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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

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**“THE CALAMITY OF MOAB”**

**Jeremiah 48:1-24**

***Jeremiah 48:1 "Against Moab thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Woe unto Nebo! for it is spoiled: Kiriathaim is confounded [and] taken: Misgab is confounded and dismayed."***

***Jeremiah 48:2 "[There shall be] no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from [being] a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee."***

***Jeremiah 48:3 "A voice of crying [shall be] from Horonaim, spoiling and great destruction."***

Moab is a Gentile city, or state and was located east of the Dead Sea between Edom and Ammon. "Moab" was the name of Lot's eldest daughter's son that she had from committing incest with her father. He was the founder of the Moabites. Lot’s daughter’s intentions were good, but here actions were evil. After the destruction of her home and husband, she tried to “help God out” by sinning with here drunken father.

***Genesis 19:31-32***

***31 And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth:***

***32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father.***

The Moabites had an evil beginning, and their morals were no better at the time of this prophecy. They should have been allies of Israel, since they were the descendants of Lot and, therefore, of Abraham. But Israel’s history showed that the Moabites harassed and attacked the Israelites at various times especially when they were weak. The Moabites opposed Israel during its years in the wilderness (Numbers 22:1–6, 9–11), and were to be a source of constant irritation to the Israelites throughout their history (Amos 1:13–2:3). Nebo was a place in the mountains, where the false god "Nebo" was worshipped. This woe is against the false god, and against the area where he was worshipped. Kiriathaim was known as the city of the terrible. Misgab, here, could mean fortress. A fortress will not hold back God. Their destruction was great physically, but they were humiliated, as well. These evil men of Moab are the madmen. Horonaim is a city of Moab near the border of Edom.

***Jeremiah 48:4 "Moab is destroyed; her little ones have caused a cry to be heard."***

***Jeremiah 48:5 "For in the going up of Luhith continual weeping shall go up; for in the going down of Horonaim the enemies have heard a cry of destruction."***

***Jeremiah 48:6 "Flee, save your lives, and be like the heath in the wilderness."***

This is speaking of the entire land of Moab being destroyed. The crying of the children just shows the magnitude of the destruction. The destruction is widespread. Their only chance of survival is to flee to the wilderness. Heath is speaking of the destitute. We are all destitute, until we reach out to God for His help. Our help is in the Lord.

***Jeremiah 48:7 "For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken: and Chemosh shall go forth into captivity [with] his priests and his princes together."***

***Jeremiah 48:8 "And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape: the valley also shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD hath spoken."***

The Moabites trusted in their god Chemosh. In his unfaithfulness, Solomon had worshiped this false deity who was abhorrent to the Lord (1 Kings 11:7). But this idol would topple, along with his priests and officials. The works are the works of their hands. They foolishly worshipped man made idols and trusted in their money. Subsequently, they will be totally destroyed.

***Jeremiah 48:9 "Give wings unto Moab, that it may flee and get away: for the cities thereof shall be desolate, without any to dwell therein***

***Jeremiah 48:10 "Cursed [be] he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed [be] he that keepeth back his sword from blood."***

Moab is spoken of here as a bird that flies away. The problem is, there is no safe place to land. The whole land is desolate. The extent of God’s anger against the Moabites was such that he even warns her destroyers to be diligent in their work: The one who does the Lord’s business deceitfully is cursed, and the one who withholds his sword from bloodshed is cursed. This is not just Moab, but anyone who deals deceitfully with the Word of God.

***2 Corinthians 11:13-15***

***13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.***

***14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.***

***15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.***

***II Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."***

***Jeremiah 48:11 "Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed."***

Like wine that had been allowed to settle on its sediments, in order that it might gain strength and flavor before being strained and poured into a new wineskin (Isaiah 25:6; Zephaniah 1:12), so Moab had been allowed to remain in its land. However, the vessel of Moab would soon be poured out and be broken by invaders. Another way of explaining this, is that God has not chastised them before. They have lived as they pleased. Their sins have not been pointed out to them for them to change the smell. God chastises His children, not the world.

