

## ~MOAB 2 (1708)

(Mo'ab) [Moabites, Mo'ab-ites]

- Moab's Relationship To Israel
- Before Israel's Entry Into The Promised Land
- In The Time Of The Judges
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- The territory anciently inhabited by the **Moabites** was called **Moab** and also the field(s) of **Moab**.
- When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated the Midianites in the field of **Moab**, began to reign instead of him, and the name of his city was Avith. (**Genesis 36:35**)
- And from Bamoth on to the valley that is in the field of **Moab**, at the head of Pisgah, and it projects over toward the face of Jeshimon. (**Numbers 21:20**)
- And the man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. Eventually they came to the fields of **Moab** and continued there. (**Ruth 1:2**)
- Eventually Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the field of **Moab**, began to reign in place of him. And the name of his city was Avith. (**1 Chronicles 1:46**)
- As for Shaharaim, he became father to children in the field of **Moab** after he sent them away. Hushim and Baara were his wives. (**1 Chronicles 8:8**)
- **Moab** is my washing pot. Over Edom I shall throw my sandal. Over Philistia I shall shout in triumph. (**Psalms 60:8**)
- Earlier the Emim had resided in this land but were apparently displaced by the **Moabites**.
- Yehowah then said to me, Do not molest **Moab** or engage in war with them, because I shall not give you any of his land as a

holding, for to the sons of Lot I have given Ar as a holding.  
(Deuteronomy 2:9)

- The Emim dwelt in it in former times, a people great and numerous and tall like the Anakim. (Deuteronomy 2:10)
- As for the Rephaim, they also were considered like the Anakim, and the Moabites used to call them Emim. (Deuteronomy 2:11)
- You are passing today by the territory of Moab, that is, Ar. (Deuteronomy 2:18)
- And you must get close in front of the sons of Ammon. Do not molest them or engage in strife with them, because I shall not give you any of the land of the sons of Ammon as a holding, for it is to the sons of Lot that I have given it as a holding. (Deuteronomy 2:19)
- As the land of the Rephaim it also used to be considered. The Rephaim dwelt in it in former times, and the Ammonites used to call them Zamzummim. (Deuteronomy 2:20)
- They were a great and numerous and tall people like the Anakim, and Yehowah went annihilating them from before them, that they might dispossess them and dwell in their place. (Deuteronomy 2:21)
- Just the same as he did for the sons of Esau, who are dwelling in Seir, when he annihilated the Horites from before them, that they might dispossess them and dwell in their place until this day. (Deuteronomy 2:22)
- The close of Israel's wilderness wandering, the territory of Moab appears to have extended from the torrent valley of Zered in the South to the torrent valley of Arnon in the North, a distance of some 50 kilometers (30 miles), the Dead Sea forming the West boundary and the Arabian Desert an undefined East boundary.
- Then they pulled away from Oboth and encamped in Iye-abarim, in the wilderness that is toward the front of Moab, toward the rising of the sun. (Numbers 21:11)
- From there they pulled away and took up camping by the torrent valley of Zered. (Numbers 21:12)

- From there they pulled away and went camping in the region of the Arnon, which is in the wilderness that extends from the border of the Amorites, for the Arnon is the boundary of **Moab**, between Moab and the Amorites. (**Numbers 21:13**)
- So we passed on away from our brothers, the sons of Esau, who are dwelling in Seir, from the way of the Arabah, from Elath and from Ezion-geber. Next we turned and passed on by the way of the wilderness of **Moab**. (**Deuteronomy 2:8**)
- Yehowah then said to me, Do not molest **Moab** or engage in war with them, because I shall not give you any of his land as a holding, for to the sons of Lot I have given Ar as a holding. (**Deuteronomy 2:9**)
- At this time rise and make your way across the torrent valley of Zered. Accordingly we went crossing the torrent valley of Zered. (**Deuteronomy 2:13**)
- You are passing today by the territory of **Moab**, that is, Ar. (**Deuteronomy 2:18**)
- And you must get close in front of the sons of Ammon. Do not molest them or engage in strife with them, because I shall not give you any of the land of the sons of Ammon as a holding, for it is to the sons of Lot that I have given it as a holding. (**Deuteronomy 2:19**)
- **Rising sharply from the Dead Sea, this region is chiefly a tableland slashed by gorges and has an average elevation of some 900 meters (3,000 feet) above the Mediterranean Sea. In ancient times it afforded pasture for vast flocks**
- 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 supported vineyards and orchards.**
- 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**)
- Because the terraces themselves of Heshbon have withered. The vine of Sibmah, the owners of the nations themselves have smitten down its bright-red branches. As far as Jazer they had reached, they had wandered about in the wilderness. Its own shoots had been left to luxuriate for themselves, they had gone over to the sea. (**Isaiah 16:8**)
- That is why I shall weep with the weeping of Jazer over the vine of Sibmah. With my tears I shall drench you, O Heshbon and Elealeh, because shouting even over your summer and over your harvest has fallen down. (**Isaiah 16:9**)
- And rejoicing and joyfulness have been taken away from the orchard, and in the vineyards there is no joyful crying out, there is no shouting done. No wine in the presses does the treader tread out. Shouting I have caused to cease. (**Isaiah 16:10**)
- With more than the weeping for Jazer I shall weep for you, O vine of Sibmah. Your own flourishing shoots have crossed over the sea. To the sea, to Jazer, they have reached. Upon your summer fruitage and upon your grape gathering the despoiler himself has fallen. (**Jeremiah 48:32**)
- And rejoicing and joyfulness have been taken away from the orchard and from the land of **Moab**. And from the winepresses I have caused the wine itself to cease. No one will be doing the treading with shouting. The shouting will be no shouting. (**Jeremiah 48:33**)
- **Grain was also cultivated.**
- No Ammonite or **Moabite** may come into the congregation of Yehowah. Even to the tenth generation none of theirs may come into the congregation of Yehowah to time indefinite. (**Deuteronomy 23:3**)
- For the reason that they did not come to your aid with bread and water in the way when you were going out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia to call down evil upon you. (**Deuteronomy 23:4**)

