God of their forefathers and to do the Law and the commandment. (2 Chronicles 14:4)
- Accordingly he removed from all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense stands, and the kingdom continued without disturbance before him. (2 Chronicles 14:5)
- However,
- And the high places he did not remove. Nevertheless, Asa's heart

itself proved to be complete with Yehowah all his days. (**1 Kings 15:14**)

- And the **high places** themselves did not disappear from Israel. Only Asa's heart itself proved to be complete all his days. (**2 Chronicles 15:17**)
- Apparently indicate that the **high places** were not removed. It may be that, although Asa removed the high **places** for worship of false gods, he left those at which the people worshiped Yehowah.
- Or, perhaps, high places cropped up again toward the end of his reign and were thereby present for his successor Jehoshaphat to destroy. But even during Jehoshaphat's reign the **high places** did not fully disappear.
- Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he began to reign, and for twenty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. (**1 Kings 22:42**)
- And he kept walking in all the way of Asa his father. He did not turn aside from it, by doing what was right in the eyes of Yehowah. Only the **high places** themselves did not disappear. The people were still sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the **high places**. (**1 Kings 22:43**)
- And Yehowah kept the kingdom firmly established in his hand, and all Judah continued to give presents to Jehoshaphat, and he came to have riches and glory in abundance. (**2 Chronicles 17:5**)
- And his heart became bold in the ways of Yehowah, and he even removed the **high places** and the sacred poles from Judah. (**2 Chronicles 17:6**)
- And Jehoshaphat went on reigning over Judah. Thirty-five years old he was when he began to reign, and for twenty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. (**2 Chronicles 20:31**)
- And he kept walking in the way of his father Asa, and he did not turn aside from it, by doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes. (**2 Chronicles 20:32**)

- Only the **high places** themselves did not disappear, and the people themselves had not yet prepared their heart for the God of their forefathers. (**2 Chronicles 20:33**)
- So entrenched was Judah's worship at **high places** that the reforms of both Asa and Jehoshaphat could not remove all of them permanently.
- King Jehoram, unlike his father Jehoshaphat, made **high places** on the mountains of Judah.
- Finally Jehoshaphat lay down with his forefathers and was buried with his forefathers in the City of David, and Jehoram his son began to reign in place of him. (**2 Chronicles 21:1**)
- He himself also had made **high places** on the mountains of Judah, that he might cause the inhabitants of Jerusalem to have immoral intercourse, and that he might drive Judah away. (**2 Chronicles 21:11**)
- The religious state of the kingdom remained in a degraded condition throughout the reigns of Ahaziah and the usurper Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.
- In the twelfth year of Jehoram the son of Ahab the king of Israel, Ahaziah the son of Jehoram the king of Judah became king. (**2 Kings 8:25**)
- Twenty-two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and for one year he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri the king of Israel. (**2 Kings 8:26**)
- And he went walking in the way of the house of Ahab and kept doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, like the house of Ahab, for he was a relative of the house of Ahab by marriage. (**2 Kings 8:27**)
- Twenty-two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and for one year he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri. (**2 Chronicles 22:2**)
- He himself also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother herself became his counselor in doing wickedly. (**2**

### **Chronicles 22:3)**

- **And he went on doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, the same as the house of Ahab, for they themselves became counselors to him after the death of his father, to his ruination. (2 Chronicles 22:4)**
- **As regards Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah, she saw that her son had died. So she rose up and destroyed all the royal offspring of the house of Judah. (2 Chronicles 22:10)**
- **Although definite reforms to restore true worship were undertaken at the beginning of Jehoash's reign, apostasy set in once again after the death of High Priest Jehoiada, and the high places did not disappear.**
- **And Jehoash continued doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes all the days of his that Jehoiada the priest instructed him. (2 Kings 12:2)**
- **It was only the high places that did not disappear. The people were still sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the high places. (2 Kings 12:3)**
- **And after Jehoiada's death the princes of Judah came in and proceeded to bow down to the king. At that time the king listened to them. (2 Chronicles 24:17)**
- **And gradually they left the house of Yehowah the God of their forefathers and began serving the sacred poles and the idols, so that there came to be indignation against Judah and Jerusalem because of this guilt of theirs. (2 Chronicles 24:18)**
- **The high places continued to exist as centers of unlawful worship throughout the reigns of Kings Amaziah, Azariah or Uzziah, and Jotham.**
- **In the second year of Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz the king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Jehoash the king of Judah became king. (2 Kings 14:1)**
- **Twenty-five years old he happened to be when he began to reign, and for twenty-nine years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddin of Jerusalem. (2 Kings 14:2)**

