

~CHEMOSH (137)
(Che'mosh)

- The chief deity of the Moabites, who are referred to as the people of **Chemosh**.
- 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**)
- Woe to you, O Moab! The people of **Chemosh** have perished. For your sons have been taken as captives and your daughters as captives. (**Jeremiah 48:46**)
- Some scholars identify this deity with the **Baal of Peor** because of the latter's association with the Moabites.
- Now Israel was dwelling in Shittim. Then the people started to have immoral relations with the daughters of Moab. (**Numbers 25:1**)
- And the women came calling the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people began to eat and to bow down to their gods. (**Numbers 25:2**)
- So Israel attached itself to the **Baal of Peor**, and the anger of Yehowah began to blaze against Israel. (**Numbers 25:3**)
- At least in cases of extreme stress, if not generally practiced, children were probably sacrificed to **Chemosh**.
- 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 black basalt stele, commonly known as the Moabite Stone, erected by King Mesha of Moab to commemorate his revolt against Israel, provides further insight as to how the Moabites viewed their god **Chemosh**.
- According to this monument, **Chemosh** gave the victories in battle, and warfare was undertaken at his command. King Mesha attributed the deliverance from Israelite oppression to **Chemosh**, and he reasoned that the actual affliction at the hands of Omri the king of Israel was due to the gods anger with his land.
- Jephthah referred to **Chemosh** as the god of the Ammonites.
- Is it not whomever **Chemosh** your god causes you to dispossess that you will dispossess? And every one whom Yehowah our God has dispossessed from before us is the one we shall dispossess. (**Judges 11:24**)
- Some scholars question the correctness of Jephthah's statement in view of the fact that **Chemosh** is elsewhere always associated with the Moabites. However, it must be remembered that the Ammonites worshiped numerous gods.
- And the sons of Israel again proceeded to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, and they began to serve the Baals and the Ashtoreth images and the gods of Syria and the gods of Sidon and the gods of Moab and the gods of the sons of Ammon and the gods of the Philistines. So they left Yehowah and did not serve him. (**Judges 10:6**)
- Furthermore, since the Ammonites and the Moabites were neighboring peoples, with a common ancestry through Lot the nephew of Abraham, there is nothing unusual about both nations worshipping **Chemosh**.
- The worship of **Chemosh** was evidently introduced into Israel during the reign of Solomon. Undoubtedly under the influence of his Moabite wives, Solomon built a high place to **Chemosh** on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem.
- And King Solomon himself loved many foreign wives along with the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian and Hittite women. (**1 Kings 11:1**)

- It was then that Solomon proceeded to build a high place to **Chemosh** the disgusting thing of Moab on the mountain that was in front of Jerusalem, and to Molech the disgusting thing of the sons of Ammon. (**1 Kings 11:7**)
- And that was the way he did for all his foreign wives who were making sacrificial smoke and sacrificing to their gods. (**1 Kings 11:8**)
- The reason why is that they have left me and begun to bow down to Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, to **Chemosh** the god of Moab and to Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon, and they have not walked in my ways by doing what is right in my eyes and my statutes and my judicial decisions like David his father. (**1 Kings 11:33**)
- During Josiah's extensive religious reform, over three centuries later, this high place was made unfit for worship.
- And the high places that were in front of Jerusalem, that were to the right of the Mount of Ruination, that Solomon the king of Israel had built to Ashtoreth the disgusting thing of the Sidonians and to **Chemosh** the disgusting thing of Moab and to Milcom the detestable thing of the sons of Ammon, the king made unfit for worship. (**2 Kings 23:13**)
- The prophet Jeremiah, in foretelling calamity for Moab, indicated that her principal god **Chemosh** as well as his priests and princes would go into exile.
- The Moabites would become ashamed of their god because of his impotence, just as the Israelites of the ten-tribe kingdom had become ashamed of Bethel, likely because of its association with calf worship.
- Because your trust is in your works and in your treasures, you yourself will also be captured. And **Chemosh** will certainly go forth into exile, his priests and his princes at the same time. (**Jeremiah 48:7**)
- And the Moabites will have to be ashamed of **Chemosh**, just as those of the house of Israel have become ashamed of Bethel their confidence. (**Jeremiah 48:13**)

- **Woe to you, O Moab! The people of **Chemosh** have perished. For your sons have been taken as captives and your daughters as captives. (**Jeremiah 48:46**)**