- There was an earlier period when the land of **Moab** extended North of the Arnon and included, the desert plains of **Moab** across the Jordan from Jericho.
- Then the sons of Israel pulled away and encamped on the desert plains of **Moab** across the Jordan from Jericho. (**Numbers 22:1**)
- But sometime before the arrival of the Israelites, Amorite King Sihon annexed this region, and the Arnon came to be **Moab's** North boundary.
- 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**)
- And said to him; This is what Jephthah has said; Israel did not take the land of **Moab** and the land of the sons of Ammon. (**Judges 11:15**)
- For when they came up out of Egypt Israel went walking through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and got to come to Kadesh. (**Judges 11:16**)
- Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying; Let me pass, please, through your land, and the king of Edom did not

listen. And also to the king of **Moab** they sent, and he did not consent. And Israel kept dwelling in Kadesh. (**Judges 11:17**)

- When they walked on through the wilderness, they went their way around the land of Edom and the land of **Moab**, so that they went toward the rising of the sun as respects the land of Moab and took up camping in the region of the Arnon, and they did not come within the boundary of **Moab**, because Arnon was the boundary of **Moab**. (**Judges 11:18**)
- The Ammonites also suffered defeat at the hands of Sihon and were pushed to the north and east. The territory conquered from both peoples by the Amorites formed a wedge between **Moab** and Ammon, and thus **Moab** came to be bounded by Amorite territory on the north and Edomite territory on the south.
- So the king of the sons of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah; It is because Israel took my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and as far as the Jordan. And now do return it peacefully. (**Judges 11:13**)
- At this Yehowah the God of Israel gave Sihon and all his people into Israel's hand, so that they struck them and Israel took possession of all the land of the Amorites inhabiting that land. (**Judges 11:21**)
- Thus they took possession of all the territory of the Amorites from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan. (**Judges 11:22**)
- So we passed on away from our brothers, the sons of Esau, who are dwelling in Seir, from the way of the Arabah, from Elath and from Ezion-geber. Next we turned and passed on by the way of the wilderness of **Moab**. (**Deuteronomy 2:8**)
- Yehowah then said to me; Do not molest **Moab** or engage in war with them, because I shall not give you any of his land as a holding, for to the sons of Lot I have given Ar as a holding. (**Deuteronomy 2:9**)
- At this time rise and make your way across the torrent valley of Zered. Accordingly we went crossing the torrent valley of Zered. (**Deuteronomy 2:13**)

- **And the days that we walked from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed the torrent valley of Zered were thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war had come to their end from the midst of the camp, just as Yehowah had sworn to them. (Deuteronomy 2:14)**
- **You are passing today by the territory of **Moab**, that is, Ar. (Deuteronomy 2:18)**
- **At its greatest extent the territory of **Moab** was approximately 100 kilometers (60 miles) from North to South and 40 kilometers (25 miles) from East to West.**
- **Probably because a part of Amorite territory had once belonged to **Moab**, it continued to be called, **the land of Moab**.**
- **In the region of the Jordan in the land of **Moab** Moses undertook to explain this Law, saying; (Deuteronomy 1:5)**
- **It was in this former **Moabite** territory that the Israelites encamped before crossing the Jordan.**
- **And they came bringing to Moses and Eleazar the priest and to the assembly of the sons of Israel the captives and the booty and the spoil, to the camp, to the desert plains of **Moab**, which are by the Jordan at Jericho. (Numbers 31:12)**
- **Finally they pulled away from the mountains of Abarim and took up camping on the desert plains of **Moab** by the Jordan at Jericho. (Numbers 33:48)**
- **And they continued camping by the Jordan from Beth-jeshimoth to Abel-shittim on the desert plains of **Moab**. (Numbers 33:49)**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Moses on the desert plains of **Moab** by the Jordan at Jericho, saying; (Numbers 33:50)**
- **Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them, you are crossing the Jordan into the land of Canaan. (Numbers 33:51)**
- **There a second census was taken of Israel's able-bodied men from 20 years old upward.**
- **Take the sum of the whole assembly of the sons of Israel from**

- twenty years of age and upward, according to the house of their fathers, all those going out to the army in Israel. (**Numbers 26:2**)
- And Moses and Eleazar the priest proceeded to speak with them in the desert plains of **Moab** by the Jordan at Jericho, saying; (**Numbers 26:3**)
  - Take the sum of them from the age of twenty years and upward, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. Now the sons of Israel who went out of the land of Egypt were. (**Numbers 26:4**)
  - These were the ones registered by Moses and Eleazar the priest when they registered the sons of Israel in the desert plains of **Moab** by the Jordan at Jericho. (**Numbers 26:63**)
  - Also there divine commands and judicial decisions were received about Levite cities, cities of refuge, and inheritance.
  - And Yehowah went on to speak to Moses on the desert plains of **Moab** by the Jordan at Jericho, saying; (**Numbers 35:1**)
  - These are the commandments and the judicial decisions that Yehowah commanded by means of Moses to the sons of Israel on the desert plains of **Moab** by the Jordan at Jericho. (**Numbers 36:13**)
  - There Moses delivered his final discourses and concluded with Israel a covenant urging faithfulness to Yehowah.
  - These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel in the region of the Jordan in the wilderness, on the desert plains in front of Suph, between Paran and Tophel and Laban and Hazeroth and Dizahab. (**Deuteronomy 1:1**)
  - It being eleven days from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. (**Deuteronomy 1:2**)
  - And it came about that in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first of the month, Moses spoke to the sons of Israel according to all that Yehowah had commanded him for them. (**Deuteronomy 1:3**)
  - After his defeating Sihon the king of the Amorites, who was dwelling in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who was



dwelling in Ashtaroth, in Edrei. (**Deuteronomy 1:4**)

