

Ezekiel 20:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then I said unto them, What is the high place whereunto ye go? And the name thereof is called Bamah unto this day.

Analysis

'Then I said unto them, What is the high place whereunto ye go? And the name whereof is called Bamah unto this day.' God's question about the high places ('bamah') is rhetorical—exposing their folly. The wordplay on 'bamah' (high place) emphasizes the absurdity. These forbidden worship sites persisted 'unto this day' (Ezekiel's time, ~591 BC), showing centuries of persistent high place worship despite prophetic condemnation.

Historical Context

High place worship plagued Israel throughout the monarchy. Even faithful kings like Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, and Amaziah failed to remove high places (1 Kings 15:14, 22:43; 2 Kings 12:3, 14:4). Only Hezekiah and Josiah removed them temporarily (2 Kings 18:4, 23:8), but they returned. This persistent syncretism contributed to exile.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What 'high places' (respectable but spiritually compromising practices) persist in church history and our lives?
2. Why is compromise in worship so attractive and persistent despite its offensiveness to God?

Interlinear Text

רַאֲמָם	מִן	אֶלְבָּם	מִן	בְּבָתָם	הַ	אֲשֶׁר	מִן	אֶלְבָּם
Then I said	H413		H4100	unto them	What is the high place	H1116	H834	H859
	H559							
וְמֵלֵךְ	אֶלְבָּם	שֶׁמֶת	בְּבָאֵם	שְׁמַה	הַ	עַד	בְּתָם	הַ
whereunto ye go	H8033	thereof is called	H7121	And the name	Bamah	H5704	H1117	
	H935							
וְמִמֶּלֶךְ	בְּזַהַה							
unto this day	H2088							
	H3117							

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