

bama

Deuteronomy 12:1-8 1 These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth. 2 Ye shall utterly destroy all the **places (*bama*)**, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: 3 And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place. 4 Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God. 5 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: **6 And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings** (terumah -something high, a high placesee also pomegranate) **of your hand, and your vows (*neder* - to consecrate oneself around a circle of emphasis), and your freewill (abundance...ie rain) offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:** 7 And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee. 8 **Ye shall not do** after all the things that we do here this day, **every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes.**

***bama* – high place**

The term *bamah* can mean back, hill, height, ridge or cultic high place. In the Biblical text it is used to mean “the back of one’s enemies” (Deuteronomy 33:29), “heights” (Deuteronomy 32:13; Isaiah 58:14; Micah 1:3; Amos 4:13; Haggai 3:19; Psalm 18:34), “back of clouds” (Isaiah 14:14) or “waves of sea” (Job 9:8).

The idea of a mountain or hill is not contained in the word itself, and some of the shrines were not located on hills or elevated terrain. The Ugaritic and Akkadian cognate usually means an animal’s back or trunk. In the text of the Bible these can be found on hills (2 Kings 16:4; 17:9-10; 1 Kings 11:7), towns (1 Kings 13:32; 2 Kings 17:29; 23:5) and at the gate of Jerusalem (2 Kings 23:8), and many of these shrines were located in urban centers. Ezra 6:3 says they were in the ravines and valleys. The position of a *bamah* in the valley can also be seen in Jeremiah 7:31; 32:35.

Some scholars believe that as long as authentic worship was performed at the *bamot*, there was not a problem with their existence, particularly the great high place at Gibeon (1 Samuel 9:16-24; 1 Kings 3:4-5; 2 Chronicles 1:3-7). They argue it was not until the reforms of Josiah that these were altogether viewed as unacceptable. Many have interpreted them as judgments against foreign worship or syncretism, especially regarding the asherah poles and the *massebot* (*pillars, stone formations*). For them, the *bamot* were not the issue themselves, but demonic usage.

Before Entering the Land

Numbers 33:50-52 50 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains (desert) of Moab by Jordan near Jericho, saying, 51 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; 52 Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures (carvings, wall depictions), and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their **high places (bama)**:

Zebulun Naphtali and the Stars

Judges 5:18-20 18 Zebulun and Naphtali were a people that jeopardized their lives unto the death. In the **high places (bama)** of the field. 19 The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money. 20 They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.

We will Ride

Deuteronomy 32:9-13 9 For the LORD's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. 10 He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. 11 As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: 12 So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. **13 He made him ride** (transportation, various means) **on the high places (bama)** of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

Tread

Deuteronomy 33:29 29 Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread (*darak* – to walk in authority, command by arrows) upon their **high places (bama)**.

Habakkuk 3:19 The LORD God is my strength,
and he will make my feet like hinds' feet,
and he will make me to walk (*darak*) upon mine **high places**.

2 Samuel 22:33-37 33 God is my strength and power:
and he maketh my way perfect.
34 He maketh my feet like hinds' feet:
and setteth (*amad*) me upon my **high places** (*bama*).
35 He teacheth my hands to war;
so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.
36 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation:
and thy gentleness hath made me great.
37 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me;
so that my feet did not slip

The Lord Treads

Amos 4:13 For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind,
and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness,
and treadeth (*darak*) upon the **high places** of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.

Jonathan and Saul slain

2 Samuel 1:17-27 (KJV) 17 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son: 18 (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.) 19 The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy **high places** (*bama*): how are the mighty fallen! 20 Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. 21 Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil. 22 From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty. 23 Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. 24 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. 25 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine **high places** (*bama*). 26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. 27 How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

Jereboam...house of high places...in Betheland in our society

1 Kings 12:25 - 32 25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in mount Ephraim, and dwelt therein; and went out from thence, and built Penuel. 26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: 27 If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah. 28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 29 And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. 30 And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan. 31 And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi. 32 And Jeroboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the **high places** which he had made.

1 Kings 13: 1,2 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. 2 And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the **high places** that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

Hosea 10:8 The **high places** also of Aven,(Bethel) the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars;and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us;and to the hills, Fall on us. (Jesus referenced this)

Micah 1:2-5 2 Hear, all ye people;
hearken, O earth, and all that therein is:
and let the Lord GOD be witness against you,
the Lord from his holy temple.
3 For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place,
and will come down, and tread upon the **high places** of the earth.
4 And the mountains shall be molten under him,
and the valleys shall be cleft,
as wax before the fire,
and as the waters that are poured down a steep place.
5 For the transgression of Jacob is all this,
and for the sins of the house of Israel.
What is the transgression of Jacob? is it not Samaria?
and what are the **high places** of Judah? are they not Jerusalem?

