

INITIATION INTO ISAIAH

by

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CHAPTER SIXTEEN

THEME:

Burden of Moab (continued).

REMARKS:

The prophecy concerning the judgment of Moab continues in this chapter. Perhaps it may seem out of all proportion to the reader in ratio with the importance and size of the nation. Moab was a more formidable nation in that day than we are willing to concede. Its prominence to the nation Israel at this time cannot be over estimated

This chapter opens with a “last call” to Moab to avail herself of the mercy God has provided for her. They are enjoined to pay tribute to Israel according to their arrangement (II Kings 3:4-9).

This was an acknowledgment of God and a tribute to the Lord. In the Great Tribulation a nation’s faith in God will be determined by their attitude and action toward Israel (Matthew 25:31-46).

Because of pride Moab failed to obey God. The final judgment is predicted in a short time.

OUTLINE:

1. **FINAL OVERTURE of Mercy Offered to Moab as the Prophet looks on to the Millennium.** Verses 1-5
2. **FIERCE PRIDE of Moab Leads to Final Rejection of Mercy and Judgment of Moab.** Verses 6-12
3. **FULFILLMENT OF JUDGMENT Within Three Years.** Verses 13-14

COMMENT:

Verse 1—**Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.**

The lamb was the animal of sacrifice which best depicts Christ, “**The Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.**”

Sela is Petra, the capital of Edom. From the southern border to the northern border the lamb is to be sent as tribute to Israel. This would be an acknowledgment of the authority and position of Israel. It was a tax which would require humbleness on the part of Moab to comply with its terms.

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

Verse 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.

This section is projected into the Great Tribulation and the Kingdom, as the fifth verse shows by its direct reference to the tabernacle of David (See Acts 15:13-17).

During that time of trouble the nation Israel will be in grave difficulty (Jeremiah 30:7). They will seek for refuge from their enemies. As some nations seek sanctions against them, they will seek for sanctuary among the surrounding nations (Matthew 24:15-21). Satan, cast out of heaven at this time, will vent all his spleen against them (Revelation 12:13-16). Those who befriend these people by so much as giving a cup of cold water will be rewarded of God.

Verse 6—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.

Pride will be the cause of Moab's rejection of God's proffered offer of mercy.

Verse 7—Therefore shall Moab howl for Moab, every one shall howl: for the foundations of Kir-hareseth shall ye mourn; surely they are stricken.

Verse 8—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.

Judgment will inevitably fall upon Moab. Only Moab will howl for Moab now.

Verse 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.

Verse 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.**

Verse 11—**Wherefore my bowels shall sound like an harp for Moab, and mine inward parts for Kir-haresh.**

The prophet's heart is again touched and he weeps as he anticipates the coming judgment on Moab. God never delights in judgment. It is His strange work, he would much rather extend mercy.

Verse 13—**This is the word that the Lord hath spoken concerning Moab since that time.**

Verse 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.**

The coming judgment is dated, here again Isaiah proves he is a true prophet of God. The Assyrians shortly thereafter invaded the land of Moab.

About the time of the End a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamour and opposition.

- Sir Isaac Newton in 1720.

~ end of chapter 16 ~

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