- **And he continued to do what was upright in Yehowah's eyes, only not like David his forefather. According to all that Jehoash his father had done, he did. (2 Kings 14:3)**
- **It was only the **high places** that did not disappear. The people were still sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the high places. (2 Kings 14:4)**
- **In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam the king of Israel, Azariah the son of Amaziah the king of Judah became king. (2 Kings 15:1)**
- **Sixteen years old he happened to be when he began to reign, and for fifty-two years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. (2 Kings 15:2)**
- **And he continued to do what was upright in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that Amaziah his father had done. (2 Kings 15:3)**
- **It was only that the **high places** did not disappear. The people were still sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the high places. (2 Kings 15:4)**
- **In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah the king of Judah became king. (2 Kings 15:32)**
- **Twenty-five years old he happened to be when he began to reign, and for sixteen years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok. (2 Kings 15:33)**
- **And he continued to do what was right in Yehowah's eyes. According to all that Uzziah his father had done, he did. (2 Kings 15:34)**
- **It was only that the **high places** did not disappear. The people were still sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the high places. He it was that built the upper gate of the house of Yehowah. (2 Kings 15:35)**
- **The next Judean king, Ahaz, not only sacrificed and made sacrificial smoke on the **high places** but even made his own son pass through the fire.**



- **Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and for sixteen years he reigned in Jerusalem, and he did not do what was right in the eyes of Yehowah his God like David his forefather. (2 Kings 16:2)**
- **And he went walking in the way of the kings of Israel, and even his own son he made pass through the fire, according to the detestable things of the nations whom Yehowah drove out because of the sons of Israel. (2 Kings 16:3)**
- **And he kept sacrificing and making sacrificial smoke on the **high places** and upon the hills and under every luxuriant tree. (2 Kings 16:4)**
- **He also made additional **high places** for making sacrificial smoke to other gods.**
- **And in all cities, even the cities of Judah, he made **high places** for making sacrificial smoke to other gods, so that he offended Yehowah the God of his forefathers. (2 Chronicles 28:25)**
- **During the days of King Hezekiah, another extensive purge was undertaken to remove the **high places**.**
- **And it came about in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah the king of Israel that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz the king of Judah became king. (2 Kings 18:1)**
- **Twenty-five years old he happened to be when he began to reign, and for twenty-nine years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. (2 Kings 18:2)**
- **And he continued to do what was right in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that David his forefather had done. (2 Kings 18:3)**
- **He it was that removed the **high places** and broke the sacred pillars to pieces and cut down the sacred pole and crushed to pieces the copper serpent that Moses had made, for down to those days the sons of Israel had continually been making sacrificial smoke to it, and it used to be called the copper serpent-idol. (2 Kings 18:4)**

