

# Isaiah 15 - Moab's Pending Judgment

## I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1–35:10)

(2) Condemnation of the nations (Is 13:1–23:18)

(D) Moab (Is 15:1–16:14)

(a) Moabite wailing (15:1-9)

## Isaiah 15

(D) Moab (Is 15:1–16:14)

(a) Moabite wailing (15:1-9)

**1** The pronouncement concerning Moab: Certainly in a night Ar of Moab is devastated *and* ruined; Certainly in a night **Kir** of Moab is devastated *and* ruined.

**1** The oracle concerning Moab. Surely in a night Ar of Moab is devastated *and* ruined; Surely in a night Kir of Moab is devastated *and* ruined.

**1** A message concerning Moab: "For Ir in Moab is destroyed in a night, and Moab is ruined! Because Ir in Moab is destroyed in a single night, Moab is ruined!"

**1** The burden of Moab. Because in the night Ar of Moab is laid waste, and brought to silence; because in the night Kir of Moab is laid waste, and brought to silence;

- "...Kir" - Kerak on a mountain peak about ten miles from the south east corner of the Dead Sea

- Is 15-16 deal with judgments on Moab. Parts of the passage focuses on the near term; yet, others on the more distant perspective. Expositors differ on the details...

## Moab

- Descended from eldest son of Lot and his eldest daughter's incest (Gen 19:37)
- On the way to the promised Land, the Israelites were opposed by Balak, King of Moab (Num 22:24)
- He hires Balaam to curse them (Num 31:15-16; 22:5; 23:8; Cf. Rev 2:14)
- During the period of the Judges, Eglon, King of Moab, attacked Israel, capturing Jericho and holding Israel in subjection for 18 years (Judges 3:12)
- Under David, Moab was conquered and compelled to labor on royal projects (2 Sam 8:2)
- Ruth: Elimelech and family during famine in Bethlehem (Ruth 1)
- David: took his parents there when pursued by Saul (1 Sam 22:3; foreshadows Jer 48:47; Is 16:4)
- Eludes rule of Coming World Leader (Dan 11:41)

- Hence: superficially friendly initially; but like Edom, became an enemy of Israel (Cf. Jer 48)

See [Arab States in Prophecy](#) for an overview of the final disposition of Arab nations.

### **The Moabite Stone**

- A block of black basalt found near Dibon, Jordan, in 1868
- Bears an inscription in the Moabite language from about 850 BC, describing a 9th-century BC victory of King Mesha of Moab over the Israelites.
- The stone is now in the British Museum in London
- It was 3-1/2 feet high and 2 in breadth and in thickness, rounded at the top. It consisted of thirty-four lines, written in Hebrew-Phoenician characters. It was set up by Mesha as a record and memorial of his victories.
- It records Mesha's wars with Omri, his public buildings, and his wars against Horonaim.
- This inscription in a remarkable degree supplements and corroborates the history of King Mesha in 2 Kings 3:4-27.
- With the exception of a very few variations, the Moabite language in which the inscription is written is identical with the Hebrew.
- It is the oldest inscription written in alphabetic characters, and hence is, apart from its value in the domain of Hebrew antiquities, of great linguistic importance. Here "we have the identical slab on which the workmen of the old world carved the history of their own times, and from which the eye of their contemporaries read thousands of years ago the record of events of which they themselves had been the witnesses."



2 The people have gone up to the temple and **to Dibon**, to the high places to weep. Moab wails over **Nebo** and **Medeba**; Everyone's head is **bald** and every beard is cut off.

2 They have gone up to the temple and **to Dibon**, even to the high places to weep. Moab wails over Nebo and Medeba; Everyone's head is bald and every beard is cut off.

2 He has gone up to the temple, and to Dibon, to the high places to weep; over Nebo and over Medeba Moab wails. His head is completely bald, and every beard is shaved off.

2 He is gone up to Bajith, and to Dibon, the high places, to weep: Moab shall howl over Nebo, and over Medeba: on all their heads shall be baldness, and every beard cut off.

