

# Ezekiel 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys; Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.

## Analysis

**And say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD; Thus saith the Lord GOD to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys; Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places.** God addresses all topography—mountains, hills, rivers, valleys—comprehensively covering the entire land. The emphatic "I, even I" (hineni ani, הִנֵּנִי אֲנִי) stresses divine agency; God Himself brings the sword and destroys the high places (bamot, בָּמוֹת). These elevated worship sites, meant for Yahweh alone, became centers of idolatrous syncretism combining worship of God with Baal, Asherah, and other Canaanite deities. God's jealousy demands their complete destruction—He shares glory with no rival (Exodus 20:5; Isaiah 42:8).

## Historical Context

High places persisted throughout Israel's monarchy despite periodic reforms. Hezekiah destroyed them (2 Kings 18:4), but Manasseh rebuilt them (2 Kings 21:3). Josiah demolished them again (2 Kings 23:5-20), yet they reappeared. Archaeological evidence confirms extensive high place network across Israel's hill country. These sites' destruction during Babylonian conquest (586 BC) finally ended the practice—post-exilic Judaism centralized worship in Jerusalem's rebuilt temple, eliminating high places permanently.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What modern 'high places' (substitutes for pure worship) does God call us to destroy in our lives?
2. How does God's emphatic 'I, even I' challenge us to recognize His direct involvement in historical events?
3. Why does God's jealousy demand exclusive worship without syncretistic compromise?

## Interlinear Text

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כֹּה ! הוֹה אֲדָנִי יְדֹבֵר שְׁמַע וְיִשְׁכְּא ל לְהָרִים אֲמַר  
**And say Ye mountains of Israel hear the word of the Lord GOD** H3541  
H559 H2022 H3478 H8085 H1697 H136 H3069

לְאֶפְיֵק יִם וְלִגְבֹּעַ וְהוֹה אֲדָנִי יְדֹבֵר לְהָרִים אֲמַר  
**And say of the Lord GOD Ye mountains and to the hills to the rivers**  
H559 H136 H3069 H2022 H1389 H650

חֶרֶב עָלֵיכֶם מִבַּיָּא אֲנִי הִנֵּנִי וְלִגְיָא וְהוֹה אֲדָנִי יְדֹבֵר  
**and to the valleys Behold I even I will bring a sword**  
H1516 H2009 H589 H935 H5921 H2719

וְאֲבִדְתִּי וְבִמְוֹתֵיכֶם  
**upon you and I will destroy your high places**  
H6 H1116

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 26:30** (Parallel theme): And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcases upon the carcases of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

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