***Hebrews 12:6-7***

***6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.***

***7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?***

***Jeremiah 48:12 "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles."***

***Jeremiah 48:13 "And Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Beth-el their confidence."***

One reason for Moab’s sin was her complacency, since the nation had never really experienced hardship or exile. He had been left quiet since his youth. But all that was about to change; Moab would experience devastation from God. The Moabite kingdom ceased with the conquest of Nebuchadrezzar. Centuries later the area was occupied by the famed Nabateans, under whom the land flourished once again. Moab is sometimes spoken of as a wine jar. Though they hadn’t been poured from one container to another and gone into exile as other nations had, God was going to send pourers to pour him out. The Moabites had failed to learn an important lesson from their cousins in Israel. Moab would be put to shame because of Chemosh, just as the house of Israel was put to shame for their idolatry at Bethel.bThere had been an alternate place of worship set up at Bethel. The part they were ashamed of, was the golden calf used in the worship services. This was idolatry.

***Jeremiah 48:14 "How say ye, We [are] mighty and strong men for the war?"***

***Jeremiah 48:15 "Moab is spoiled, and gone up [out of] her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name [is] the LORD of hosts."***

***Jeremiah 48:16 "The calamity of Moab [is] near to come, and his affliction hasteth fast." Jeremiah 48:17 "All ye that are about him, bemoan him; and all ye that know his name, say, How is the strong staff broken, [and] the beautiful rod!"***

When God unleashed his judgment, Moab’s warriors in whom the people gloried would be of no use in stopping the slaughter. They might have been strong in the past, but now their young strong men had been killed in battle. There were no strong left to fight. The lamenting would be great, because of all of Moab is desolation. Moab’s calamity is the judgment of God!

***Proverbs 1:26-28***

***26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;***

***27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.***

***28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:***

***Jeremiah 48:18 "Thou daughter that dost inhabit Dibon, come down from [thy] glory, and sit in thirst; for the spoiler of Moab shall come upon thee, [and] he shall destroy thy strong holds."***

***Jeremiah 48:19 "O inhabitant of Aroer, stand by the way, and espy; ask him that fleeth, and her that escapeth, [and] say, What is done?"***

***Jeremiah 48:20 "Moab is confounded; for it is broken down: howl and cry; tell ye it in Arnon, that Moab is spoiled,"***

Dibon was a city that was either of Gad, or Reuben. It was in Moab and was destroyed as the other cities. The word "daughter" was used to show they had been from one of the tribes of Israel. Aroer would have been on the edge of the country on the way of their flight out. "Espy" means to peer into the distance. Even people in the distant town of Aroer would see the people of Moab running past and ask what happened. They looked down the road, and saw them fleeing, and asked them, why they were fleeing? The chilling answer would be this: Moab is destroyed. They are fleeing, because they have been defeated.

***Jeremiah 48:21 "And judgment is come upon the plain country; upon Holon, and upon Jahazah, and upon Mephaath,"***

***Jeremiah 48:22 "And upon Dibon, and upon Nebo, and upon Beth-diblathaim,"***

***Jeremiah 48:23 "And upon Kiriathaim, and upon Beth-gamul, and upon Beth-meon,"***

***Jeremiah 48:24 "And upon Kerioth, and upon Bozrah, and upon all the cities of the land of Moab, far or near."***

The Scriptures, above, are a listing of the destroyed cities of Moab.

**Questions**

1. Who was "Moab"?
2. Who was "Nebo"?
3. Kiriathsaim was known as the city of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Their destruction was great physically, but they were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as well.
5. How could they save their lives?
6. What had they trusted in, instead of in God?
7. In verse 9, Moab is spoken of as what?
8. Who, besides Moab, is cursed, if they deceitfully use the Word of God?
9. What is another way of explaining verse 11?
10. Moab is sometimes spoken of as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ jar.
11. Why was the house of Israel ashamed about Bethel?
12. What had happened to the young, strong men?
13. What does "espy" mean?
14. Why is Moab fleeing?