

Ezekiel Ch 6 • “O Mountains of Israel”

- Background* Ezekiel 6 continues a section of the book that consists of prophecies of the fall of Judah. This section began at Ch 3v22 and continues through Ch 7.
- 6v1 Interesting audience: mountains. Note there's not as much symbolic action as in the previous section, but “set your face” MIGHT be a literal instruction and not a reference to attitude.
- 6v2 Mountains could refer to the entire land of Israel, Jerusalem specifically (“city on a hill”), or pagan altars located in “high places.” Reference appears 16x in Ezekiel and probably refers to all of above.
- 6v3 We associate idol worship w “high places” but worship to some gods eg Molech also tended to happen in valleys (eg Hinnom). See Jer 7:31; 19:2-6.
- 6v4-7 Idol worship not a new problem — see Numbers 33. Most recent attempt to address was c. 621^{BC} under Josiah. Significant to note that over time “high places” became not only worship of foreign gods but worship of the God of Israel co-mingled with worship of foreign gods. This pollution of Israel's worship was especially offensive to God — see His comments re Laodicea in Revelation 3. Consider also versions of this “adulterated worship” in the church today! And note that God's judgment here was not against the pagan idol worshippers but against God's people who brought false worship into the house of the Lord.
- The degree of God's wrath seen (v7) in the defilement of the land (unburied bodies; bones). God defiling the land the way people had defiled themselves and their worship.
- 6v8-10 God of judgment also a God of mercy. God will preserve a remnant who will remember His judgment and also remember the reason for His judgment (spiritual adultery). Important: notice God's tone — HIS heart is “crushed” (broken). Consider: how do we read God's voice in passages like this?
- 6v11-14 “Diblah” likely copyist error – probably should be “Riblah” (city on northern edge of Israel in Hamath region (cf Amos 6:14). Note: Ezekiel is not rejoicing but grieving (“alas”). Also note the point of the judgment (v14) – that God's people would know He is God.
- Application* Do WE look at God's judgment on Calvary and know that HE is God? Does knowing He is God convince us to tear down our high places?