

Ezekiel 16:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thou hast also built unto thee an eminent place, and hast made thee an high place in every street.

Analysis

Thou hast also built unto thee an eminent place—The Hebrew gavh (גַּב, eminent place) likely refers to elevated cultic platforms or shrines, possibly related to Akkadian gabu (summit). The phrase **high place** (ramah, רָמָה) typically denotes pagan worship sites, but here describes Jerusalem's systematic construction of idolatrous infrastructure **in every street**.

The spiritual adultery metaphor becomes architectural: Jerusalem didn't passively drift into idolatry but actively built monuments to betrayal. Like the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:4), humanity's religious impulse apart from revelation constructs counterfeit worship. Paul warns that without the Spirit, religious zeal produces 'will-worship' (Colossians 2:23)—self-made religion that honors man, not God. Jerusalem's streets advertised spiritual prostitution publicly, shamelessly.

Historical Context

Archaeological evidence from Iron Age II Judah (8th-6th centuries BC) reveals numerous 'high places' (bamot)—open-air cultic sites often featuring standing stones, altars, and Asherah poles. Despite Hezekiah's and Josiah's reforms (2 Kings 18:4, 23:5-20), local shrines proliferated. Jeremiah witnessed similar corruption (Jeremiah 7:31, 19:5).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What 'high places' have you constructed in your heart—areas where self-made religion replaces Spirit-led obedience?
2. How does public, unashamed sin differ in culpability from private struggle with temptation?

Interlinear Text

וַתִּבְנֵי	לָךְ	בְּ	וַתַּעֲשִׂי	לָךְ
That thou hast also built	H0	unto thee an eminent place	and hast made	H0
H1129		H1354	H6213	
רָמָה	בְּכֹל	רְחוֹב:		
thee an high place	H3605	in every street		
H7413		H7339		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 57:7 (Parallel theme): Upon a lofty and high mountain hast thou set thy bed: even thither wentest thou up to offer sacrifice.

Psalms 78:58 (Parallel theme): For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.

Jeremiah 2:20 (Parallel theme): For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot.

Ezekiel 16:31 (Parallel theme): In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire;

Ezekiel 16:39 (Parallel theme): And I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall throw down thine eminent place, and shall break down thy high places: they shall strip thee also of thy clothes, and shall take thy fair jewels, and leave thee naked and bare.

Jeremiah 3:2 (Parallel theme): Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.

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