

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

I. God’s *Denunciation* of Judah (1:1-12:6)

II. God’s *Denunciations* against other Nations (13:1-23:18)

- A. The *Judgment* against Babylon (13:1-22)
- B. The *Judgment* of the King of Babylon (14:1-23)
- C. The *Judgment* against Assyria (14:24-27)
- D. The *Judgment* against Philistia (14:28-32)

Introduction to Moab

Moab was a *land*, a *people*, and a *kingdom* located east of the **Dead Sea** in what is now the kingdom of Jordan...The kingdom of Moab emerged in the **ninth** century B.C.E. and disappeared a few decades after the destruction of **Jerusalem** by the Babylonian king **Nebuchadnezzar II** in **586 B.C.E.** (Bible Odyssey, Bruce Routledge)

Genesis 19:30–38 accounts for the **origins** of the nation of Moab. After Lot and his **daughters** escaped from **Sodom**, they lived in a **cave** in the hills near Zoar. When **Lot** became **drunk**, his **daughters seduced him**. Both **conceived** and **bore children**. **Lot’s oldest** daughter named her son Moab, from whom the **Moabites** descended, and **Lot’s younger** daughter called her son **Ben-ammi**, from whom the **Ammonites** descended. The **Septuagint** explains that the name **Moab** means “**he is of my father**,” a perpetual reminder of **Moab’s** incestuous beginnings...

After leaving **Egypt** and camping at **Mount Sinai**, **Israel** wandered in the **wilderness** for **38 years** before arriving at the boundary of the **Promised Land** in the plains of Moab (Numbers 10:11–22:1). From this point forward, Moab supplied the background for much of the biblical drama until **Joshua chapter 3**...

Moses reviewed the **law** and **transferred leadership** from himself to **Joshua** on the plains of Moab (Deuteronomy 29–33). And in the land of Moab, **Moses died** and was **buried** (Deuteronomy 34:1–6).

Other mentions of Moab and the Moabites:

- Judges 3:12–31 gives an account of the **18-year oppression of Israel** under **King Eglon** of **Moab** until **God** raised Ehud to deliver the people.

- Second Kings 3 describes the **war** between **Israel** and **Moab** in the **ninth** century BC.
- **King David** entrusted his **father** and **mother** to the **king of Moab** while he dealt with **Saul's hostility** (1 Samuel 22:3–4).
- **Solomon** took **foreign wives**, including **women** from **Moab**, and pursued idolatrous worship of **Chemosh**, the god of **Moab**, which turned his **heart away** from the **Lord** and cost him his **kingdom** (1 Kings 11:1, 7, 33).
- The first part of **Ruth** and **Naomi's story** took place in **Moab**, a nation **hostile** to **Israel** (Ruth 1—2). **Ruth, a Moabitess**, became the **great grandmother** of **King David**. Her place in the **genealogy** of **Jesus the Messiah** is a beautiful example of **God's impartiality**.
- The **Psalms** and several **prophets** refer to **Moab** as the **enemy** of **Israel** (Psalm 60:8; Isaiah 15—16; Jeremiah 48). (Excerpts for Introduction taken from: [What is the significance of Moab in the Bible](#), gotquestions.org.)

E. The *Judgment* against **Moab** (15:1-16:14)

1. The *Devastation* of the **Cities** of **Moab** (15:1-4)
2. The *Distress* of the **Fugitives** of **Moab** (15:5-9)
3. The *Dire Appeal* to **Judah** for **Refuge** (16:1-4)

16 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**.

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

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

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**.

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**.

4. The *Disapproval* (by **Judah**) of **Moab** (16:6)

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

5. The *Despair* of **Isaiah** over **Moab** (16:7-11)

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**.

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**.

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**.

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**.