- In the region of the Jordan in the land of **Moab** Moses undertook to explain this law, saying; (**Deuteronomy 1:5**)
- These are the words of the covenant that Yehowah commanded Moses to conclude with the sons of Israel in the land of **Moab** aside from the covenant that he had concluded with them in Horeb. (**Deuteronomy 29:1**)
- Finally Moses ascended Mount Nebo to view the Promised Land and then died. For 30 days on the desert plains of **Moab**, Israel mourned Moses death.
- Go up into this mountain of Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of **Moab**, which fronts toward Jericho, and see the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the sons of Israel as a possession. (**Deuteronomy 32:49**)
- Then die on the mountain into which you are going up, and be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and got to be gathered to his people. (**Deuteronomy 32:50**)
- Then Moses proceeded to go up from the desert plains of **Moab** into Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which fronts toward Jericho. And Yehowah went showing him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan. (**Deuteronomy 34:1**)
- And all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh and all the land of Judah as far as the western sea. (**Deuteronomy 34:2**)
- And the Negeb and the District, the valley plain of Jericho, the city of the palm trees, as far as Zoar. (**Deuteronomy 34:3**)
- And Yehowah went on to say to him; This is the land about which I have sworn to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying; To your seed I shall give it. I have caused you to see it with your own eyes, as you will not cross over there. (**Deuteronomy 34:4**)
- After that Moses the servant of Yehowah died there in the land of **Moab** at the order of Yehowah. (**Deuteronomy 34:5**)
- And he proceeded to bury him in the valley in the land of Moab in

front of Beth-peor, and nobody has come to know his grave down to this day. ([Deuteronomy 34:6](#))

- And the sons of Israel proceeded to weep for Moses on the desert plains of **Moab** thirty days. At length the days of weeping of the mourning period for Moses were completed. ([Deuteronomy 34:8](#))

## •• **Moab's Relationship To Israel**

- As descendants of Abraham's nephew Lot, the **Moabites** were related to the Israelites. The languages of both peoples were very similar, as is seen from the inscription on the **Moabite Stone**. Also, like the Israelites, the **Moabites** appear to have practiced circumcision.
- Look! Days are coming, is the utterance of Yehowah, and I will hold an accounting with everyone circumcised but still in uncircumcision. ([Jeremiah 9:25](#))
- Upon Egypt and upon Judah and upon Edom and upon the sons of Ammon and upon **Moab** and upon all those with hair clipped at the temples who are dwelling in the wilderness, for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in heart. ([Jeremiah 9:26](#))
- Nevertheless, with few exceptions, such as Ruth and King David's mighty man Ithmah.
- Later the men took wives for themselves, **Moabite** women. The name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they went on dwelling there for about ten years. ([Ruth 1:4](#))
- And Ruth proceeded to say; Do not plead with me to abandon you, to turn back from accompanying you, for where you go I shall go, and where you spend the night I shall spend the night. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. ([Ruth 1:16](#))
- Where you die I shall die, and there is where I shall be buried. May Yehowah do so to me and add to it if anything but death should make a separation between me and you. ([Ruth 1:17](#))
- As for the mighty men of the military forces, there were Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem. ([1 Chronicles 11:26](#))

- Eiel the Mahavite, and Jeribai and Joshaviah the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the **Moabite**. (**1 Chronicles 11:46**)
- The **Moabites** manifested great enmity toward Israel.

### · Before Israel's Entry Into The Promised Land

- The song of Moses about Yehowah's destroying Egypt's military might in the Red Sea indicated that news of this event would cause **the despots of Moab** to tremble.
- Peoples must hear, they will be agitated. Birth pangs must take hold on the inhabitants of Philistia. (**Exodus 15:14**)
- At that time the sheiks of Edom will indeed be disturbed. As for **the despots of Moab**, trembling will take hold on them. All the inhabitants of Canaan will indeed be disheartened. (**Exodus 15:15**)
- That the **Moabites** did become fearful is indicated by their kings denying Israel peaceful passage through his realm about 40 years later.
- Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying; Let me pass, please, through your land, and the king of Edom did not listen. And also to the king of **Moab** they sent, and he did not consent. And Israel kept dwelling in Kadesh. (**Judges 11:17**)
- Because of a direct command from God, the Israelites, however, did not attack the **Moabites**, but upon coming to **Moab's** southern boundary at the torrent valley of Zered, they skirted the territory of Moab.
- Then they pulled away from Oboth and encamped in Iye-abarim, in the wilderness that is toward the front of **Moab**, toward the rising of the sun. (**Numbers 21:11**)
- From there they pulled away and took up camping by the torrent valley of Zered. (**Numbers 21:12**)
- From there they pulled away and went camping in the region of the Arnon, which is in the wilderness that extends from the border of the Amorites, for the Arnon is the boundary of **Moab**,

between Moab and the Amorites. (**Numbers 21:13**)

- So we passed on away from our brothers, the sons of Esau, who are dwelling in Seir, from the way of the Arabah, from Elath and from Ezion-geber. Next we turned and passed on by the way of the wilderness of **Moab**. (**Deuteronomy 2:8**)
- Yehowah then said to me; Do not molest **Moab** or engage in war with them, because I shall not give you any of his land as a holding, for to the sons of Lot I have given Ar as a holding. (**Deuteronomy 2:9**)
- When they walked on through the wilderness, they went their way around the land of Edom and the land of **Moab**, so that they went toward the rising of the sun as respects the land of Moab and took up camping in the region of the Arnon, and they did not come within the boundary of **Moab**, because Arnon was the boundary of Moab. (**Judges 11:18**)
- **Although the Moabites did sell food and water to the Israelites.**
- Then I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon the king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying; (**Deuteronomy 2:26**)
- Let me pass through your land. Only on the road I shall walk. I shall not turn to the right or to the left. (**Deuteronomy 2:27**)
- What food you will sell me for money, I must eat, and what water you will give me for money, I must drink. Only let me pass through on my feet. (**Deuteronomy 2:28**)
- Just the same as the sons of Esau dwelling in Seir and the **Moabites** dwelling in Ar did to me, until I shall pass over the Jordan into the land that Yehowah our God is giving to us. (**Deuteronomy 2:29**)
- **They did not come to Israel's aid with bread and water.**
- No Ammonite or **Moabite** may come into the congregation of Yehowah. Even to the tenth generation none of theirs may come into the congregation of Yehowah to time indefinite. (**Deuteronomy 23:3**)

