

## ISAIAH – Chapter 15

The Oracle concerning Moab. Isa. 15:1 – 16:14

The fulfillment of this oracle is said to occur in three years from the time of its delivery. Isa. 16:13-14

For centuries, Moab had been an enemy of Israel.

- 1) Moab was a son born to Lot and his eldest daughter. Gen 19:30-38
- 2) God gave them the land of Ar. Deut. 2:8-11
- 3) Moab attempted to destroy Israel toward the end of her wilderness wanderings (by means of Balaam). Num. 22:1-7ff
- 4) Because of this action the Moabites were permanently excluded from the assembly of Israel. Deut. 23:3-6
- 5) During the time of the judges, Israel was oppressed by the Moabites (Judges 3:12-14) for 18 years.
- 6) Saul fought Moab. 1 Sam. 14:47
- 7) David defeated Moab. 2 Sam. 8:1-2, 11-12
- 8) Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the “detestable idol of Moab” at the urging of his Moabites wife. 1 Kings 11:7-8
- 9) Moab was forced to pay tribute to Ahab, king of Israel. 2 Kings 3:1-4 After Ahab died (853 B.C.) Mesha, king of Moab, rebelled against Joram (Jehoram), but was defeated. 2 Kings 3:5-27
- 10) In Isaiah 15 & 16, God is going to remove Moab.

Vs. 1 In one night Ar and Kir of Moab (2 major cities) are to fall (by Assyria). There will be such a destruction that their refugees will flee as far as Zoar, vs. 5.

Vs. 2 Dibon, Nebo, Medeba are the other main cities of Moab. Jer. 48:15-47 describes in great detail this destruction.

A bald head and a beard that has been cut off is a sign of humiliation.  
2 Sam. 10:1-5; Micah 1:16; Liv. 21:1-5

Vs. 3 Girded with sackcloth – cloth made of black goat’s hair, coarse, rough, used for sacks, worn by mourners, and as a sign of repentance. Isa. 3:24

Everyone is wailing, dissolved in tears, bewailing the loss of all of their cities.

Vs. 4 Two additional cities are referenced in the destruction. Moab’s soldiers wail because they cannot stop the destruction coming upon their people and cities.

Vs. 5 Isaiah is emotionally affected by Moab's distress. They flee the invading Assyrians going south into Edom. Zoar was the northern most Edomite city, directly south of the Dead Sea.

Eglath-Shelishiyah, Luhith, Horonaim; 3 more cities in ruin. (Again paralleled in Jer. 48)

Vs. 6-8 The whole entire territory of Moab is included in God's judgment. Great cities who are now lost to history, remembered by no one.

Vs. 9 The water supply is bloody, destruction is massive. It will be as if the fleeing survivors are being chased by a lion (review the barbarity of the Assyrians).