

ISAIAH 15-16

Oracle Concerning Moab

1 An oracle concerning Moab:

Because Ar of Moab is laid waste in a night, Moab is undone. Because Kir of Moab is laid waste in a night, Moab is undone. 2 He has gone up to the temple and to Dibon, to the high places to weep. Over Nebo and over Medeba Moab wails. On every head is baldness. Every beard is shorn. 3 In the streets they wear sackcloth. On the housetops and in the squares everyone wails and melts in tears. 4 Heshbon and Elealeh cry out. Their voice is heard as far as Jahaz. Therefore the armed men of Moab cry aloud. His soul trembles. 5 My heart cries out for Moab. Her fugitives flee to Zoar, to Eglath-shelishiyah. For at the ascent of Luhith they go up weeping. On the road to Horonaim they raise a cry of destruction. 6 The waters of Nimrim are a desolation. The grass is withered, the vegetation fails, the greenery is no more. 7 Therefore the abundance they have gained and what they have laid up they carry away over the Brook of the Willows. 8 For a cry has gone around the land of Moab. Her wailing reaches to Eglaim. Her wailing reaches to Beer-elim. 9 For the waters of Dibon are full of blood. For I will bring upon Dibon even more, a lion for those of Moab who escape, for the remnant of the land. 16:1 Send the lamb to the ruler of the land, from Sela, by way of the desert, to the mount of the daughter of Zion. 2 Like fleeing birds, like a scattered nest, so are the daughters of Moab at the fords of the Arnon.

3 Give counsel. Grant justice. Make your shade like night at the height of noon. Shelter the outcasts. Do not reveal the fugitive. 4 Let the outcasts of Moab sojourn among you.¹ Be a shelter to them from the destroyer. When the oppressor is no more, and destruction has ceased, and he who tramples underfoot has vanished from the land, 5 then a throne will be established in loyal love, and on it will sit in faithfulness in the tent of David one who judges, seeks justice, and is swift to do righteousness.

6 We have heard of the pride of Moab—how proud he is!— of his arrogance, his pride, and his insolence. In his idle boasting he is not right. 7 Therefore let Moab wail for Moab, Let everyone wail. Mourn, utterly stricken, for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth. 8 For the fields of Heshbon languish, and the vine of Sibmah. The lords of the nations have struck down its branches, which reached to Jazer and strayed to the desert. Its shoots spread abroad and passed over the sea. 9 Therefore I weep with the weeping of Jazer for the vine of Sibmah. I drench you with my tears, Heshbon and Elealeh. For over your summer fruit and your harvest the shout has ceased. 10 And joy and gladness are taken away from the fruitful field, and in the vineyards no songs are sung, no cheers are raised. No treader treads out wine in the presses. I have put an end to the shouting. 11 Therefore my inner parts moan like a lyre for Moab, and my inmost self for Kir-hareseth.

¹ Like Ruth with Naomi.

12 And when Moab presents himself, when he wearies himself on the high place, when he comes to his sanctuary to pray, he will not prevail. 13 This is the word that Yahweh spoke concerning Moab in the past. 14 But now Yahweh has spoken saying,

In three years, like the years of a hired worker, the glory of Moab will be brought into contempt, in spite of all his great multitude, and those who remain will be very few and feeble.

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