- For the reason that they did not come to your aid with bread and water in the way when you were going out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia to call down evil upon you. ([Deuteronomy 23:4](#))
- Evidently this means that the **Moabites** did not receive them hospitably and supply provisions without seeking gain.
- Later, after crossing the torrent valley of Arnon, Israel was confronted by the Amorites under King Sihon, who had earlier seized **Moabite** territory North of the Arnon.
- Following their God-given victories over this ruler and also King Og of Bashan, the Israelites encamped on the desert plains of **Moab**.
- From there they pulled away and went camping in the region of the Arnon, which is in the wilderness that extends from the border of the Amorites, for the Arnon is the boundary of **Moab**, between **Moab** and the Amorites. ([Numbers 21:13](#))
- Israel now sent messengers to Sihon the king of the Amorites, saying; ([Numbers 21:21](#))
- Then the sons of Israel pulled away and encamped on the desert plains of **Moab** across the Jordan from Jericho. ([Numbers 22:1](#))
- Get up, pull away and cross the torrent valley of Arnon. See, I have given into your hand Sihon the king of Heshbon, the Amorite. So start to take possession of his land, and engage in war with him. ([Deuteronomy 2:24](#))
- And we proceeded to take at that particular time the land from the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were in the region of the Jordan, from the torrent valley of Arnon as far as Mount Hermon. ([Deuteronomy 3:8](#))
- The extensive Israelite camp frightened the **Moabites** and their King Balak, causing them to feel a sickening dread. Although making no claim to the former **Moabite** territory taken by the Israelites from the Amorites, Balak did fear for his realm.
- He therefore consulted with the older men of Midian and then sent messengers, older men of both **Moab** and Midian, to hire the prophet Balaam to come and curse Israel.

- **And Balak the son of Zippor got to see all that Israel had done to the Amorites. (Numbers 22:2)**
- **And Moab became very frightened at the people, because they were many, and Moab began to feel a sickening dread of the sons of Israel. (Numbers 22:3)**
- **And Moab proceeded to say to the older men of Midian; Now this congregation will lick up all our surroundings like the bull licking up the green growth of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that particular time. (Numbers 22:4)**
- **He now sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the River of the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying; Look! A people has come out of Egypt. Look! They have covered the earth as far as one can see, and they are dwelling right in front of me. (Numbers 22:5)**
- **And now do come, please, do curse this people for me, for they are mightier than I am. Perhaps I may be able to strike them and I may drive them out of the land, for I well know that the one whom you bless is a blessed one and the one whom you curse is cursed. (Numbers 22:6)**
- **So the older men of Moab and the older men of Midian traveled with the payments for divination in their hands and went to Balaam and spoke to him Balak's words. (Numbers 22:7)**
- **At that he said to them; Lodge here tonight, and I shall certainly return you word just as Yehowah may speak to me. Accordingly the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam. (Numbers 22:8)**
- **And now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, the king of Moab? Did he ever contend with Israel, or did he ever fight against them? (Judges 11:25)**
- **In this way Balak fought against the Israelites.**
- **Then Balak the son of Zippor, the king of Moab, got up and went fighting against Israel. So he sent and summoned Balaam the son of Beor to call down evil upon you. (Joshua 24:9)**

- **Yehowah, however, caused Balaam to bless Israel and even to foretell Israel's ascendancy over Moab. (Numbers Chapters 23,24)**
- **And I did not want to listen to Balaam. Consequently he blessed you repeatedly. Thus I delivered you out of his hand. (Joshua 24:10)**
- **On that day there was a reading from the book of Moses in the ears of the people, and there was found written in it that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of the true God to time indefinite. (Nehemiah 13:1)**
- **For they had not met the sons of Israel with bread and with water, but went hiring against them Balaam to call down evil upon them. However, our God changed the malediction into a benediction. (Nehemiah 13:2)**
- **O my people, remember, please, what Balak the king of Moab counseled, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him. From Shittim it was, all the way to Gilgal, to the intent that the righteous acts of Yehowah might be known. (Micah 6:5)**
- **Next, at Balaam's suggestion, Moabite and Midianite women were used to lure Israelite males into immorality and idolatry in connection with Baal of Peor. Many Israelites succumbed to this temptation, bringing Yehowah's anger and death to 24,000 men.**
- **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)**
- **But, look! A man of the sons of Israel came, and he was bringing near to his brothers a Midianite woman before Moses eyes and before the eyes of all the assembly of the sons of Israel, while they were weeping at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (Numbers 25:6)**

- And those who died from the scourge amounted to twenty-four thousand. (**Numbers 25:9**)
- But the sons of Israel carried off the women of Midian and their little ones captive, and all their domestic animals and all their livestock and all their means of maintenance they plundered. (**Numbers 31:9**)
- So Moses said to them; Have you preserved alive every female? (**Numbers 31:15**)
- Look! They are the ones who, by Balaam's word, served to induce the sons of Israel to commit unfaithfulness toward Yehowah over the affair of Peor, so that the scourge came upon the assembly of Yehowah. (**Numbers 31:16**)
- For failing to aid the Israelites with bread and water and for hiring Balaam to curse Israel, the **Moabites** were barred from coming into the congregation of Yehowah even to the tenth generation.
- No Ammonite or **Moabite** may come into the congregation of Yehowah. Even to the tenth generation none of theirs may come into the congregation of Yehowah to time indefinite. (**Deuteronomy 23:3**)
- For the reason that they did not come to your aid with bread and water in the way when you were going out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia to call down evil upon you. (**Deuteronomy 23:4**)

**See Also AMMONITES (Intermarriage With Israelites)**

### **•• In The Time Of The Judges**

- During the period of the Judges, the **Moabites** appear to have expanded their territory North of the Arnon and, in the reign of their King Eglon, occupied Israelite territory West of the Jordan at least as far as the city of palm trees, Jericho.
- 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 Negeb and the District, the valley plain of Jericho, the city of the palm trees, as far as Zoar. (**Deuteronomy 34:3**)
- Israel's subservience to **Moab** continued for 18 years until Ehud, a left-handed Benjamite, killed King Eglon while having a private audience with him. Ehud then led the Israelites against **Moab**, striking down about 10,000 **Moabites** and subduing them.
- 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**)
  - In this general period, when famine affected Judah, Elimelech, with his wife Naomi and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, emigrated to the more fertile land of **Moab**. There the sons married **Moabite** women, Ruth and Orpah.

