

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 35

September 1, 2019



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The Book of Isaiah

Message Thirty-five

THE JUDGMENT OF MOAB PT. II

September 1, 2019

Daniel E. Woodhead

Isaiah 16:1–14

¹Send ye the lambs for the ruler of the land from Selah to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion. ²For it shall be that, as wandering birds, as a scattered nest, so shall the daughters of Moab be at the fords of the Arnon. ³Give counsel, execute justice; make thy shade as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; betray not the fugitive. ⁴Let mine outcasts dwell with thee; as for Moab, be thou a covert to him from the face of the destroyer. For the extortioner is brought to nought, destruction ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land. ⁵And a throne shall be established in lovingkindness; and one shall sit thereon in truth, in the tent of David, judging, and seeking justice, and swift to do righteousness.

⁶We have heard of the pride of Moab, that he is very proud; even of his arrogancy, and his pride, and his wrath; his boastings are nought. ⁷Therefore shall Moab wail for Moab, every one shall wail: for the raisin-cakes of Kir-hareseth shall ye mourn, utterly stricken. ⁸For the fields of Heshbon languish, and the vine of Sibmah; the lords of the nations have broken down the choice branches thereof, which reached even unto Jazer, which wandered into the wilderness; its shoots were spread abroad, they passed over the sea. ⁹Therefore I will weep with the weeping of Jazer for the vine of Sibmah; I will water thee with my tears, O Heshbon, and Elealeh: for upon thy summer fruits and upon thy harvest the battle shout is fallen. ¹⁰And gladness is taken away, and joy out of the fruitful field; and in the vineyards there shall be no singing, neither joyful noise: no treader shall tread out wine in the presses; I have made the vintage shout to cease. ¹¹Wherefore my heart soundeth like a harp for Moab, and mine inward parts for Kir-heres. ¹²And it shall come to pass, when Moab presenteth himself, when he wearieth himself upon the high place, and shall come to his sanctuary to pray, that he shall not prevail.

¹³This is the word that Jehovah spake concerning Moab in time past. ¹⁴But now Jehovah hath spoken, saying, Within three years, as the years of a hireling, the glory of Moab shall be brought into contempt, with all his great multitude; and the remnant shall be very small and of no account (ASV, 1901).

TRIBUTE TO ISRAEL

Isaiah 16:1–2

¹Send ye the lambs for the ruler of the land from Selah to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion. ²For it shall be that, as wandering birds, as a scattered nest, so shall the daughters of Moab be at the fords of the Arnon (ASV, 1901).

This is the price of tribute, the lambs. Tribute is a payment from one ruler to another for the price of protection. The Moabites were required to pay tribute to the Israelites who were conquered by David, and paid tribute to him, (II Samuel 8:2) and when the kingdom was divided in Rehoboam's time, the tribute was paid to the kings of Northern Israel, which continued till the times of Ahab, when the Moabites rebelled, and refused to pay it. If they would continue to pay it then the present king of Judah Hezekiah would protect them from the Assyrians. They will also pay a tribute to the Messiah when He takes up His throne at Jerusalem during the Messianic Kingdom.

God reprimands Moab for not continuing to pay tribute. Therefore, they will be as a bird that has forsaken its nest, and wanders about, and its young ones are turned out of the nest, unable to move for themselves, but flutter about here and there, trembling and frightened, (Proverbs 26:2): *so the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon*; turned out of their houses, wandering up and down, not knowing where to go; unable to help themselves, and in the utmost fright and panic, fleeing to the very borders of their land, at the shallow crossing of Arnon river (the border of Moab and Amorites). (Numbers 21:13, 14) and be captured there by the Assyrians.

GOD PLEADS WITH MOAB TO HEED HIS MESSAGE

Isaiah 16:3–5

³Give counsel, execute justice; make thy shade as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; betray not the fugitive. ⁴Let mine outcasts dwell with thee; as for Moab, be thou a covert to him from the face of the destroyer. For the extortioner is brought to nought, destruction ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land. ⁵And a throne shall be established in lovingkindness; and one shall sit thereon in truth, in the tent of David, judging, and seeking justice, and swift to do righteousness (ASV, 1901).

God is now telling them to devise a way to save themselves from future conquests specifically in the time of Nebuchadnezzar who will destroy Judah in 586 B.C. causing the Jews to flee to Moab for protection during that time. If the Moabites will offer protection to the Jews then they themselves will be spared from the Babylonians. However, they will not heed God's word and instead they will torment the Jews forgetting their origin as what Abraham, the Jews forefather, did for Lot their forefather. The comparison is of the pursuit of an enemy during the hot day sun which, causes unbearable stress. But, the rescue of the people is as a protection from the shade or a cool night. Verse three concluded with a repeat to Moab not to turn over the Jewish fugitives to their pursuers. If the Moabites had the decency to shelter the Jews who fled from Sennacherib the Assyrian, the Jews would be able to return to their homeland because the Assyrian army had been wiped out in the overnight miracle (II Kings 19:35; Isaiah 37:36). Therefore, Moab will suffer divine punishment when the Messianic kingdom is established.

