

Isaiah 16 - Destruction of Moab

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)

(b) Plea from Moabites for Judah to rule over them (16:1-5)

(c) Judgment upon Moabite pride (16:6-14)

Isaiah 16

(b) Plea from Moabites for Judah to rule over them (16:1-5)

The Hope of Moab's Salvation

1 Send the **tribute** lamb to the ruler of the land, From **Sela** by way of the wilderness to the mountain of the daughter of Zion.

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1 "Send a lamb to the ruler of the land, from Selah, by way of the desert, to the mountain of the Daughter of Zion.

1 Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.

- "...lamb" - under David and Solomon, they sent tribute of sheep and cattle (100,000+); revolted in Isaiah's day; attacked with Ammonites (2 Chr 20)

- "...Sela" - Petra, capital of Moab

2 Then, like fluttering birds or scattered nestlings, The daughters of Moab will be at the crossing places of the Arnon.

2 Then, like fleeing birds or scattered nestlings, The daughters of Moab will be at the fords of the Arnon.

2 Like fluttering birds, like an abandoned nest, so are the daughters of Moab at the fords of the Arnon River.

2 For it shall be, that, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon.

3 "Give us advice, make a decision; Cast your shadow like night at high noon; **Hide the outcasts**, do not betray the fugitive.

3 "Give us advice, make a decision; Cast your shadow like night at high noon; Hide the outcasts, do not betray the fugitive.

3 "Give us advice; reach a decision! Cast your shadow as if night had come at high noon.
Shelter the fugitives, And don't betray a single refugee.

3 Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth.

- "...Hide the outcasts" - during the Great Tribulation, the persecuted Jews flee to Moab (Petra, Bozrah) for refuge. These outcasts are identified in v4.

4 "Let the outcasts of Moab stay with you; Be a hiding place to them from **the destroyer.**"
For **the oppressor has come to an end**, destruction has ceased, Oppressors have been removed from the land.

4 "Let the outcasts of Moab stay with you; Be a hiding place to them from the destroyer."
For the extortioner has come to an end, destruction has ceased, Oppressors have completely *disappeared* from the land.

4 Let the fugitives from Moab settle among you; be a shelter to them from the destroyer.
When the oppressor comes to an end, and destruction has ceased, and the marauder has vanished from the land,

4 Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.

- "...the destroyer...the oppressor" - OT allusions to the Antichrist; see [Allusions to the Antichrist](#) (see also Jer 6:26; Cf. Jer 4:7; Rev 9:11)

- "...the oppressor has come to an end" - the destruction of the Antichrist is noted
— This verse in which the Antichrist is spoken of as the "spoiler" comes immediately before the one where we read of the throne being established, a reference, of course, to the setting up of the Messianic Kingdom.
— These two things synchronize: the destruction of Antichrist, and the beginning of the real Messiah's reign; hence we read here "the spoiler ceaseth."
— A further reference to the Man of Sin under this title of the spoiler is found in Jer 6:26

5 A throne will be established in faithfulness, And a judge will sit on it in trustworthiness in the tent of David; Moreover, he will seek justice, And be prompt in righteousness.

5 A throne will even be established in lovingkindness, And a judge will sit on it in faithfulness in the tent of David; Moreover, he will seek justice And be prompt in righteousness.

5 then a throne will be established in gracious love, and there will sit in faithfulness— in the Tent of David— one who judges, seeks justice, and is swift to do what is right."

5 And in mercy shall the Throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hastening righteousness.

- The Throne of David will be established on the basis of God's loyal love, and the One sitting on the Throne will be a member of the House of David who will be characterized by truth. He will be King and Judge, ensuring that justice is carried out, a justice springing from the righteousness of the King.
- Similar prophecies are found in Jer 23:5-6; 33:14-17
- Tabernacle of David: Cf. Acts 15:16-17; Amos 9:11-12 (see note: Tabernacle of David)

His Throne

Matt 24:31: When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the Throne of his glory:

Zech 6:12-13:

12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the Temple of the LORD:

13 Even he shall build the Temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his Throne; and he shall be a priest upon his Throne:

(c) Judgment upon Moabite pride (16:6-14)

6 We have heard of the pride of Moab, an excessive pride; *Even of his arrogance, pride, and fury; His idle boasts are false.*

6 We have heard of the pride of Moab, an excessive pride; *Even of his arrogance, pride, and fury; His idle boasts are false.*

6 "We've heard about Moab's pride— so very proud he became!— his arrogance, his pride, and his insolence; therefore he is alone.

6 We have heard of the pride of Moab; he is very proud: even of his haughtiness, and his pride, and his wrath: but his lies shall not be so.

The Consequences of Refusal

7 Therefore Moab will wail; everyone of Moab will wail. You will moan for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth As those who are utterly stricken.

7 Therefore Moab will wail; everyone of Moab will wail. You will moan for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth As those who are utterly stricken.

7 Therefore, let Moab not wail, let everyone wail for Moab. Lament and grieve deeply for the ruined remains of Kir-hareseth.

