

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 234 – Send The Lamb Through Small Remnant Of Moab (Isaiah 16:1-14)

1. Did God want Israel to show mercy to the Moabites when they were outcasts?

Yes: *“(1) Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion. (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) Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth. (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. (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 hasting righteousness” (Isaiah 16:1-5).*

- Remember, the Moabites are decedents of Lot [though conceived sinfully] (**Genesis 19:36-37**). There were Jews in Moab (**Jeremiah 40:11**).
- They were not supposed to enter into the congregation of Israel until their 10th generation (**Deuteronomy 23:3**).
- Ruth is the most notable Moabite to dwell among the children of Israel (**Ruth 4:10-22**).
- Judah had taken Sela at a point in time (**II Kings 14:1-7**).
- A bird out of its nest is just as vulnerable as a man out of his place (**Proverbs 27:8**).
- Fords are crossing places and Arnon was a river east of Jordan (**II Kings 10:33**). Thus, they would be at the crossing of Arnon when they were broken (cf. **Jeremiah 48:20**).
- The counsel was to stand as fair judges in delivering those who had been spoiled at the hand of oppressors and hide them (**Isaiah 1:17**; cf. **Jeremiah 21:12** and **Jeremiah 22:3**).
- The same spoiler of Moab was coming to Jerusalem too (**Jeremiah 48:8**), but that would not be a permanent situation (**Isaiah 14:4**). The king of Babylon was the instrument of God’s judgment on these nations (**Jeremiah 27:1-8**).
- God purged these Moabites of their sinners (**Jeremiah 48:35-47**).
- The throne of peace (**Proverbs 20:28**).

2. Were the Moabites known to be humble?

No: *“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” (Isaiah 16:6).*

- **Jeremiah 48:29-30, Jeremiah 48:42, and Zephaniah 2:9-10.**
- Pride, for anyone, is not a good thing (**Psalms 10:4, Proverbs 8:13, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 16:18, Proverbs 29:23, Hosea 7:10, James 4:6-10, and I Peter 5:5-6**).

3. What were all of the Moabites going to do for Moab?

Howl, for they are stricken: *“Therefore shall Moab howl for Moab, every one shall howl: for the foundations of Kir-hareseth shall ye mourn; surely they are stricken” (Isaiah 16:7; cf. **Jeremiah 48:20**).*

4. What was going to happen to their fields, vines, and principal plants?

Broken down, languished [put to shame]: *“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” (Isaiah 16:8).*

- **Jeremiah 48:32-33.**

5. What was Isaiah going to do over what was happening to the Moabites?

Weep outwardly and inwardly: *“(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) 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) Wherefore my bowels shall sound like an harp for Moab, and mine inward parts for Kir-haresh” (Isaiah 16:9-11).*

- **Isaiah 15:5.**

6. Would prayer help the Moabites?

No: *“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” (Isaiah 16:12).*

- First off, they went to their gods (**Isaiah 15:2**; cf. **Jeremiah 48:13**).
- Like most though, people want divine help in bad times (**Isaiah 26:16**).
- While they turned to false gods, there is some discussion to be had here about God:
 - If in sin, we should turn to God to confess those sins and repent, rather than asking for help with the consequences of our actions (**Psalms 32:5, Psalms 38:18, Proverbs 28:13, Jeremiah 3:13, Acts 8:13-24, and I John 1:9**).
 - If you are in your sins, not repenting, you cannot expect God to step in for anything (**Proverbs 15:29, Isaiah 59:1-3, Jeremiah 5:25, John 9:31, and I Peter 3:12**).

7. What had the Lord spoken concerning the end of Moab?

As we discussed at the end of the previous chapter, the end was to come in three years with a small remnant: *“(13) This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning Moab since that time. (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” (Isaiah 16:13-14).*

- God’s word seals their fate (**Numbers 23:19** and **Habakkuk 2:3**).