

In 3 years, God Destroys Moab
Scripture: Isaiah 16:1-14
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I. Summary of Historical Background on Moab

- a) The Moabites were the descendants of Lot. After the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's daughters had a plan to extend their family (Genesis 19:30-38).
- b) Before Moses transferred leadership to Joshua, he climbed Mt. Nebo, looked out over the plains of Moab at the territories God promised him, Isaac, and Jacob. He was buried on the plains of Moab. He was 120 yrs. Old, yet his eyes were not weak, nor his strength gone.
(Deut. 34:1-4).
- c) The Moabites and Israelites had a rocky relationship over the years. Sometimes they were enemies and other times they were allies.
- d) When Ruth married Boaz, she became the great grandmother of King David, thus integrating the Moabite lineage into the genealogy of Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1: 5,6 , 16).

II. The Lesson: In 3 Years, God Destroys Moab

1. vv. 1&2.

Isaiah says send a lamb to the ruler of Judah as an olive branch to find favor with them. Moab which once was a great nation, is now wondering around like a bird pushed out of its nest.

2. vv. 3&4.

In desperation, Moab's leaders send an urgent request Jerusalem, asking Judah's leaders to allow Moab's fleeing and scattered refugees and fugitives to enter Judah. Give us shelter, give us a home, don't turn us away. Moab wants to stay in Judah until things blow over. The oppressors will leave after they do their

damage. Moab wanted temporary help, but God wanted to give them permanent Salvation.

3. v. 5.

- a) God is offering spiritual help, but Moab is rejecting it. This is what God has to offer Moab (Jesus).
- b) He sits on the throne in truth. He does not merely profess to be Father and protector of his people, but he is just that.
- c) He is Judging. He is not a man of war of blood, who wastes his subjects lives and treasures in contentions with neighboring nations in order to satisfy his ambition by the extension of his territory, on the contrary. His whole life is occupied in the distribution of justice.
- d) He seeks judgement. He seeks out the poor, distressed, ones who can not make their way to him, and avenges them on their oppressors.
- e) He hastens righteousness. He does not suffer any of the courts of justice to delay the determination of causes brought before them. He so orders that the point in litigation be fairly, fully and speedily heard. Then judgement pronounced.

4. vv. 6&7.

Judah rulers remember the Moabites insults in the past. They don't trust them. Judah heard about their pride and arrogance and lies. Judah refused to help them no matter how much the Moabites wept and wailed. Nevertheless, Isaiah feels pity for them as he sees the country ruined and the vineyards and pressed down Raisin cakes destroyed because of the devastation of war.

5. v. 8.

Poetically he says this grape vine thrived and reached Jazer, then farther north and reaching all the way to eastern deserts. The vine's tendrils crossed over the Dead Sea into Israel. This symbolically

depicts the successful distribution of the Moabites fields. Their crops spread prolifically around the region.

6. vv. 9&10.

Isaiah is mourning the end of the annual grape harvest in the fields around Heshbon in northern Moab. The Lord has prophesied what will come after judgement falls on Moab. The invitation will bring loss of life, homes and even lost cities.

7. v. 11.

Isaiah concludes his oracles against Moab in true sorrow. It's believed that this is representation of sorrow the Lord also felt at bringing judgement on Moab (Ezekiel 33:11). Say to them "as sure as I live, declares the sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn from your evil ways, why will you die, people of Israel". Moab may not be his chosen people, but he holds them to his standards, not engaging in evil and wickedness. He has love in his heart for them. God carried this out because that's what justice and righteousness demand.

8. vs. 12

It don't do the Moabites any good to worship their gods, which are not real, worshipping their shrines. It wont do them any good. Moab is wasting her time. God says I am the one who is causing this to happen to you. Put away your Idle worship. Chemosh, in Hebrew it Destroyer, subduer, fish god.

9. vv.13&14.

Isaiah had already prophesied about the destruction of Moab . Now the Lord is giving them three years until they are despised, and their survivors will be few and feeble.

III. CONCLUSION

No matter who you are or how rich and prosperous you are, put your faith in the one and only true God, the God of Abraham Isaac, and Jacob; the God who sent his one and only Son, Jesus The Christ. So put away your pride, arrogance and worshipping of idle gods and worship the God who made heaven and earth.