- And in case you men should say to me; It is Yehowah our God in whom we have put our trust, is he not the one whose **high places** and whose altars Hezekiah has removed, while he says to Judah and Jerusalem; Before this altar you should bow down in Jerusalem? (**2 Kings 18:22**)
- Is it not Hezekiah himself that removed his **high places** and his altars and then said to Judah and to Jerusalem; Before one altar you should bow and upon it you should make sacrificial smoke? (**2 Chronicles 32:12**)
- After the great Passover celebration held during his reign, the Israelites went throughout the cities of Judah and Benjamin and even in Ephraim and Manasseh breaking up the sacred pillars, cutting down the sacred poles, and pulling down the **high places** and the altars.
- So the sons of Israel that were found in Jerusalem held the festival of the unfermented cakes seven days with great rejoicing, and the Levites and the priests were offering praise to Yehowah day by day with loud instruments, even to Yehowah. (**2 Chronicles 30:21**)
- Then all the congregation decided to hold it for seven more days, and so they held it for seven days with rejoicing. (**2 Chronicles 30:23**)
- And as soon as they finished all this, all the Israelites that were found there went out to the cities of Judah, and they proceeded to break up the sacred pillars and cut down the sacred poles and pull down the **high places** and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh until they had finished, after which all the sons of Israel returned to their cities, each one to his own possession. (**2 Chronicles 31:1**)
- This restoration of true worship was short lived. Hezekiah's son Manasseh rebuilt the very **high places** that his father had destroyed.
- Twelve years old was Manasseh when he began to reign, and for fifty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah. (**2 Kings 21:1**)
- And he proceeded to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (**2 Kings 21:2**)

- So he built again the **high places** that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and set up altars to Baal and made a sacred pole, just as Ahab the king of Israel had done, and he began to bow down to all the army of the heavens and to serve them. (2 Kings 21:3)
- Twelve years old was Manasseh when he began to reign, and for fifty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 33:1)
- And he proceeded to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (2 Chronicles 33:2)
- So he built again the **high places** that Hezekiah his father had pulled down, and set up altars to the Baals and made sacred poles, and he began to bow down to all the army of the heavens and serve them. (2 Chronicles 33:3)
- **Manasseh caused the people to act even more wickedly than the pagan Canaanites whom Yehowah had annihilated. Hence, the Almighty determined to bring calamity upon Judah and Jerusalem.**
- And they did not listen, but Manasseh kept seducing them to do what was bad more than the nations whom Yehowah had annihilated from before the sons of Israel. (2 Kings 21:9)
- And Yehowah kept speaking by means of his servants the prophets, saying; (2 Kings 21:10)
- For the reason that Manasseh the king of Judah has done these detestable things, he has acted more wickedly than all that the Amorites did that were prior to him, and he proceeded to make even Judah sin with his dungy idols. (2 Kings 21:11)
- That is why this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Here I am bringing a calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, of which if anyone hears both his ears will tingle. (2 Kings 21:12)
- **After being taken captive by the king of Assyria and brought to Babylon, Manasseh repented. Upon returning to Jerusalem, he took steps to remove the appendages of false worship. But the people continued offering sacrifices upon the unauthorized **high places**, not to false gods, however, but to Yehowah.**

- **And Yehowah kept speaking to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. (2 Chronicles 33:10)**
- **Finally Yehowah brought against them the chiefs of the army that belonged to the king of Assyria, and so they captured Manasseh in the hollows and bound him with two fetters of copper and took him to Babylon. (2 Chronicles 33:11)**
- **And as soon as it caused him distress, he softened the face of Yehowah his God and kept humbling himself greatly because of the God of his forefathers. (2 Chronicles 33:12)**
- **And he kept praying to Him, so that He let himself be entreated by him and He heard his request for favor and restored him to Jerusalem to his kingship, and Manasseh came to know that Yehowah is the true God. (2 Chronicles 33:13)**
- **And after this he built an outer wall for the City of David to the west of Gihon in the torrent valley and as far as the Fish Gate, and he ran it around to Ophel and proceeded to make it very high. Further, he put chiefs of the military force in all the fortified cities in Judah. (2 Chronicles 33:14)**
- **And he proceeded to remove the foreign gods and the idol image from the house of Yehowah and all the altars that he had built in the mountain of the house of Yehowah and in Jerusalem and then had them thrown outside the city. (2 Chronicles 33:15)**
- **Moreover, he prepared the altar of Yehowah and began to sacrifice upon it communion sacrifices and thanksgiving sacrifices and went on to say to Judah to serve Yehowah the God of Israel. (2 Chronicles 33:16)**
- **Nevertheless, the people were still sacrificing upon the **high places**, only it was to Yehowah their God. (2 Chronicles 33:17)**
- **Manasseh's successor, his son Amon, did not continue the reforms started by his father but made guiltiness increase.**
- **Twenty-two years old was Amon when he began to reign, and for two years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 33:21)**
- **And he proceeded to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, just as Manasseh his father had done, and to all the graven images that**

