

Ezekiel 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither hath defiled his neighbour's wife, neither hath come near to a menstruous woman,

Analysis

'And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel.' The righteous person avoids idolatrous worship. 'Eaten upon the mountains' refers to participating in sacrificial meals at high places—pagan worship sites. 'Lifted up his eyes to idols' indicates devotion or worship. The phrase also mentions sexual purity: 'neither hath defiled his neighbour's wife, neither hath come near to a menstruous woman'—respecting God's sexual boundaries and ceremonial law.

Historical Context

High places were Canaanite worship sites where Israelites syncretistically worshiped Yahweh alongside Baal and Asherah. Archaeological excavations confirm widespread high place worship in pre-exilic Israel. Sexual purity laws (Leviticus 18, 20) distinguished Israel from surrounding fertility cults where ritual prostitution was common.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What are modern 'high places'—respectable settings where we compromise spiritual faithfulness?
2. How does our culture's sexual ethic contradict the biblical standard outlined here?

Interlinear Text

אֵל	הַהָרִים	לֹא	אָכַל	לֹא	עֵינָיו	
H413	upon the mountains	H3808	And hath not eaten	H398	his eyes	H5869
	H2022					
נֶשֶׂא	אֵל	גְּלוּלֵי יָדָיו	בְּיַת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְאֵת	אִשָּׁהּ
neither hath lifted up	H413	to the idols	of the house	of Israel	H853	wife
H5375		H1544	H1004	H3478		H802
רֵעֵהוּ	לֹא	טִמְּא	וְאֵל	אִשָּׁהּ	נָדָה	לֹא
his neighbour's	H3808	neither hath defiled	H413	wife	to a menstruous	H3808
H7453		H2930		H802	H5079	
יִקְרָב:						
neither hath come near						
H7126						

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 18:15 (References Israel): That hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, hath not defiled his neighbour's wife,

Deuteronomy 4:19 (Parallel theme): And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of

heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

Ezekiel 6:13 (Parallel theme): Then shall ye know that I am the LORD, when their slain men shall be among their idols round about their altars, upon every high hill, in all the tops of the mountains, and under every green tree, and under every thick oak, the place where they did offer sweet savour to all their idols.

Ezekiel 20:24 (Parallel theme): Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols.

Leviticus 20:10 (Parallel theme): And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Leviticus 20:18 (Parallel theme): And if a man shall lie with a woman having her sickness, and shall uncover her nakedness; he hath discovered her fountain, and she hath uncovered the fountain of her blood: and both of them shall be cut off from among their people.

Numbers 25:2 (Parallel theme): And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.