

~KIR OF MOAB (107)

- An important city of Moab, probably a onetime capital. The Aramaic **Targum** consistently refers to Kir of Moab, Kir-hareseth, and Kir-heres as Karak, indicating that these are but alternative names for the same place. Kir of Moab is therefore usually identified with modern Karak.
- The pronouncement against Moab! Because in the night it has been despoiled, Ar of Moab itself has been silenced. Because in the night it has been despoiled, **Kir of Moab** itself has been silenced. (**Isaiah 15:1**)
- This city is situated on a small plateau over 900 meters (3,000 feet) above sea level and about 35 kilometers (22 miles) South of Dibon. Steep valleys separate most of Karak from the loftier neighboring mountains.
- Toward the close of the **Tenth Century B.C.E.** the allied forces of Israel, Judah, and Edom attacked **Kir-hareseth**. If the site is correctly identified with Karak, it was doubtless from the nearby mountains that slingers bombarded the city with stones.
- Although Kir-hareseth evidently was not taken, the battle went hard against the king of Moab. For some unstated reason he, along with 700 warriors, sought to break through the battle lines in order to reach the king of Edom but was unsuccessful.
- As a last resort, it appears that the king of Moab publicly sacrificed his own firstborn son, probably to appease the god Chemosh.
- 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**)
- 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**)
- 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**)
 - The **Hebrew** text,
 - 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**)
 - May also be understood to refer to the firstborn son of the king of Edom, and some suggest that this is alluded to at;
 - This is what Yehowah has said; On account of three revolts of Moab, and on account of four, I shall not turn it back, on account of his burning the bones of the king of Edom for lime. (**Amos 2:1**)
 - Isaiah's prophecy indicated that the Moabites would mourn for **Kir-hareseth's** raisin cakes, perhaps a principal product of the city's trade.
 - We have heard of the pride of Moab, that he is very proud, his haughtiness and his pride and his fury, his empty talk will not be so. (**Isaiah 16:6**)
 - Therefore Moab will howl for Moab, even all of it will howl. For the raisin cakes of **Kir-hareseth** the stricken ones indeed will moan. (**Isaiah 16:7**)

- Isaiah also spoke of his being boisterous like a harp over Moab and **Kir-hareseth**. As the strings of a harp vibrate with sound, so Isaiah's inward parts were moved by the message of woe for **Kir-hareseth**.
- That is why my very inwards are boisterous just like a harp even over Moab, and the midst of me over **Kir-hareseth**. (**Isaiah 16:11**)
- That is why it is over Moab that I shall howl, and for Moab in his entirety I shall cry out. For the men of **Kir-heres** one shall moan. (**Jeremiah 48:31**)
- That is why my own heart will be boisterous for Moab himself, just like flutes, and for the men of **Kir-heres** my very heart will be boisterous, just like flutes. That is why the very abundance that he has produced will certainly perish. (**Jeremiah 48:36**)