

~DIBON 1 (400)
(Di'bon)

- A city East of the Dead Sea, wrested from the Moabites by Sihon the Amorite but later taken from him by Israel at the time of the Israelite entry into the land under Moses.
- So Israel took all these cities, and Israel began dwelling in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon and all its dependent towns. **(Numbers 21:25)**
- For Heshbon was the city of Sihon. He was the king of the Amorites, and it was he who fought with the king of Moab formerly and went taking all his land out of his hand as far as the Arnon. **(Numbers 21:26)**
- That is why the sayers of mock verses would say; Come to Heshbon. Let the city of Sihon be built and be proved firmly set up. **(Numbers 21:27)**
- For a fire has come out of Heshbon, a flame from the town of Sihon. It has consumed Ar of Moab, the owners of the high places of the Arnon. **(Numbers 21:28)**
- Woe to you, Moab! You will certainly perish, O people of Chemosh! He will certainly give his sons as escaped ones and his daughters in the captivity to the king of the Amorites, Sihon. **(Numbers 21:29)**
- So let us shoot at them. Heshbon will certainly perish up to **Dibon**; And the women up to Nophah, the men up to Medeba. **(Numbers 21:30)**
- Ancient **Dibon** is today identified with **Dhiban**, 5 kilometers (3 miles) North of the Arnon, 21 kilometers (13 miles) East of the Dead Sea. It has been the site of recent intensive archaeological investigations and has achieved some fame as the scene of the discovery of the famous Moabite Stone in **1868 C.E.**
- Statements on this stele, set up by Mesha, the king of Moab, have been interpreted by some to identify **Dibon** as his capital city, including Qarhah, and as the chief city of Moab at one time.

- **Soon after the initial Israelite conquest of this area, the tribe of Gad lived there and proceeded to build, or rebuild **Dibon**, apparently giving it the lengthened name of **Dibon-gad**, a location listed as one of the Israelite nation's camping sites.**
- **And the sons of Gad proceeded to build **Dibon** and Ataroth and Aroer. (**Numbers 32:34**)**
- **Later they pulled away from Iyim and went camping in **Dibon-gad**. (**Numbers 33:45**)**
- **After that they pulled away from **Dibon-gad** and went camping in Almon-diblathaim. (**Numbers 33:46**)**
- **However, **Dibon** was considered part of the inheritance of Reuben.**
- **Hence the sons of Gad and the sons of Reuben came and said this to Moses and Eleazar the priest and to the chieftains of the assembly. (**Numbers 32:2**)**
- **Ataroth and **Dibon** and Jazer and Nimrah and Heshbon and Elealeh and Sebam and Nebo and Beon. (**Numbers 32:3**)**
- **With the other half tribe the Reubenites and the Gadites took their inheritance that Moses gave them on the side of the Jordan toward the east, just as Moses the servant of Yehowah had given them. (**Joshua 13:8**)**
- **From Aroer, which is on the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the torrent valley, and all the tableland of Medeba as far as **Dibon**. (**Joshua 13:9**)**
- **Then Moses made a gift to the tribe of the sons of Reuben by their families. (**Joshua 13:15**)**
- **And the territory came to be theirs from Aroer, which is on the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the torrent valley, and all the tableland by Medeba. (**Joshua 13:16**)**
- **Heshbon and all its towns that are on the tableland, **Dibon** and Bamoth-baal and Beth-baal-meon. (**Joshua 13:17**)**

- **Dibon** probably suffered under the revival of Moabite power during the reign of King Eglon, until it gained relief as a result of Judge Ehud's victory.
- And once again the sons of Israel went doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. At that Yehowah let Eglon the king of Moab grow strong against Israel, because they did what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. (**Judges 3:12**)
- Furthermore, he gathered against them the sons of Ammon and Amalek. Then they went and struck Israel and took possession of the city of palm trees. (**Judges 3:13**)
- And the sons of Israel continued to serve Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. (**Judges 3:14**)
- And the sons of Israel began to call to Yehowah for aid. So Yehowah raised up for them a savior, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a left-handed man. In time the sons of Israel sent tribute by his hand to Eglon the king of Moab. (**Judges 3:15**)
- Meanwhile Ehud made a sword for himself, and it had two edges, its length being a cubit. Then he girded it underneath his garment upon his right thigh. (**Judges 3:16**)
- And he proceeded to present the tribute to Eglon the king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. (**Judges 3:17**)
- And it came about that when he had finished presenting the tribute, he at once sent the people away, the bearers of the tribute. (**Judges 3:18**)
- And he himself turned back at the quarries that were at Gilgal, and he proceeded to say; I have a secret word for you, O king. So he said; Keep silence! With that all those who were standing by him went on out from him. (**Judges 3:19**)
- And Ehud came to him as he was sitting in his cool roof chamber that he had to himself. And Ehud went on to say; A word of God I have for you. At that he rose up from his throne. (**Judges 3:20**)
- Then Ehud thrust in his left hand and took the sword off his right thigh and plunged it into his belly. (**Judges 3:21**)