7 Therefore shall Moab howl for Moab, every one shall howl: for the foundations of Kirhareseth shall ye mourn; surely they are stricken.

8 For the fields of Heshbon have withered, the vines of Sibmah as well; The lords of the nations have trampled down its choice clusters Which reached as far as Jazer and wandered to the deserts; Its tendrils spread themselves out and passed over the sea.

8 For the fields of Heshbon have withered, the vines of Sibmah as well; The lords of the nations have trampled down its choice clusters Which reached as far as Jazer and wandered to the deserts; Its tendrils spread themselves out and passed over the sea.

8 For the fields of Heshbon wither, as well as the vines of Sibmah. The rulers of the nations have struck down its choicest vines, which once reached Jazer and pushed to the desert. Its shoots spread out and passed over the sea."

8 For the fields of Heshbon languish, and the vine of Sibmah: the lords of the heathen have broken down the principal plants thereof, they are come even unto Jazer, they wandered through the wilderness: her branches are stretched out, they are gone over the sea.

9 Therefore I will weep bitterly for Jazer, for the vine of Sibmah; I will drench you with my tears, Heshbon and Elealeh; For the shouting over your summer fruits and your harvest has fallen away.

9 Therefore I will weep bitterly for Jazer, for the vine of Sibmah; I will drench you with my tears, O Heshbon and Elealeh; For the shouting over your summer fruits and your harvest has fallen away.

9 "Therefore I weep with the tears of Jazer for the vines of Sibmah. I drench you with my tears, O Heshbon and Elealeh— for the shouts of joy over your summer fruit and your grain harvest have ended.

9 Therefore I will bewail with the weeping of Jazer the vine of Sibmah: I will water thee with my tears, O Heshbon, and Elealeh: for the shouting for thy summer fruits and for thy harvest is fallen.

10 Gladness and joy are taken away from the fruitful field; In the vineyards also there will be no cries of joy or jubilant shouting, No treader treads out wine in the presses, For I have made the shouting to cease.

10 Gladness and joy are taken away from the fruitful field; In the vineyards also there will be no cries of joy or jubilant shouting, No treader treads out wine in the presses, For I have made the shouting to cease.

10 Joy and gladness are taken away from the orchards, in the vineyards people will sing no songs, and no cheers are raised. No vintner treads out wine in the presses, because I've put an end to the shouting.

10 And gladness is taken away, and joy out of the plentiful field; and in the vineyards there shall be no singing, neither shall there be shouting: the treaders shall tread out no wine in

their presses; I have made their vintage shouting to cease.

11 Therefore my inner being sounds like a harp for Moab. And my heart for Kir-hareseth.

11 Therefore my heart intones like a harp for Moab And my inward feelings for Kir-hareseth.

11 Therefore my insides moan like a lyre for Moab, and my innermost being for Kir-hareseth.

11 Wherefore my bowels shall sound like an harp for Moab, and mine inward parts for Kirharesh.

12 So it will come about when Moab presents himself, When he tires himself upon *his* high place And comes to his sanctuary to pray, That he will not prevail.

12 So it will come about when Moab presents himself, When he wearis himself upon *his* high place And comes to his sanctuary to pray, That he will not prevail.

12 When Moab appears, when he arrives upon the high place and comes to his sanctuary to pray, he will not prevail."

12 And it shall come to pass, when it is seen that Moab is weary on the high place, that he shall come to his sanctuary to pray; but he shall not prevail.

The Timing of the Devastation

13 This is the word which the LORD spoke earlier concerning Moab.

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13 This was the message that the LORD spoke concerning Moab in the past.

13 This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning Moab since that time.

14 But now the LORD has spoken, saying, "**Within three years**, as a hired worker would count them, the glory of Moab will become contemptible along with all *his* great population, and *his* remnant will be very small *and impotent*."

14 But now the LORD speaks, saying, "Within three years, as a hired man would count them, the glory of Moab will be degraded along with all *his* great population, and *his* remnant will be very small *and impotent*."

14 But now the LORD has spoken again: "Within three years, like the years of a contract worker, Moab's glory will be brought into contempt, in spite of all its great multitude, and its survivors will be very few and of no importance."

14 But now the LORD hath spoken, saying, Within three years, as the years of an hireling, and the glory of Moab shall be contemned, with all that great multitude; and the remnant shall be very small and feeble.

- "...Within three years" - there are many prophecy teachers today who teach about the "First/Next/Now" prophecies, and refer to Isaiah's Oracles Against the Nations (Is 13-23) as prophecies that will be fulfilled in the future
- Since the context before 17:1-2 is a near future fulfillment and the context after it is also a near fulfillment, it would be strange for Isaiah 17:1-2 to have a distant fulfillment (in the end times)
 - Is 16:14 - prophecy of Moab's destruction (within 3 years)
 - Is 17:1-11 - prophecy of the destruction of Damascus
 - Is 17:12-14 - prophecy of the destruction of the Assyrian army in one night (fulfilled within ~30 years, in 701 BC)
- While some of these prophecies are yet future, many of them have already been fulfilled in the distant past, such as this one (Cf. 21:16)