- After the death of the three men in **Moab** and improvement of conditions in Israel, Naomi, accompanied by Ruth, returned to Bethlehem.
- There Boaz, a kinsman of Elimelech, married Ruth, who had abandoned the polytheism of the **Moabites** and had become a worshiper of Yehowah. Thus Ruth, a **Moabite**, became an ancestress of David and therefore also of Jesus Christ.
- Now it came about in the days when the judges administered justice that a famine arose in the land, and a man proceeded to go from Bethlehem in Judah to reside as an alien in the fields of **Moab**, he with his wife and his two sons. (**Ruth 1:1**)
- And the man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. Eventually they came to the fields of **Moab** and continued there. (**Ruth 1:2**)
- In time Elimelech the husband of Naomi died, so that she remained with her two sons. (**Ruth 1:3**)
- Later the men took wives for themselves, **Moabite** women. The name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they went on dwelling there for about ten years. (**Ruth 1:4**)
- In time the two of them, Mahlon and Chilion, also died, so that the woman remained without her two children and her husband. (**Ruth 1:5**)
- And she proceeded to get up with her daughters-in-law and to return from the fields of **Moab**, for she had heard in the field of Moab that Yehowah had turned his attention to his people by giving them bread. (**Ruth 1:6**)
- So she said; Look! Your widowed sister-in-law has returned to her people and her gods. Return with your widowed sister-in-law. (**Ruth 1:15**)
- And Ruth proceeded to say; Do not plead with me to abandon you, to turn back from accompanying you, for where you go I shall go, and where you spend the night I shall spend the night. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. (**Ruth**

**1:16)**

- **Where you die I shall die, and there is where I shall be buried. May Yehowah do so to me and add to it if anything but death should make a separation between me and you. (Ruth 1:17)**
- **Thus Naomi made her return, Ruth the Moabite woman, her daughter-in-law, being with her when returning from the fields of Moab, and they came to Bethlehem at the commencement of barley harvest. (Ruth 1:22)**
- **Accordingly Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife and he had relations with her. So Yehowah granted her conception and she bore a son. (Ruth 4:13)**
- **Then the neighbor ladies gave it a name, saying; A son has been born to Naomi. And they began to call his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, David's father. (Ruth 4:17)**
- **Also in the time of the Judges, Israel began venerating the deities of the Moabites, doubtless including their god Chemosh.**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **For adopting such false worship of neighboring peoples, the Israelites lost Yehowah's favor and suffered at the hands of their enemies.**
- **At this Yehowah's anger blazed against Israel, so that he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the**

sons of Ammon. (**Judges 10:7**)

- Hence they shattered and heavily oppressed the sons of Israel in that year, for eighteen years all the sons of Israel that were on the side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites that was in Gilead. (**Judges 10:8**)
- And the sons of Ammon would cross the Jordan to fight even against Judah and Benjamin and the house of Ephraim, and Israel was greatly distressed. (**Judges 10:9**)
- And the sons of Israel began to call to Yehowah for aid, saying; We have sinned against you, because we have left our God and we serve the Baals. (**Judges 10:10**)
- As late as the time of Samuel, unfaithful Israel experienced harassment from the **Moabites**.
- And they went forgetting Yehowah their God, so that he sold them into the hand of Sisera the chief of the army of Hazor and into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the king of **Moab**, and they kept fighting against them. (**1 Samuel 12:9**)
- And they began to call to Yehowah for aid and say; We have sinned, for we have left Yehowah that we might serve the Baals and the Ashtoreth images, and now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you. (**1 Samuel 12:10**)

#### •• **During Reigns Of Saul, David, Solomon**

- Difficulties with the **Moabites** continued for years afterward. Israel's first king, Saul, victoriously warred against them.
- And Saul himself took the kingship over Israel and went warring round about against all his enemies, against **Moab** and against the sons of Ammon and against Edom and against the kings of Zobah and against the Philistines, and wherever he would turn he administered condemnation. (**1 Samuel 14:47**)
- Since the **Moabites** would therefore have regarded Saul as an enemy, understandably the king of **Moab** was agreeable to having the parents of David, a man whom Saul had outlawed, dwell at Mizpeh in **Moab**.

- Later David went from there to Mizpeh in **Moab** and said to the king of **Moab**; Let my father and my mother, please, dwell with you people until I know what God will do to me. (**1 Samuel 22:3**)
- Accordingly he settled them before the king of **Moab**, and they continued dwelling with him all the days that David happened to be in the inaccessible place. (**1 Samuel 22:4**)
- Later, when David himself ruled as king, there also was warfare between Israel and **Moab**. The **Moabites** were completely subdued and were made to pay tribute to David.
- Apparently at the end of the conflict two thirds of **Moab's** fighting men were put to death. It seems that David had them lie down on the ground in a row and then measured this row to determine the two thirds to be put to death and the one third to be preserved alive.
- And he went on to strike down the **Moabites** and measure them with a line, making them lie down on the earth, that he might measure two lines to put them to death, and a full line to preserve them alive, and the **Moabites** came to be David's servants to carry tribute. (**2 Samuel 8:2**)
- These also King David sanctified to Yehowah, together with the silver and the gold that he had sanctified from all the nations that he had subdued. (**2 Samuel 8:11**)
- From Syria and from **Moab** and from the sons of Ammon and from the Philistines and from Amalek and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob the king of Zobah. (**2 Samuel 8:12**)
- Then he struck **Moab** down, and the **Moabites** came to be David's servants bearing tribute. (**1 Chronicles 18:2**)
- These also King David sanctified to Yehowah together with the silver and the gold that he had carried off from all the nations, from Edom and from **Moab** and from the sons of Ammon and from the Philistines and from Amalek. (**1 Chronicles 18:11**)
- Possibly in the course of the same conflict, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada struck down the two sons of Ariel of **Moab**.
- As for Benaiah the son of Jehoiada the son of a valiant man, who

- did many deeds in Kabzeel, he himself struck down the two sons of Ariel of **Moab**, and he himself descended and struck down a lion inside a waterpit on a day of snowfall. (**2 Samuel 23:20**)
- As for Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, who did many deeds in Kabzeel, he himself struck down the two sons of Ariel of **Moab**, and he himself descended and struck down a lion inside a waterpit in the day of snowfall. (**1 Chronicles 11:22**)
  - David's decisive victory over the **Moabites** was a fulfillment of Balaam's prophetic words uttered over 400 years earlier:
    - I shall see him, but not now, I shall behold him, but not near. A star will certainly step forth out of Jacob, and a scepter will indeed rise out of Israel. And he will certainly break apart the temples of **Moab's** head and the cranium of all the sons of tumult of war. (**Numbers 24:17**)
    - Also apparently with reference to this victory, the psalmist spoke of God's regarding **Moab** as **his washing pot**.
    - **Moab** is my washing pot. Over Edom I shall throw my sandal. Over Philistia I shall shout in triumph. (**Psalms 60:8**)
    - **Moab** is my washing pot. Over Edom I shall throw my sandal. Over Philistia I shall shout in triumph. (**Psalms 108:9**)
    - David's son Solomon, however, disregarded God's Law and married **Moabite** women who had not become worshipers of Yehowah. To please them, Solomon built a high place to their god Chemosh. Not until some three centuries later, during Josiah's reign, was this high place made unfit for worship.
    - 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 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**)