- Manasseh his father had made Amon sacrificed, and he continued serving them. (2 Chronicles 33:22)
- And he did not humble himself because of Yehowah the same as Manasseh his father humbled himself, for Amon was one that made guiltiness increase. (2 Chronicles 33:23)
  - Finally his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his own house. (2 Chronicles 33:24)
  - Josiah, who succeeded Amon, distinguished himself by doing what was right in Yehowah's eyes and adhering to the Law of Moses. He put out of business the foreign-god priests, who rendered up sacrificial smoke on the high places.
  - He pulled down the high places not only throughout Judah but also in the cities of Samaria. The sites used for false worship were desecrated so that they could not be used to offend Yehowah.
  - And the king went on to command Hilkiah the High Priest and the priests of the second rank and the doorkeepers to bring out from the temple of Yehowah all the utensils made for Baal and for the sacred pole and for all the army of the heavens. Then he burned them outside Jerusalem on the terraces of Kidron, and he brought the dust of them to Bethel. (2 Kings 23:4)
  - And he put out of business the foreign-god priests, whom the kings of Judah had put in that they might make sacrificial smoke on the high places in the cities of Judah and the surroundings of Jerusalem, and also those making sacrificial smoke to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations of the zodiac and to all the army of the heavens. (2 Kings 23:5)
  - Furthermore, he brought out the sacred pole from the house of Yehowah to the outskirts of Jerusalem, to the torrent valley of Kidron, and burned it in the torrent valley of Kidron and ground it to dust and cast its dust upon the burial place of the sons of the people. (2 Kings 23:6)
  - Further, he pulled down the houses of the male temple prostitutes that were in the house of Yehowah, where the women were weaving tent shrines for the sacred pole. (2 Kings 23:7)

- Then he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, that he might make unfit for worship the **high places** where the priests had made sacrificial smoke, from Geba as far as Beer-sheba, and he pulled down the **high places** of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua, the chief of the city, which was at the left as a person came into the gate of the city. (2 Kings 23:8)
- Only the priests of the **high** places would not come up to the altar of Yehowah in Jerusalem, but they ate unfermented cakes in among their brothers. (2 Kings 23:9)
- And he made unfit for worship Topheth, which is in the valley of the sons of Hinnom, that no one might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. (2 Kings 23:10)
- Further, he caused the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun to cease from entering the house of Yehowah by the dining room of Nathan-melech the court official, which was in the porticoes, and the chariots of the sun he burned in the fire. (2 Kings 23:11)
- And the altars that were upon the roof of the roof chamber of Ahaz that the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in two courtyards of the house of Yehowah, the king pulled down, after which he crushed them there, and he cast their dust into the torrent valley of Kidron. (2 Kings 23:12)
- And the **high places** that were in front of Jerusalem, that were to the right of the Mount of Ruination, that Solomon the king of Israel had built to Ashtoreth the disgusting thing of the Sidonians and to Chemosh the disgusting thing of Moab and to Milcom the detestable thing of the sons of Ammon, the king made unfit for worship. (2 Kings 23:13)
- And he broke the sacred pillars to pieces and went on to cut down the sacred poles and to fill their places with human bones. (2 Kings 23:14)
- And also the altar that was in Bethel, the **high place** that Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin, had made, even that altar and the **high place** he pulled down. Then he burned the **high place**, he ground it to dust and burned the sacred pole. (2 Kings 23:15)