- **And the handle kept going in also after the blade so that the fat closed in over the blade, for he did not draw the sword out of his belly, and the fecal matter began to come out. (Judges 3:22)**
- **And Ehud proceeded to go out through the air hole, but he closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them. (Judges 3:23)**
- **And he himself went out. And his servants came and began looking, and there the doors of the roof chamber were locked. So they said; He is just easing nature in the cool interior room. (Judges 3:24)**
- **And they kept waiting until they were ashamed, and, look! There was no one opening the doors of the roof chamber. At this they took the key and opened them, and, look! Their lord was fallen to the earth dead! (Judges 3:25)**
- **As for Ehud, he escaped while they were lingering, and he himself passed by the quarries and made his escape to Seirah. (Judges 3:26)**
- **And it came about that when he got there he began blowing the horn in the mountainous region of Ephraim, and the sons of Israel began going down with him out of the mountainous region, he being at their head. (Judges 3:27)**
- **Then he said to them; Follow me, because Yehowah has given your enemies, the Moabites, into your hand. And they went following him and got to capture the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites, and they did not allow anybody to pass over. (Judges 3:28)**
- **And at that time they went striking down Moab, about ten thousand men, every one robust and every one a valiant man, and not a single one escaped. (Judges 3:29)**
- **And Moab came to be subdued on that day under Israel's hand, and the land had no further disturbance for eighty years. (Judges 3:30)**
- **Mesha, king of Moab, revolted against Israelite domination many centuries later, as soon as Ahab died, according to the Bible account at;**

- **As regards Mesha the king of Moab, he became a sheep raiser, and he paid to the king of Israel a hundred thousand lambs and a hundred thousand unshorn male sheep. (2 Kings 3:4)**
- **And it came about that as soon as Ahab died, the king of Moab began to revolt against the king of Israel. (2 Kings 3:5)**
- **The Bible does not say precisely how long this uprising lasted, and it is possible that, as Mesha boasts on the Moabite Stone, he managed to annex several Israelite cities to Qarhah at that time.**
- **Nevertheless, unlike Mesha's propagandistic inscription, the Scriptural record makes it clear that Moab was soundly defeated when its forces entered into battle against the combined armies of Israel, Judah, and Edom.**
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- **Consequently King Jehoram went out on that day from Samaria and mustered all Israel. (2 Kings 3:6)**
- **He went farther and now sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying; The king of Moab himself has revolted against me. Will you go with me to Moab in war? To this he said; I shall go. I am the same as you are, my people are the same as your people, my horses are the same as your horses. (2 Kings 3:7)**
- **And he went on to say; By which particular way shall we go up? So he said; By the way of the wilderness of Edom. (2 Kings 3:8)**
- **And the king of Israel and the king of Judah and the king of Edom proceeded to go, and they kept going their way around for seven days, and there proved to be no water for the camp and for the domestic animals that were following their steps. (2 Kings 3:9)**
- **At length the king of Israel said; How unfortunate that Yehowah has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab!**

(2 Kings 3:10)

- **At that Jehoshaphat said; Is there not here a prophet of Yehowah? Then let us inquire of Yehowah through him. So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered and said; There is here Elisha the son of Shaphat, who poured out water upon the hands of Elijah. (2 Kings 3:11)**
- **Then Jehoshaphat said; The word of Yehowah exists with him. Accordingly the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. (2 Kings 3:12)**
- **And Elisha proceeded to say to the king of Israel; What do I have to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and to the prophets of your mother. But the king of Israel said to him; No, for Yehowah has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab. (2 Kings 3:13)**
- **To this Elisha said; As Yehowah of armies before whom I do stand is living, if it were not that it is the face of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah for which I am having consideration, I would not look at you or see you. (2 Kings 3:14)**
- **And now you men fetch me a string-instrument player. And it occurred that, as soon as the string-instrument player played, the hand of Yehowah came to be upon him. (2 Kings 3:15)**
- **And he went on to say; This is what Yehowah has said; Let there be a making of this torrent valley full of ditches. (2 Kings 3:16)**
- **For this is what Yehowah has said; You men will not see a wind, and you will not see a downpour, yet that torrent valley will be filled with water, and you men will certainly drink from it, you and your livestock and your domestic animals. (2 Kings 3:17)**
- **And this will indeed be a trivial thing in the eyes of Yehowah, and he will certainly give Moab into your hand. (2 Kings 3:18)**
- **And you must strike down every fortified city and every choice city, and every good tree you should fell, and all the springs of water you should stop up, and every good tract of land you should mar with stones. (2 Kings 3:19)**
- **And it came about in the morning, at the time of the going up of**

the grain offering, that, look! Water was coming from the direction of Edom, and the land came to be filled with the water. (2 Kings 3:20)