## ·· **Until The Judean Exile**

- Sometime after the secession of Israel from Judah, the **Moabites** appear to have regained territory North of the Arnon. On the black basalt stele known as the **Moabite Stone**, **Moab's** King Mesha speaks of Israel's King Omri as taking possession of the region of Medeba. Since the tableland of Medeba was in the territory of Reuben.
- 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**)
- Israel had apparently lost this area to the **Moabites** so that Omri later had to recapture it.
- Evidently **Moab** remained under Israelite control during the reigns of Kings Omri and Ahab. But following the death of Ahab, **Moab's** King Mesha, who paid to the king of Israel a hundred thousand lambs and a hundred thousand unshorn male sheep, revolted.
- And **Moab** began to revolt against Israel after the death of Ahab. (**2 Kings 1:1**)
- 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 **Moabite Stone** memorializes this revolt. If correctly identified as being the same places mentioned in the Bible, 11 of the cities that King Mesha claims as subject to or captured by or, rebuilt by him were definitely in Israelite territory North of the Arnon. These cities are Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer, Kiriathaim, Nebo, Baal-meon.



- **And the sons of Gad proceeded to build Dibon and Ataroth and Aroer. (Numbers 32:34)**
- **And the sons of Reuben built Heshbon and Elealeh and Kiriathaim. (Numbers 32:37)**
- **And Nebo and Baal-meon, their names being changed, and Sibmah, and they began to call by their own names the names of the cities that they built. (Numbers 32:38)**
- **Medeba, Bamoth-baal, Beth-baal-meon, Yahaz.**
- **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)**
- **Heshbon and all its towns that are on the tableland, Dibon and Bamoth-baal and Beth-baal-meon. (Joshua 13:17)**
- **And Jahaz and Kedemoth and Mephaath. (Joshua 13:18)**
- **And Kiriathaim and Sibmah and Zereth-shahar in the mountain of the low plain. (Joshua 13:19)**
- **And Bezer.**
- **And in the region of the Jordan, at Jericho, toward the east they gave Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland out of the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh. (Joshua 20:8)**
- **Unlike Mesha's propagandistic inscription, the Scriptures report that the **Moabites** suffered humiliating defeat. Enlisting the aid of King Jehoshaphat of Judah and the king of Edom in putting down the Moabite revolt, Jehoram, who became king of Israel about two years after Ahab's death, marched against Moab from the South, by way of the Wilderness of Edom.**
- **But the allied armies and their animals almost perished for lack of water. The prophet Elisha's aid was then sought, and in fulfillment of his prophecy that Yehowah would help on account of Jehoshaphat, the torrent valley became filled with water.**

- The next morning the reflection of the sun upon the water made it look like blood to the Moabites. Wrongly concluding that the allied armies had slaughtered one another, the **Moabites** abandoned all caution and came to the Israelite camp, only to be put to flight.
- As the battle progressed, **Moabite** cities were ruined, good tracts of land were filled with stones, trees were cut down, and springs were stopped up. When King Mesha found himself penned up in the city of Kir-hareseth with the battle going against him, he, with 700 men, unsuccessfully tried to break through to the king of Edom.
- Finally he took his firstborn son and offered him up as a burnt sacrifice upon the wall. For this or some other reason there came to be great indignation against Israel and the siege was abandoned.
- 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)
- As this humiliating defeat did not take place on foreign soil but brought devastation to the land of **Moab**, reasonably a considerable period of time would have been required for recovery.
- So it seems likely that it was at an earlier date during Jehoshaphat's reign that **Moab** combined with the forces of Ammon and the mountainous region of Seir to attack Judah.
- By Yehowah's intervention the three armies turned on one another and destroyed themselves.
- And it came about afterward that the sons of **Moab** and the sons of Ammon and with them some of the Ammonim came against

## **Jehoshaphat in war. (2 Chronicles 20:1)**

- **And at the time that they started off with the joyful cry and praise, Yehowah set men in ambush against the sons of Ammon, Moab and the mountainous region of Seir who were coming into Judah, and they went smiting one another. (2 Chronicles 20:22)**
- **And the sons of Ammon and Moab proceeded to stand up against the inhabitants of the mountainous region of Seir to devote them to destruction and annihilate them, and as soon as they finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped each one to bring his own fellow to ruin. (2 Chronicles 20:23)**
- **But as for Judah, it came to the watchtower of the wilderness. When they turned their faces toward the crowd, why, there they were, their carcasses fallen to the earth without anyone escaping. (2 Chronicles 20:24)**
- **Some scholars believe that this event is alluded to at;**
- **They have said; Come and let us efface them from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more. (Psalms 83:4)**
- **For with the heart they have unitedly exchanged counsel, against you they proceeded to conclude even a covenant. (Psalms 83:5)**
- **The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites. (Psalms 83:6)**
- **Gebal and Ammon and Amalek, Philistia together with the inhabitants of Tyre. (Psalms 83:7)**
- **Also, Assyria itself has become joined with them, they have become an arm to the sons of Lot. (Psalms 83:8)**
- **Do to them as to Midian, as to Sisera, as to Jabin at the torrent valley of Kishon. (Psalms 83:9)**
- **Now as for Jahaziel the son of Zechariah the son of Benaiah the son of Jeiel the son of Mattaniah the Levite of the sons of Asaph, the spirit of Yehowah came to be upon him in the middle of the congregation. (2 Chronicles 20:14)**