- When Josiah turned, he got to see the burial places that were there in the mountain. So he sent and took the bones from the burial places and burned them upon the altar, that he might make it unfit for worship, according to Yehowah's word that the man of the true God had proclaimed, who proclaimed these things. ([2 Kings 23:16](#))
- Then he said; What is the gravestone over there that I am seeing? At this the men of the city said to him; It is the burial place of the man of the true God that came from Judah and proceeded to proclaim these things that you have done against the altar of Bethel. ([2 Kings 23:17](#))
- So he said; Let him rest. Do not let anyone disturb his bones. Consequently they let his bones alone along with the bones of the prophet that had come from Samaria. ([2 Kings 23:18](#))
- And also all the houses of the **high places** that were in the cities of Samaria that the kings of Israel had built to cause offense Josiah removed, and he went on to do to them according to all the doings that he had done at Bethel. ([2 Kings 23:19](#))
- Accordingly he sacrificed all the priests of the **high places** that were there upon the altars and burned human bones upon them. After that he returned to Jerusalem. ([2 Kings 23:20](#))
- Eight years old was Josiah when he began to reign, and for thirty-one years he reigned in Jerusalem. ([2 Chronicles 34:1](#))
- And he proceeded to do what was right in Yehowah's eyes and walk in the ways of David his forefather, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left. ([2 Chronicles 34:2](#))
- And in the eighth year of his reigning, while he was still a boy, he started to search for the God of David his forefather, and in the twelfth year he started to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem from the **high places** and the sacred poles and the graven images and the molten statues. ([2 Chronicles 34:3](#))
- Further, they pulled down before him the altars of the Baals, and the incense stands that were up above he cut down from off them, and the sacred poles and the graven images and the molten statues he broke in pieces and reduced to powder, and then sprinkled it upon the surface of the burial places of those

- that used to sacrifice to them. (2 Chronicles 34:4)
- And the bones of priests he burned upon their altars. Thus he cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 34:5)
  - Also, in the cities of Manasseh and Ephraim and Simeon and clear to Naphtali, in their devastated places all around. (2 Chronicles 34:6)
  - He even went pulling down the altars and the sacred poles, and the graven images he crushed and reduced to powder, and all the incense stands he cut down in all the land of Israel, after which he returned to Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 34:7)
  - The account of Josiah's making the **high places** that had been built by Solomon unfit for worship tends to confirm the conclusion that, although previous kings had torn down the **high places**, there was a revival of these. It seems only logical that faithful Kings Asa and Jehoshaphat had torn down these **high places** of false worship that dated from the reign of Solomon.
  - Although no further mention is made of **high places** in the Kings and Chronicles accounts after Josiah's thorough purge of all vestiges of false worship, the last four kings of Judah, namely, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah, are reported as doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes.
  - Twenty-three years old was Jehoahaz when he began to reign, and for three months he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. (2 Kings 23:31)
  - And he began to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that forefathers of his had done. (2 Kings 23:32)
  - Twenty-five years old was Jehoiakim when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zebidah the daughter of Pedaiah from Rumah. (2 Kings 23:36)
  - And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that forefathers of his had done. (2 Kings 23:37)
  - Eighteen years old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign, and



- for three months he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 24:8**)
- And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that his father had done. (**2 Kings 24:9**)
  - Twenty-one years old was Zedekiah when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. (**2 Kings 24:18**)
  - And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. (**2 Kings 24:19**)
  - **Apostate worship at high places was resumed by the Israelites. Hence, Yehowah, through his prophet Ezekiel, warned the nation of the dire consequences to come upon them.**
  - And you must say; O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said to the mountains and to the hills, to the streambeds and to the valleys; Here I am! I am bringing upon you a sword, and I shall certainly destroy your **high places**. (**Ezekiel 6:3**)
  - And your altars must be made desolate and your incense stands must be broken, and I will cause your slain ones to fall before your dungy idols. (**Ezekiel 6:4**)
  - **It is noteworthy that there is no record of any worship at high places after the return from Babylonian exile. As had been foretold, the faithful Jewish remnant had profited from the bitter experience and had come to know Yehowah.**
  - And your escaped ones will certainly remember me among the nations to which they will have been taken captive, because I have been broken up at their fornicating heart that has turned aside from me and at their eyes that are going in fornication after their dungy idols, and they will certainly feel a loathing in their faces at the bad things that they have done in all their detestable things. (**Ezekiel 6:9**)
  - And they will have to know that I am Yehowah, not in vain did I

**Speak about doing to them this calamitous thing. (Ezekiel 6:10)**