- "...Dibon" - where the Moabite stone was found (Num 21:30; 32:3,34; Josh 13:9,17; Jer 48:18,22)

- "...Nebo" - Num 32:3,38; 33:47; 1 Chr 5:8; Jer 48:1,22

- "...Medeba" - belonged to Reuben (Joshua 13:16)

— Medeba - Num 21:30; Joshua 13:9,16; 1 Chr 19:7

- "...bald" - during mourning (Is 22:12; Micah 1:16)

3 In their streets they have put on sackcloth; On their housetops and in their public squares Everyone is wailing, overcome with weeping.

3 In their streets they have girded themselves with sackcloth; On their housetops and in their squares Everyone is wailing, dissolved in tears.

3 In its streets they wear sackcloth; on its rooftops and in its squares everyone wails and falls down weeping.

3 In their streets they shall gird themselves with sackcloth: on the tops of their houses, and in their streets, every one shall howl, weeping abundantly.

4 Heshbon and Elealeh also cry out, Their voice is heard all the way to Jahaz; Therefore the armed men of Moab cry aloud; His soul trembles within him.

4 Heshbon and Elealeh also cry out, Their voice is heard all the way to Jahaz; Therefore the armed men of Moab cry aloud; His soul trembles within him.

4 Heshbon and Elealeh cry out, their voices are heard as far as Jahaz; therefore the loins of Moab cry aloud; its heart quakes for itself.

4 And Heshbon shall cry, and Elealeh: their voice shall be heard even unto Jahaz: therefore the armed soldiers of Moab shall cry out; his life shall be grievous unto him.

- Heshbon: 20 mi E of Jordan

- Nine cities have been named; four words of complaining. Laments all around...

5 My heart cries out for Moab; His fugitives are as far as Zoar and Eglath-shelishiyah, For they go up the ascent of Luhith weeping; Indeed, on the road to Horonaim they raise a cry

of distress over *their* collapse.

5 My heart cries out for Moab; His fugitives are as far as Zoar and Eglath-shelishiyah, For they go up the ascent of Luhith weeping; Surely on the road to Horonaim they raise a cry of distress over *their* ruin.

5 My heart cries out over Moab; her fugitives flee as far as Zoar, as far as Eglath-shelishiyah. For at the ascent to Luhith they go up weeping; on the road to Horonaim they raise a cry of destruction.

5 My heart shall cry out for Moab; his fugitives shall flee unto Zoar, an heifer of three years old: for by the mounting up of Luhith with weeping shall they go it up; for in the way of Horonaim they shall raise up a cry of destruction.

- Zoar: spared for Lot's sake (Gen 19:20-22); S tip of Dead Sea?

6 For the waters of Nimrim are desolate. Indeed, the grass is withered, the new growth has died, There is no greenery.

6 For the waters of Nimrim are desolate. Surely the grass is withered, the tender grass died out, There is no green thing.

6 The Nimrim waters are desolate; the grass is withered, its vegetation gone; there is no foliage left.

6 For the waters of Nimrim shall be desolate: for the hay is withered away, the grass faileth, there is no green thing.

7 Therefore the abundance *which* they have acquired and stored up, They carry *it* off over the brook of Arabim.

7 Therefore the abundance *which* they have acquired and stored up They carry off over the brook of Arabim.

7 Therefore the wealth they have acquired and what they have stored up— they carry them away over the Arab Wadi.

7 Therefore the abundance they have gotten, and that which they have laid up, shall they carry away to the brook of the willows.

8 For the cry of distress has gone around the territory of Moab, Its wailing goes as far as Eglaim and its howling to Beer-elim.

8 For the cry of distress has gone around the territory of Moab, Its wail goes as far as Eglaim and its wailing even to Beer-elim.

8 For the cry has gone out along the border of Moab; her wailing reaches as far as Eglaim, her wailing reaches as far as Beer-elim.

8 For the cry is gone round about the borders of Moab; the howling thereof unto Eglaim, and the howling thereof unto Beerelim.

9 For the waters of Dimon are full of blood; I will certainly bring added woes upon Dimon, A lion upon the fugitives of Moab and the remnant of the land.

9 For the waters of Dimon are full of blood; Surely I will bring added woes upon Dimon, A lion upon the fugitives of Moab and upon the remnant of the land.

9 The Dibon streams are full of blood; but I will bring upon Dibon even more— a lion will pounce upon those of Moab who escape, upon those who remain in the land."

9 For the waters of Dimon shall be full of blood: for I will bring more upon Dimon, lions upon him that escapeth of Moab, and upon the remnant of the land.