



PROPHECIES, PROMISES, AND WARNINGS
Isaiah 15:1 - 16:14

Isaiah Review:

The first 39 chapters of Isaiah deal with Judgment and the last 27 deal with comfort.

Today's chapters concern the Moabites fleeing the invading Assyrians. The reason for their destruction is their longstanding opposition to God.

Moab was a product of incest (Genesis 19).

Chapter 15:1-9

Verse 1 -

- Isaiah continues with his judgments, or what he calls **burdens**. This is an oracle concerning Moab. It is a **burden** because it is a heavy message, and the wrath of God is in it. It is even a heavy **burden** for the prophet to declare.
- **Moab** is the name of a small kingdom in central Transjordan. Today that area is central Jordan. Sometimes the Bible uses the phrase "Beyond the Jordan" and is referring to this area.
 - **Ar** was the capital city of Moab.
 - The city is laid waste in one night.
 - Also, **Kir** is laid waste in one night.

Verses 2 - 4

- Moab was never a large land area, but the nation caused grief for Israel. Most of Moab is gently rolling tableland that is divided by numerous ravines.
- Running through Moab is the King's Highway. It held great military and commercial importance. This highway was perhaps the route the Israelites took as they made their final push to the Promised Land.
- The major cities are being destroyed and the only safe place at the moment is **Dibon**, where their gods (**temple**, literally Bajith (KJV) which means temple or house) were located.
- **Baldness** and **beard cut off** indicates shame and humiliation.

Verses 5 - 9

- God is a God of justice, but he also is a God of compassion. **My heart will cry out for Moab**. Even when a nation opposes God, he is concerned for the people. "For God so loved the world."



- **Fugitives shall flee to Zoar.** The refugees are seeking a place of safety and God's heart goes out to them.
- **Waters of Nimrim will be desolate.** Perhaps the enemy would dam the waters causing **nothing green**.
- **Dimon** called **Dibon** above is no longer safe. Blood is flowing there too
- The bottom line is none of the refugees, the remnant who have survived, are safe.

God, as a just God who cannot let sin go unpunished, exacts judgment on nations that oppose him.

Where could the remnant go for safety?

Chapter 16: 1-14

Verses 1 - 4

- If they really wanted to be safe they should have joined themselves to Jerusalem (daughter of Zion), by sending the lamb ahead as a tribute.
- Mount Zion was the safe place because Isaiah had already prophesied that Jerusalem would be spared from destruction by Assyria (Isaiah 10:24-34).
- Frustrated and scared like **birds** the **daughters** (women) **of Moab** were begging for protection.

Verse 5

- God in his love will see that one from the **tabernacle of David** (the Messiah), will **sit...in truth** on the **throne** of David. This was promised in 2 Samuel 7:16.
- The Messiah; **judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness!**
- Isaiah prophesies often about the righteous judge who will come: Isaiah 9:7; 11:4; 28:6; 32:16; 33:5; 42:1,3,4; 51:5.
- Only through Judah could they be protected in the near and far view of prophecy.

Verses 6-12

- **Pride.** Pride comes before the fall. The people of Moab should have realized their inability to save themselves from the Assyrians and turned to God through their neighbor Israel, but they refused to do so.
- Because of their pride, they were confident they did not need God and the result would be the productivity of their land would be stopped (16:7-10). Grapes, vines, wine, raisins, and other fruits.
- God feels deeply for Moab **My heart shall resound like a harp.**
- But Moab's continual religious ritual of sacrificing at her **high place** would not help to turn God's judgment away.

Verses 13 -14

- Could Moab suffer any more?
- **Within three years...the glory of Moab will be despised.**
- It is difficult to know when this destruction came. Either in B.C. 732 by Tiglath-Pileser, or B.C. 701 by Sennacherib, in the year he invaded Judah.