- In subsequent years enmity continued between **Moab** and Israel. After the death of the prophet Elisha, marauding bands of Moabites regularly invaded Israel.
- After that Elisha died and they buried him. And there were marauding bands of the **Moabites** that regularly came into the land at the coming in of the year. (**2 Kings 13:20**)
- About two centuries later, in Jehoiakim's time, similar **Moabite** bands contributed to the ruin of Judah during its final years.
- And Yehowah began to send against him marauder bands of Chaldeans and marauder bands of Syrians and marauder bands of **Moabites** and marauder bands of the sons of Ammon, and he kept sending them against Judah to destroy it, according to Yehowah's word that he had spoken by means of his servants the prophets. (**2 Kings 24:2**)
- With the destruction of Jerusalem in **607 B.C.E.**, Jews sought refuge in **Moab**, returning to Judah when Gedaliah was appointed governor.
- And all the Jews that were in **Moab** and among the sons of Ammon and in Edom and those who were in all the other lands, they also heard that the king of Babylon had given a remnant to Judah and that he had commissioned over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan. (**Jeremiah 40:11**)
- And all the Jews began to return from all the places to which they had been dispersed, and they kept coming into the land of Judah to Gedaliah at Mizpah. And they went gathering wine and summer fruits in very great quantity. (**Jeremiah 40:12**)

## · After The Exile

- After an Israelite remnant returned from Babylonian exile in **537 B.C.E.**, some married **Moabite** wives. But at Ezra's admonition they dismissed these wives and their children.
- At length Ezra the priest rose and said to them; You yourselves have acted unfaithfully in that you gave a dwelling to foreign wives so as to add to the guiltiness of Israel. (**Ezra 10:10**)
- And now make confession to Yehowah the God of your

- forefathers and do his pleasure and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives. ([Ezra 10:11](#))
- These all had accepted foreign wives, and they proceeded to send away wives along with sons. ([Ezra 10:44](#))
  - And as soon as these things were finished, the princes approached me, saying; The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands as regards their detestable things, namely, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the **Moabites**, the Egyptians and the Amorites. ([Ezra 9:1](#))
  - For they have accepted some of their daughters for themselves and for their sons, and they, the holy seed, have become mingled with the peoples of the lands, and the hand of the princes and the deputy rulers has proved to be foremost in this unfaithfulness. ([Ezra 9:2](#))
  - Years later Nehemiah found a similar situation, many Israelites had taken **Moabite** wives
  - On that day there was a reading from the book of Moses in the ears of the people, and there was found written in it that the Ammonite and the **Moabite** should not come into the congregation of the true God to time indefinite. ([Nehemiah 13:1](#))
  - For they had not met the sons of Israel with bread and with water, but went hiring against them Balaam to call down evil upon them. However, our God changed the malediction into a benediction. ([Nehemiah 13:2](#))
  - So it came about that, as soon as they heard the Law, they began to separate all the mixed company from Israel. ([Nehemiah 13:3](#))
  - Also, in those days I saw the Jews that had given a dwelling to Ashdodite, Ammonite and **Moabite** wives. ([Nehemiah 13:23](#))

### •• Moab In Prophecy

- In harmony with its long history of opposition to Israel, **Moab** is mentioned among the hard-set enemies of Yehowah's people.

- And they must fly at the shoulder of the Philistines to the west, together they will plunder the sons of the East. Edom and **Moab** will be those upon whom they will thrust out their hand, and the sons of Ammon will be their subjects. (**Isaiah 11:14**)
- Condemned for reproaching Israel and for pride and haughtiness, **Moab** was finally to become a desolation like Sodom.
- I have heard the reproach by **Moab** and the abusive words of the sons of Ammon, with which they have reproached my people and kept putting on great airs against their territory. (**Zephaniah 2:8**)
- Therefore, as I am alive, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, **Moab** herself will become just like Sodom, and the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah, a place possessed by nettles, and a salt pit, and a desolate waste, even to time indefinite. The remaining ones of my people will plunder them, and the remnant of my own nation will take possession of them. (**Zephaniah 2:9**)
- This is what they will have instead of their pride, because they reproached and kept putting on great airs against the people of Yehowah of armies. (**Zephaniah 2:10**)
- Yehowah will be fear-inspiring against them, for he will certainly emaciate all the gods of the earth, and people will bow down to him, each one from his place, all the islands of the nations. (**Zephaniah 2:11**)
- We have heard of the pride of **Moab**, he is very haughty, of his highness and of his pride and of his haughtiness and of the loftiness of his heart. (**Jeremiah 48:29**)
- Already at the close of the **Ninth Century B.C.E**, Amos wrote that **Moab** would suffer calamity for burning the bones of the king of Edom for lime.
- 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**)
- And I will send a fire into **Moab**, and it must devour the dwelling towers of Kerioth, and with noise **Moab** must die, with an alarm signal, with the sound of a horn. (**Amos 2:2**)



- And I will cut off the judge from the midst of her, and all her princes I shall kill with him, Yehowah has said. (**Amos 2:3**)
- While some take this to mean that,
- 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**)
- Refers to King Mesha's offering up, not his own son, but the firstborn of the king of Edom, this is an unlikely inference. One Jewish tradition, though, does link the event mentioned by Amos with the war waged against Mesha and claims that sometime after this conflict the **Moabites** dug up the bones of the king of Edom and then burned them for lime. But the Bible record provides no basis for determining the time involved.
- (**Isaiah Chapters 15,16**), apparently around the time of King Ahaz death and while Assyria dominated in the **Eighth Century B.C.E**, referred to one **Moabite** city after another as being in line for calamity. He concluded with the words.
- And now Yehowah has spoken, saying; Within three years, according to the years of a hired laborer, the glory of **Moab** must also be disgraced with much commotion of every sort, and those who remain over will be a trifling few, not mighty. (**Isaiah 16:14**)
- From historical records the fulfillment of the prophecies of Isaiah and Amos cannot be placed precisely in the stream of time. However, there is evidence that **Moab** did come under the Assyrian yoke.
- Assyrian King Tiglath-pileser III mentions Salamanu of Moab among those paying tribute to him. Sennacherib claims to have received tribute from Kammusunadbi the king of **Moab**.

