

## **Ezekiel 6:1-14 – God Confronts Idolatry and Calls Israel Back to Himself**

### **1. God Addresses the Mountains of Israel**

*“Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ‘Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them.’”* (Ezekiel 6:1-2, NKJV)

God now directs Ezekiel to speak—not to the people directly—but to the *mountains* of Israel. These mountains were covered with pagan altars, sacred groves, and high places dedicated to false gods such as Baal, Molech, and other idols. Israel had used the high places to worship everything except the Lord who had redeemed them.

So God speaks a message of judgment against these mountains because they had become symbols of the nation’s unfaithfulness.

### **2. God Will Tear Down Idolatry Completely**

*“Surely I will bring a sword upon you, and I will destroy your high places... your altars shall be desolate... your images shall be broken... your slain shall fall in your midst... and you shall know that I am the Lord.”* (Ezekiel 6:3-7, NKJV)

God promises to bring down everything connected to false worship:

- The high places will be destroyed
- The altars will be smashed
- The idols will be shattered
- The bodies of the idol-worshippers will lie among the ruins they trusted in

Over and over again in Ezekiel, God repeats the phrase, *“You shall know that I am the Lord.”* Israel had forgotten who He was, replacing Him with false gods that could not save or protect.

God tears down idols, not because He is cruel, but because they are destructive.

### **3. God Leaves a Remnant—but Also Leaves a Warning**

*“Yet I will leave a remnant, so that you may have some who escape the sword among the nations...”* (Ezekiel 6:8, NKJV)

Even in judgment, God acts with mercy. Though the nation would experience devastation, God would preserve a faithful remnant—a small group who would remember Him, return to Him, and carry on His purposes.

God’s heart toward His people is revealed in verse 9:

*“I was crushed by their adulterous heart which has departed from Me...”* (Ezekiel 6:9, NKJV)

This is not the anger of an indifferent judge—it is the grief of a wounded Father. Israel’s idolatry broke His heart because it led them away from the life, blessing, and protection He desired for them.

Those who survive will look back at their sins with deep grief and turn back to God. They will finally understand that God's warnings were not empty words.

#### 4. Ezekiel Acts Out the Message

*"Thus says the Lord God: 'Strike with your hand and stomp your foot... for they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence.'" (Ezekiel 6:11, NKJV)*

Ezekiel dramatically claps and stamps—picturing the certainty of what is coming. The judgment will be complete:

- Those far away die from plague
- Those near the battle die by the sword
- Those trapped inside die from famine

No idol can protect them. No false god can save them. Every high place where they burned incense to idols will become a place of death.

#### 5. God's Purpose in Judgment

*"Then they shall know that I am the Lord." (Ezekiel 6:13-14, NKJV)*

God's goal is not destruction—His goal is revelation.

He wants them to see what they refused to acknowledge:

- He alone is God
- Idols are empty
- Life apart from Him destroys the soul

Judgment becomes a lesson to future generations: turning from God always leads to devastation.

#### Practical Application

1. **Idols still exist today.**

They may not be carved images, but people still worship what they trust: money, success, relationships, comfort, entertainment, politics, or self. Anything that claims our loyalty above God becomes an idol.

2. **God confronts idols because they destroy us.**

Israel thought their high places would help them, but they only brought ruin. The same is true today—every idol promises fulfillment but leads us away from the One who gives life.

3. **God's heart breaks when we wander.**

Verse 9 shows God grieving over His people's unfaithfulness. God's commands are not burdens—they are expressions of love meant to protect us.

4. **God always preserves a remnant.**

Even in times of spiritual decline, God keeps a people who love Him. You can be part of that faithful remnant today by giving your whole heart to Him.

### A Loving Challenge for Believers

- Are there “high places” in your heart—habits, pursuits, or desires that compete with God?
- Have you allowed anything to take God’s rightful place in your life?
- Does your heart break over what breaks God’s heart?

Ask God to reveal anything that has begun to take His place in your affections. Surrender those idols to Him. Let Him tear them down so He can rebuild something better.

#### Pray:

*“Lord, search me. Remove every idol from my heart. Restore my devotion to You and make me part of Your faithful remnant.”*

### An Invitation to Non-Believers

Ezekiel 6 shows the tragic results of turning away from God the source and sustainer of all life. But it also reveals something far greater: God’s deep desire to bring people back to Himself.

That is why Jesus came.

We have all turned away from God, and our sin separates us from Him. But Jesus willingly shed His blood on the cross to save us—taking the judgment our sins deserved. The cross declares His perfect love for us and His resurrection declares once for all that He is **God, Savior, and Lord**.

He did not die to give you religion.

He died to give you life and an intimate relationship with God.

If you have never surrendered your life to Jesus, you can do that now. You may pray in your own words, or you may speak something like this:

*“Lord Jesus, I know that I have sinned and turned from You. I believe You shed Your blood on the cross to save me, and that You rose again as God, my Savior, and my Lord. Please forgive me and make me new. I give my life to You. Help me follow You from this day forward.”*

If you call upon Him sincerely, He will forgive you completely, receive you gladly, and lead you faithfully.

And for those who already know Him, may we walk with hearts fully devoted to the Lord—free of idols, surrendered to His will, and shining His light in a world that desperately needs Him.