

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

### Part 349 – Set Thy Face Toward The Mountains Through Desolation (Ezekiel 6:1-14)

#### 1. What mountains was Ezekiel prophesying against?

He was prophesying against the mountains of Israel: *“(1) And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (2) Son of man, set thy face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them” (Ezekiel 6:1-2).*

- Don't get lost in the personification of the mountains. This is not something new in the Scriptures (**Psalms 114:1-7**, **Psalms 148**, **Isaiah 44:23**, etc.). Look to the points of the context and not the figures used to make them.
- Later, Ezekiel will speak to the mountains of hope (**Ezekiel 36:1-15**).
- Set they face towards... (**Ezekiel 4:7**, **Ezekiel 20:46**, and **Ezekiel 21:2**).
- This image of the mountains being spoken towards is similar to them standing as a witness of what God said (**Amos 6:1-2**).
- As we will address in the next question, the mountains were a place of idolatry for Israel (**Isaiah 65:7** and **Jeremiah 3:23**).

#### 2. What was the point in speaking towards the mountains?

To teach that the idols in those mountains and the people practicing such errors would soon be destroyed in those mountains: *“(3) 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. (4) And your altars shall be desolate, and your images shall be broken: and I will cast down your slain men before your idols. (5) And I will lay the dead carcasses of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars. (6) In all your dwellingplaces the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate; that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and cease, and your images may be cut down, and your works may be abolished. (7) And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 6:1-7).*

- High places and idolatry were historically practiced in the hills, valley, mountains, etc. (**I Kings 14:23**, **II Chronicles 21:11**, etc.).
- God will have them destroyed (**Leviticus 26:27-32**).
- Why? Again (noted in notes on verse one): *“Prophesy therefore concerning the land of Israel, and say unto the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen” (Ezekiel 36:6).*
- Like the days of Josiah, God intended to destroy the altars and slay the idolaters before those idols (**II Kings 23:8-20**). Consider **Jeremiah 8:1-2**
- They are facing these punishments because they didn't rid themselves of idolatry (**Ezekiel 20:8**).

- For the sake of our learning, consider how the people that brought idolatry needed purged as well as the idols themselves (**John 2:13-17**, **Romans 16:17-18**, and **I Corinthians 5:1-8**).
- Wastelands (**Jeremiah 2:15**; **9:11**; **10:22**).
- Their idols would not help them (**Habakkuk 2:18**).
- The slain in their midst (**Jeremiah 14:18**).
- The phrase: “ye shall know that I am the LORD” appears 25 times in the KJV translation of the Old Testament. Most (22) of those times are in the book of Ezekiel (**Ezekiel 6:7**; **7:4**; **7:9**; **11:10**; **11:12**; **12:20**; **13:9**; **13:14**; **13:21**; **13:23**; **14:8**; **15:7**; **20:38**; **20:42**; **20:44**; **23:49**; **24:24**; **25:5**; **35:9**; **36:11**; **37:6**; **37:13**). The other three are: **Exodus 6:7**; **16:12** and **I Kings 20:28**

3. What was God going to leave?

A remnant: *“Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries”* (**Ezekiel 6:8**).

- A remnant (**II Kings 19:30-31**, **Isaiah 1:9**, **Isaiah 10:20-22**, **Isaiah 37:31**, **Jeremiah 23:3**, **Ezekiel 14:22-23**, and **Romans 11:1-5**).

4. How did God feel about the whorish heart and actions of His people?

He was broken: *“And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations”* (**Ezekiel 6:9**).

- Remnant remembering (**Daniel 9:1-3** and **Zechariah 10:9**).
- The Lord was “BROKEN” [break down in pieces; destroyed; hurt; torn; crush] with their whorish heart (**Genesis 6:6**, **Psalms 78:40**, **Psalms 95:9-10**, **Isaiah 63:10**, **Ezekiel 16:43**, and **Luke 19:41-44**).
- Today, Christians sinning is equal to crucifying Christ again or walking all over Him (**Hebrews 6:4-6**; **10:26-29**).
- Whorish (**Isaiah 1:21**, **Jeremiah 3:6-14**, **Ezekiel 16:1-35**, and **Ezekiel 23:1-49**).
- They shall lothe themselves at some point (**Ezekiel 36:31-32**; cf. **Job 42:1-6**).

5. How was God going to prove that His threats were not empty?

By the ways of death the the ultimate desolation He brought on the erring: *“(10) And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them. (11) Thus saith the Lord GOD; Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence. (12) He that is far off shall die of the pestilence; and he that is near shall fall by the sword; and he that remaineth and is besieged shall die by the famine: thus will I accomplish my fury upon them. (13) 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. (14) So will I stretch out my hand upon them, and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their habitations: and they shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 6:10-14).*

- *“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good... For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry” (Numbers 23:19 and Habakkuk 2:3)?*
- The point of smiting his hands, stamping his foot (**Isaiah 58:1**).
- The Lord accomplished His fury no matter where His transgressing people were (**Jeremiah 28:23, Jeremiah 44:14, and Lamentations 4:11**).
- They shall see (**Isaiah 26:11**).