

## Removing The High Places 4172

### I. Background

- A. Recurrent phrase through 1 and 2 Kings: “Howbeit the high places were not taken away.”
- B. History:
  - 1. Canaanites were idol worshipers
  - 2. One of their gods was Molech: infant sacrifices
  - 3. Worship was done on “high places”
    - a. On the high hills
    - b. Under every green tree
    - c. Refers to idol worship in Old Testament
- C. Use the God-appointed place for worship, not the high place (Deut. 12:1–14)
- D. Continual struggle between worship of God in the *appointed place* and the high places
  - 1. Solomon worshiped in high places, unlike his father David (1 Kings 3:1–4)
  - 2. David had a place prepared in Jerusalem
    - a. 2 Chronicles 1:3–4
    - b. 2 Samuel 6:15–17
  - 3. Solomon departed further and built altars for the gods of his wives (1 Kings 11:7–10)
  - 4. Jeroboam made shrines (1 Kings 12:31–32)
  - 5. Rehoboam made shrines and idols (1 Kings 14:21–23)
- E. Kings who brought back the worship of God and banished idolatry but kept the high places:
  - 1. Asa (1 Kings 15:9–14)
  - 2. Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22:42–43)
  - 3. Jehoash (2 Kings 12:2–3)
  - 4. Amaziah (2 Kings 14:3–4)
  - 5. Azariah (Uzziah) (2 Kings 15:3–4)
  - 6. Jotham (2 Kings 15:34–35)
- F. Kings who brought back idolatry:
  - 1. Ahaz, who sacrificed his own son (2 Kings 16:3–4)
  - 2. Northern Kingdom goes into captivity (2 Kings 17:9–11)
- G. Righteous kings:
  - 1. Hezekiah removed the high places (2 Kings 18:3–5)
  - 2. His son Manasseh rebuilt the high places (2 Kings 21:3)
  - 3. Josiah removed all the high places again (2 Kings 23:5, 8, 13, 15, 19–20)

### II. New Testament Equivalent

- A. “Gathered together”: led together (Matt. 18:20)
  - 1. Who “led” them? The Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14)
  - 2. You must be led by the Holy Spirit “into” the name of Jesus
  - 3. Any other place is a “high place”
- B. Our high places:
  - 1. On the basis of nationality (no state church)

2. The doctrinal basis (Baptist, Pentecostal, etc.)
3. Loyalty to a human leader (Luther, Wesley, etc.)
- C. Restoration of David's tabernacle
  1. The Gentile church *is* the rebuilding of the tabernacle of David (Acts 15:13–17)
  2. Where is the tabernacle? In Jesus
  3. Where are we authorized to meet? In the name of Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit
  4. All the wealth of the Father and Son are available through the Holy Spirit
  5. Holy Spirit (dove) remains on the nature of the Lamb, which is:
    - a. Purity
    - b. Meekness
    - c. A life sacrificially laid down
- D. To Jerusalem
  1. The place where the Lord set His name
  2. Psalm 122:3–5
- E. Desire to know “roots”
  1. Romans 11:17–18
  2. Our root is the patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
  3. Romans 4:11
  4. Galatians 3:29
- F. The Queen: forget your ancestry (Psalm 45)
  1. The queen bride: the church (v. 9b)
  2. Queen should forget her people (v. 10)
  3. Why? So the king will desire her beauty . . . worship Him (v. 11)
  4. In place of fathers, princes and sons (v. 16)