

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 329 – Against Moab Through The Judgment Of Moab (Jeremiah 48:1-47)

1. During the destruction of Moab, what should they have done to save their lives?

Flee: *“(1) Against Moab thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Woe unto Nebo! for it is spoiled: Kiriathaim is confounded and taken: Misgab is confounded and dismayed. (2) There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee. (3) A voice of crying shall be from Horonaim, spoiling and great destruction. (4) Moab is destroyed; her little ones have caused a cry to be heard. (5) For in the going up of Luhith continual weeping shall go up; for in the going down of Horonaim the enemies have heard a cry of destruction. (6) Flee, save your lives, and be like the heath in the wilderness” (Jeremiah 48:1-6).*

- Beyond what we shall read in this chapter, the Moabites had problems with God for other reasons too (**Jeremiah 9:26** and **Ezekiel 25:8-11**).
- The Moabites, like other nations, had the choice of destruction or captivity (**Jeremiah 27:1-11**).
- No more praise, but there was to be weeping (**Isaiah 15:2-8**).
- Though they could flee to save their lives and be destitute, we later read that some whom fled would not escape (**Jeremiah 48:45**).

2. Did the trust in Moab's wealth and works keep them from being put to shame?

No: *“(7) For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken: and Chemosh shall go forth into captivity with his priests and his princes together. (8) And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape: the valley also shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the Lord hath spoken. (9) Give wings unto Moab, that it may flee and get away: for the cities thereof shall be desolate, without any to dwell therein. (10) Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood. (11) Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed. (12) Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles. (13) And Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel their confidence” (Jeremiah 48:7-13).*

- Because they trusted in their works (**Jeremiah 25:6-7**) and treasures (**Psalms 49:6-13**, **Psalms 62:10**, **Ezekiel 28:1-10**, **Luke 12:13-21**, and **Revelation 3:14-22**).
- God expects Babylon to carry out His judgment on Moab fully, not deceitfully. Babylon better not hold back (i.e. **I Samuel 15:1-35**).

- Moab had been at ease, settled on his lees [complacent], thinking nothing was coming upon them. Even God's city of old, Jerusalem (**I Kings 11:13**), could not get away with such a mindset (**Zephaniah 1:12-18**).
- The reference of Bethel has to do with trusting in idols (**I Kings 12:27-29**). Chemosh is where the Moabites had abominations of their own (**II Kings 23:13**).

3. Though they said they were strong, what happened to the horn and arm of Moab?

Cut off and broken: *"(14) How say ye, We are mighty and strong men for the war? (15) Moab is spoiled, and gone up out of her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name is the Lord of hosts. (16) The calamity of Moab is near to come, and his affliction hasteth fast. (17) All ye that are about him, bemoan him; and all ye that know his name, say, How is the strong staff broken, and the beautiful rod! (18) Thou daughter that dost inhabit Dibon, come down from thy glory, and sit in thirst; for the spoiler of Moab shall come upon thee, and he shall destroy thy strong holds. (19) O inhabitant of Aroer, stand by the way, and espy; ask him that fleeth, and her that escapeth, and say, What is done? (20) Moab is confounded; for it is broken down: howl and cry; tell ye it in Arnon, that Moab is spoiled, (21) And judgment is come upon the plain country; upon Holon, and upon Jahazah, and upon Mephaath, (22) And upon Dibon, and upon Nebo, and upon Bethdiblathaim, (23) And upon Kiriathaim, and upon Bethgamul, and upon Bethmeon, (24) And upon Kerioth, and upon Bozrah, and upon all the cities of the land of Moab, far or near. (25) The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken, saith the Lord"* (**Jeremiah 48:14-25**).

- However strong or mighty a person is nation thinks they are, they'd be wise to consider that such a thing as "invincible" doesn't exist in our world (**Psalms 33:16-19**, **Ecclesiastes 9:11**, and **Isaiah 30:1-7**; cf. **Judges 7:1-25** and **I Samuel 17:1-58**).

4. What did the pride of Moab and their idolatry do to help them?

Nothing: *"(26) Make ye him drunken: for he magnified himself against the Lord: Moab also shall wallow in his vomit, and he also shall be in derision. (27) For was not Israel a derision unto thee? was he found among thieves? for since thou spakest of him, thou skippedst for joy. (28) O ye that dwell in Moab, leave the cities, and dwell in the rock, and be like the dove that maketh her nest in the sides of the hole's mouth. (29) We have heard the pride of Moab, (he is exceeding proud) his loftiness, and his arrogancy, and his pride, and the haughtiness of his heart. (30) I know his wrath, saith the Lord; but it shall not be so; his lies shall not so effect it. (31) Therefore will I howl for Moab, and I will cry out for all Moab; mine heart shall mourn for the men of Kirheres. (32) O vine of Sibmah, I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer: thy plants are gone over the sea, they reach even to the sea of Jazer: the spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage"* (**Jeremiah 48:26-32**).