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

6. The *Deficiency* of the **Moab's Deity** (16:12)

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

7. The *Definitive Time* of **Moab's Judgment** (16:13-14)

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

Personal Application

When **God's Judgment** falls upon the **Nations**,

We too can expect “Moabites” seeking Refuge

1. *We too* can expect that there will be **those** who will seek refuge with the “daughter of Zion,”— the people of God. (16:1)

Thus says the **LORD of hosts**, ‘In *those days* ten men from **all the nations** will grasp the garment of a **Jew**, saying, “Let us go *with you*, for we have heard that God is with you.”’ (Zechariah 8:23)

2. *We too* can expect “outcasts” and “fugitives,” who will come seeking advice and refuge from the “destroyer” of the souls of men. (16:3-4)

Be of **sober spirit**, be on the **alert**. Your **adversary**, the **devil**, prowls around like a **roaring lion**, seeking **someone to devour**. (1 Peter 5:8)

3. As **believers**, *we too* should be **ready** to **minister** that same message of **Messianic hope** to any who seek **refuge** among us---the message that in the **future**:

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*. (16:5)

4. Unfortunately, *we too* can expect that there are many who will have the “pride of Moab,” and be arrogant towards **God**, even though **He** would be their *only true place of refuge*. (16:6)
5. When **God’s judgment** comes, *we too* can expect many to go to their “**high places**,” and seek their **false gods** for refuge and **comfort**. Like **Moab**, they too will “**weary**” themselves, and “**not prevail**.” (16:12)

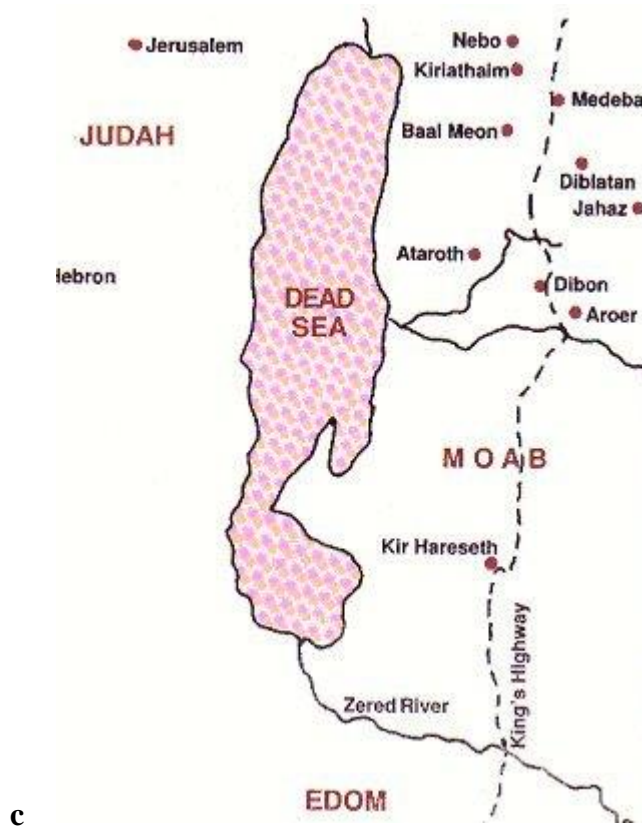
These things I have spoken to you, so that **in Me** you may have peace. In the **world** you have tribulation, but take **courage**; **I have overcome the world**.” (John 16:33)

6. As we read tonight, **Isaiah** had received an **oracle** concerning the judgment of Moab. (chapters 15 and 16). Though he knew of this impending **judgment**, he did not know of the *exact time* of **Moab’s destruction** until he penned the **final verse** of this chapter:

“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**.”

As **believers**, we may not know the *exact time* regarding **future judgments**. However, we can be **assured** that our **sovereign God** knows the “**day**,” and will indeed **bring it to pass** accordingly. The **scriptures** declare:

...He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in *righteousness* through a Man whom He has *appointed*, having furnished *proof* to all men by *raising Him* from the *dead*.” (Acts 17:31)



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