- And Assyrian monarchs Esar-haddon and Ashurbanipal refer to **Moabite** Kings Musuri and Kamashaltu as being subject to them. [Ancient Near Eastern Texts, edited by J. Pritchard, 1974, pp. 282,287,291,294,298]
- There is also archaeological evidence that many places in Moab were depopulated about the **Eighth Century B.C.E.**
- Jeremiah's prophecy of the **Seventh Century B.C.E.** pointed to the time when Yehowah would hold an accounting against **Moab**
- Look! Days are coming, is the utterance of Yehowah, and I will hold an accounting with everyone circumcised but still in uncircumcision. (**Jeremiah 9:25**)
- Upon Egypt and upon Judah and upon Edom and upon the sons of Ammon and upon **Moab** and upon all those with hair clipped at the temples who are dwelling in the wilderness, for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in heart. (**Jeremiah 9:26**)
- Doing so by means of the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar.
- Therefore this is what Yehowah of armies has said; For the reason that you did not obey my words. (**Jeremiah 25:8**)
- Here I am sending and I will take all the families of the north, is the utterance of Yehowah, even sending to Nebuchadrezzar 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)**
- **In the beginning of the kingdom of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah, this word occurred to Jeremiah from Yehowah, saying; (Jeremiah 27:1)**
- **This is what Yehowah has said to me, Make for yourself bands and yoke bars, and you must put them upon your neck. (Jeremiah 27:2)**
- **And you must send them to the king of Edom and to the king of Moab and to the king of the sons of Ammon and to the king of Tyre and to the king of Sidon by the hand of the messengers who are coming to Jerusalem to Zedekiah the king of Judah. (Jeremiah 27:3)**
- **And you must give them a command for their masters, saying; This is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; This is what you should say to your masters. (Jeremiah 27:4)**
- **I myself have made the earth, mankind and the beasts that are upon the surface of the earth by my great power and by my stretched-out arm, and I have given it to whom it has proved right in my eyes. (Jeremiah 27:5)**
- **And now I myself have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and even the wild beasts of the field I have given him to serve him. (Jeremiah 27:6)**
- **And all the nations must serve even him and his son and his grandson until the time even of his own land comes, and many nations and great kings must exploit him as a servant. (Jeremiah 27:7)**
- **Numerous Moabite cities were to be reduced to a desolation (Jeremiah Chapter 48). Apparently when Judah experienced the execution of Yehowah's judgment by means of the Babylonians, the Moabites said; Look! The house of Judah is like all the other nations.**

- For thus failing to recognize that the judgment was really God's and that the inhabitants of Judah were his people, the **Moabites** were to experience disaster and thereby come to know Yehowah.
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; For the reason that **Moab** and Seir have said; Look! The house of Judah is like all the other nations. (**Ezekiel 25:8**)
- Therefore here I am opening the slope of **Moab** at the cities, at his cities to his frontier, the decoration of the land, Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, even to Kiriathaim. (**Ezekiel 25:9**)
- To the Orientals, alongside the sons of Ammon, and I will make it something to possess, in order, that it may not be remembered, that is, the sons of Ammon, among the nations. (**Ezekiel 25:10**)
- And in **Moab** I shall execute acts of judgment, and they will have to know that I am Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 25:11**)
- And the word of Yehowah continued to occur to me in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, saying; (**Ezekiel 24:1**)
- Son of man, write down for yourself the name of the day, this selfsame day. The king of Babylon has thrown himself against Jerusalem on this selfsame day. (**Ezekiel 24:2**)
- The Jewish historian Josephus writes that, in the fifth year after desolating Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar returned to war against Coele-Syria, Ammon, and Moab and thereafter attacked Egypt. [*Jewish Antiquities, X, 181,182, ix, 7*]
- Regarding archaeological confirmation of the desolation of Moab, *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* observes: Archaeological exploration has shown that Moab was largely depopulated from *ca.* the beginning of the **Sixth Century**, and in many sites from *ca.*
- The **Eighth Century**. From the **Sixth Century** on, nomads wandered through the land until political and economic factors made sedentary life possible again in the last centuries B.C.[*Edited by G. A. Buttrick, 1962, Vol. 3, p. 418*]
- This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; For the reason that **Moab** and Seir have said; Look! The house of Judah

- is like all the other nations. ([Ezekiel 25:8](#)]
- Therefore here I am opening the slope of **Moab** at the cities, at his cities to his frontier, the decoration of the land, Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, even to Kiriathaim. ([Ezekiel 25:9](#))
  - To the Orientals, alongside the sons of Ammon, and I will make it something to possess, in order, that it may not be remembered, that is, the sons of Ammon, among the nations. ([Ezekiel 25:10](#))
  - And in **Moab** I shall execute acts of judgment, and they will have to know that I am Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 25:11](#))
  - Later, in fulfillment of;
  - And I will gather the captive ones of **Moab** in the final part of the days, is the utterance of Yehowah. Down to this point is the judgment upon **Moab**. ([Jeremiah 48:47](#))
  - Cyrus, the conqueror of Babylon, likely permitted **Moabite** exiles to return to their homeland.
  - The accurate fulfillment of the prophecies concerning **Moab** cannot be denied. Centuries ago the **Moabites** ceased to exist as a people.
  - And **Moab** will certainly be annihilated from being a people, for it is against Yehowah that he has put on great airs. ([Jeremiah 48:42](#))
  - Today what are considered to have been such **Moabite** cities as Nebo, Heshbon, Aroer, Beth-gamul, and Baal-meon are represented by ruins. Many other places are now unknown.
  - The sole explanation for the disappearance of the **Moabites** as a people is provided by the Bible. Noted the [1959 edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica \[Vol. 15, p. 629\]](#):
  - Israel remained a great power while Moab disappeared. It is true that **Moab** was continuously hard pressed by desert hordes, the exposed condition of the land is emphasized by the chains of ruined forts and castles which even the Romans were compelled to construct. But the explanation is to be found within Israel itself, and especially in the work of the prophets.

- In view of the disappearance of the **Moabites** as a people, the inclusion of **Moab** at;
- He will also actually enter into the land of the Decoration, and there will be many lands that will be made to stumble. But these are the ones that will escape out of his hand, Edom and **Moab** and the main part of the sons of Ammon. (**Daniel 11:41**)
- Among nations in the time of the end.
- And in the time of the end the king of the south will engage with him in a pushing, and against him the king of the north will storm with chariots and with horsemen and with many ships, and he will certainly enter into the lands and flood over and pass through. (**Daniel 11:40**)
- Is logically to be regarded in a figurative sense. The **Moabites** evidently represent hard-set enemies of Spiritual Israel.
- For information on the **Moabite Stone**.

**See Also MESH A 2**