- The imagery of a drunken Moab wallowing in his vomit (**Isaiah 19:14**).

- The Moabites liked it when Israel was found among thieves, now what (**Obadiah 1:12-13**)?
- What does pride bring (**Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 16:18, Proverbs 17:19, Proverbs 18:12, Proverbs 29:23, Isaiah 2:11-12, Obadiah 1:3-4, I Corinthians 10:12, and James 4:6-10**)?
- This is a people known for their pride (**Zephaniah 2:8-15**).
- The Lord weeping for the destruction He has been forced to bring on them (**Isaiah 15:5 and Isaiah 16:9-11**; cf. **Luke 19:41-44**).

5. At the time of this prophesy, was joy or sorrow ahead for Moab?

Much lamenting: *“(33) And joy and gladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab; and I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses: none shall tread with shouting; their shouting shall be no shouting. (34) From the cry of Heshbon even unto Elealeh, and even unto Jahaz, have they uttered their voice, from Zoar even unto Horonaim, as an heifer of three years old: for the waters also of Nimrim shall be desolate. (35) Moreover I will cause to cease in Moab, saith the Lord, him that offereth in the high places, and him that burneth incense to his gods. (36) Therefore mine heart shall sound for Moab like pipes, and mine heart shall sound like pipes for the men of Kirheres: because the riches that he hath gotten are perished. (37) For every head shall be bald, and every beard clipped: upon all the hands shall be cuttings, and upon the loins sackcloth. (38) There shall be lamentation generally upon all the housetops of Moab, and in the streets thereof: for I have broken Moab like a vessel wherein is no pleasure, saith the Lord. (39) They shall howl, saying, How is it broken down! how hath Moab turned the back with shame! so shall Moab be a derision and a dismaying to all them about him. (40) For thus saith the Lord; Behold, he shall fly as an eagle, and shall spread his wings over Moab. (41) Kerioth is taken, and the strong holds are surprised, and the mighty men's hearts in Moab at that day shall be as the heart of a woman in her pangs”* (**Jeremiah 48:33-41**).

- When God sent judgment from one nation to another, the fields suffered and joy was withered away from the sons of men (**Joel 1:1-12**).
- Far and wide desolation was to spread by the will of God (**Psalms 73:18-19**).
- Their idolatry would not deliver them (**Isaiah 16:12**; cf. **Judges 10:14 and Psalms 115:1-8**).
- The glorified nation of Moab went from wealth to derision (**Psalms 59:8**).
- The imagery of the eagle (**Lamentations 4:19**).
- The imagery of a woman in labor (**Isaiah 26:17-18**).

6. Though Moab magnified itself against the Lord, were they really fearless?

Fear was going to be brought upon them: *“(42) And Moab shall be destroyed from being a people, because he hath magnified himself against the Lord. (43) Fear, and the pit, and the snare, shall be upon thee, O inhabitant of Moab, saith the Lord. (44) He that fleeth from the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that getteth up out of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for I will bring upon it, even upon Moab, the year of their visitation, saith the Lord”* (**Jeremiah 48:42-44**).

- Moab shall be destroyed from being a people, because he hath magnified himself against the Lord.
- Fear, snare, etc. (**Psalms 11:5-6**).
- The inescapable, the year of visitation (**Jeremiah 23:12** and **Micah 7:4**).

7. Was there a hiding place for the Moabites to avoid captivity?

No: *“(45) They that fled stood under the shadow of Heshbon because of the force: but a fire shall come forth out of Heshbon, and a flame from the midst of Sihon, and shall devour the corner of Moab, and the crown of the head of the tumultuous ones. (46) Woe be unto thee, O Moab! the people of Chemosh perisheth: for thy sons are taken captives, and thy daughters captives. (47) Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the Lord. Thus far is the judgment of Moab”* (**Jeremiah 48:45-47**).

- Heshbon was a city of the Amorites (**Numbers 21:26**).
- Those that fled hid there, but there is no hiding from God (**Psalms 139:1-12**, **Isaiah 29:15**, and **Jeremiah 23:24**).
- Captivity was certain, but so was the restoration of those whom submitted to it (see language here: **Ezekiel 38:8**).