- **As regards all the Moabites, they heard that the kings had come up to fight against them. Consequently they called together men from as many as were girding on a belt and upward, and they began standing at the boundary. (2 Kings 3:21)**
- **When they got up early in the morning, the sun itself flashed upon the water, so that the Moabites from the opposite side saw the water red like blood. (2 Kings 3:22)**
- **And they began to say; This is blood! The kings have unquestionably been put to the sword, and they went striking one another down. So now, to the spoil, O Moab! (2 Kings 3:23)**
- **When they came into the camp of Israel, the Israelites immediately rose up and began striking the Moabites down so that they took to flight from before them. Hence they came into Moab, striking the Moabites down as they came. (2 Kings 3:24)**
- **And the cities they went throwing down, and, as for every good tract of land, they would pitch each one his stone and actually fill it, and every spring of water they would stop up, and every good tree they would fell, until they left only the stones of Kir-hareseth remaining in it, and the slingers began going around it and striking it down. (2 Kings 3:25)**
- **When the king of Moab saw that the battle had proved too strong for him, he at once took with him seven hundred men drawing sword to break through to the king of Edom, but they were not able to. (2 Kings 3:26)**
- **Finally he took his firstborn son who was going to reign in place of him and offered him up as a burnt sacrifice upon the wall. And there came to be great indignation against Israel, so that they pulled away from against him and returned to their land. (2 Kings 3:27)**
- **Less than 200 years later **Dibon** was once more known as a Moabite city, and against it;**
- **He has gone up to The House and to **Dibon**, to the high places, to**

a weeping. Over Nebo and over Medeba Moab itself howls. On all heads in it there is baldness, every beard is clipped. (**Isaiah 15:2**)

- Uttered a pronouncement of doom. The inhabitants of the region are therefore spoken of prophetically as going up to The House and to **Dibon**, to the high places, mourning the desolation of Moab.

- Certain scholars have theorized that Isaiah alluded to the threatening Assyrian menace as causing the weeping at the high places near **Dibo**. However, there is no record of an Assyrian devastation of that region. When Yehowah's servant Jeremiah prophesied about a hundred years later that **Dibon** would get down from glory, and sit down in thirst

- Get down from glory, and sit down in thirst, O inhabitress of the daughter of **Dibon**, for the despoiler of Moab has come up against you. He will actually bring your fortified places to ruin. (**Jeremiah 48:18**)

- Isaiah's earlier prophecy had apparently not yet been fulfilled. Therefore the later prophet was evidently presenting anew a similar message and thereby making the prediction of doom on Moab doubly certain.

- Sometime after the fall of Jerusalem in **607 B.C.E**, when Nebuchadnezzar thoroughly devastated Moab, he may have left **Dibon's** citizens, not only thirsting for the luxuries of its previous glory but also forsaken as humbled captives, literally thirsting for water and other common necessities.

- Here I am sending and I will take all the families of the north, is the utterance of Yehowah, even sending to Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these nations round about, and I will devote them to destruction and make them an object of astonishment and something to whistle at and places devastated to time indefinite. (**Jeremiah 25:9**)

- And I proceeded to take the cup out of the hand of Yehowah and to make all the nations drink to whom Yehowah had sent me: (**Jeremiah 25:17**)

- Namely, Jerusalem and the cities of Judah and her kings, her

princes, to make them a devastated place, an object of astonishment, something to whistle at and a malediction, just as at this day. (**Jeremiah 25:18**)

- Pharaoh the king of Egypt and his servants and his princes and all his people. (**Jeremiah 25:19**)
- And all the mixed company, and all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines and Ashkelon and Gaza and Ekron and the remnant of Ashdod. (**Jeremiah 25:20**)
- Edom and Moab and the sons of Ammon. (**Jeremiah 25:21**)
- The finding of large stores of remarkably preserved grain at **Dibon**, which grain is considered to date back to sometime in the latter half of the **First Millennium B.C.E**, seems to confirm the view of some that the **Dibon** region, even today an agriculturally productive area, may have at one time been a breadbasket of Palestine.
- Some commentators consider **Dibon** to be the same as **Dimon** mentioned in;
- Because the very waters of Dimon have become full of blood. For upon **Dimon** I shall place additional things, such as a lion for the escapees of Moab who escape and for the remaining ones of the ground. (**Isaiah 15:9**)

See Also DIMON