Isaiah declares to Moab a Messianic kingdom will surely be established on the basis of God's loyal love. The One sitting on the Throne will be a member of the House of David Who will be characterized by truth. He will be the King and Judge, ensuring that justice is carried out—a justice springing from the righteousness of the King. They will be under the suzerainty of this coming king who will not forget what they did and mete out justice.

Very similar to Isaiah are two prophecies found in Jeremiah. The first is Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 23:5–6

⁵Behold, the days come, says Jehovah, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called: Jehovah our righteousness (ASV, 1901).

Again, there is a descendant of David Who will sit on David's Throne. Yet this descendant is called *Jehovah our righteousness*, so the One sitting on David's Throne is Jesus the God-Man. And because it is the God-Man, His reign will be characterized by wisdom, justice, and righteousness and perfect fairness. It is in Him that the security of Israel will lie and the ultimate retribution to Moab for the way they treated the Jews.

THE WELL-KNOWN PRIDE OF MOAB

Isaiah 16:6–8

⁶We have heard of the pride of Moab, that he is very proud; even of his arrogance, and his pride, and his wrath; his boastings are nought. ⁷Therefore shall Moab wail for Moab, every one shall wail: for the raisin-cakes of Kir-hareseth shall ye mourn, utterly stricken. ⁸For the fields of Heshbon languish, and the vine of Sibmah; the lords of the nations have broken down the choice branches thereof, which reached even unto Jazer, which wandered into the wilderness; its shoots were spread abroad, they passed over the sea (ASV, 1901).

Moab has been a haughty nation, and her pride was well known. God continues to speak through Isaiah and asserts that He and others have heard of this pride. Indeed, he heaps up word upon word to express Moab's haughtiness. Most serious is it that God Himself knows. If Moab is to come to Judah, there must be complete repentance and turning away from her pride. Moab had a pride that manifested itself in wrath. When punished she will howl in grief and lament for herself, for she will be deprived of those things in which she had had her delight, such as the vineyards of Kir-hareseth and the raisin cakes which were made from the grapes. These were a delight to the Moabites and will be gone. The vineyards are smitten and produce no more grapes. All will be destroyed by the invading armies.

WEeping OVER THE LOSS

Isaiah 16:9–12

⁹Therefore I will weep with the weeping of Jazer for the vine of Sibmah; I will water thee with my tears, O Heshbon, and Elealeh: for upon thy summer fruits and upon thy harvest the battle shout is fallen. ¹⁰And gladness is taken away, and joy out of the fruitful field; and in the vineyards there shall be no singing, neither joyful noise: no treader shall tread out wine in the presses; I have made the vintage shout to cease. ¹¹Wherefore my heart soundeth like a harp for Moab, and mine inward parts for Kirheres. ¹²And it shall come to pass, when Moab presenteth himself, when he wearieth himself upon the high place, and shall come to his sanctuary to pray, that he shall not prevail (ASV, 1901).

Isaiah now speaks as a Moabite describing the tears they will shed over this punishment from God. They brought it upon themselves when they refused to help the Jews. The volume of tears will be as if one could water the fields and crops. The shouts of the enemy can be heard as they attack during the time of harvest destroying the fruit of the field. There will be no more gladness or joyful noise and nobody will tread *out wine in the presses*. Isaiah says that just thinking about this impending destruction causes him to sense a mournful sound like a harp in his mind. Finally, the Moabites will go to their false gods and temple to no avail. They cannot answer them and will further disappoint them with the final realization of failure.

Isaiah 16:13–14

¹³This is the word that Jehovah spake concerning Moab in time past. ¹⁴But now Jehovah hath spoken, saying, Within three years, as the years of a hireling, the glory of Moab shall be brought into contempt, with all his great multitude; and the remnant shall be very small and of no account (ASV, 1901).

God had not spoken the timing of the fulfillment of these prophecies but now He does. God provides a date when it should be fulfilled. The former prophecy relates to the utter destruction of the Moabites by the Babylonians, in the times of Nebuchadnezzar. But this reference was of an earlier and smaller one, which will be accomplished within a three-year time frame. It was fulfilled by Sennacherib king of Assyria. The pride and honor of Moab will be turned to disgrace as only a few of its population would remain.

MODERN MOABITE (JORDANIAN) PERSECUTION OF ISRAEL

Moab being central Jordan today has a history of persecuting the nation Israel in modern times. After the United Nations voted to give Israel statehood the surrounding nations rejected the UN plan. The Arabs not only rejected the UN Partition Plan, but attacked Israel from all sides. On the day that Israel declared its independence, the Arab League Secretary, General Azzam Pasha declared "jihad", a holy war. He said, "This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades" The Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin Al Husseini stated, "I declare a holy war, my Moslem brothers! Murder the

Jews! Murder them all!" The armies of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq invaded the tiny new country with the declared intent of destroying it.

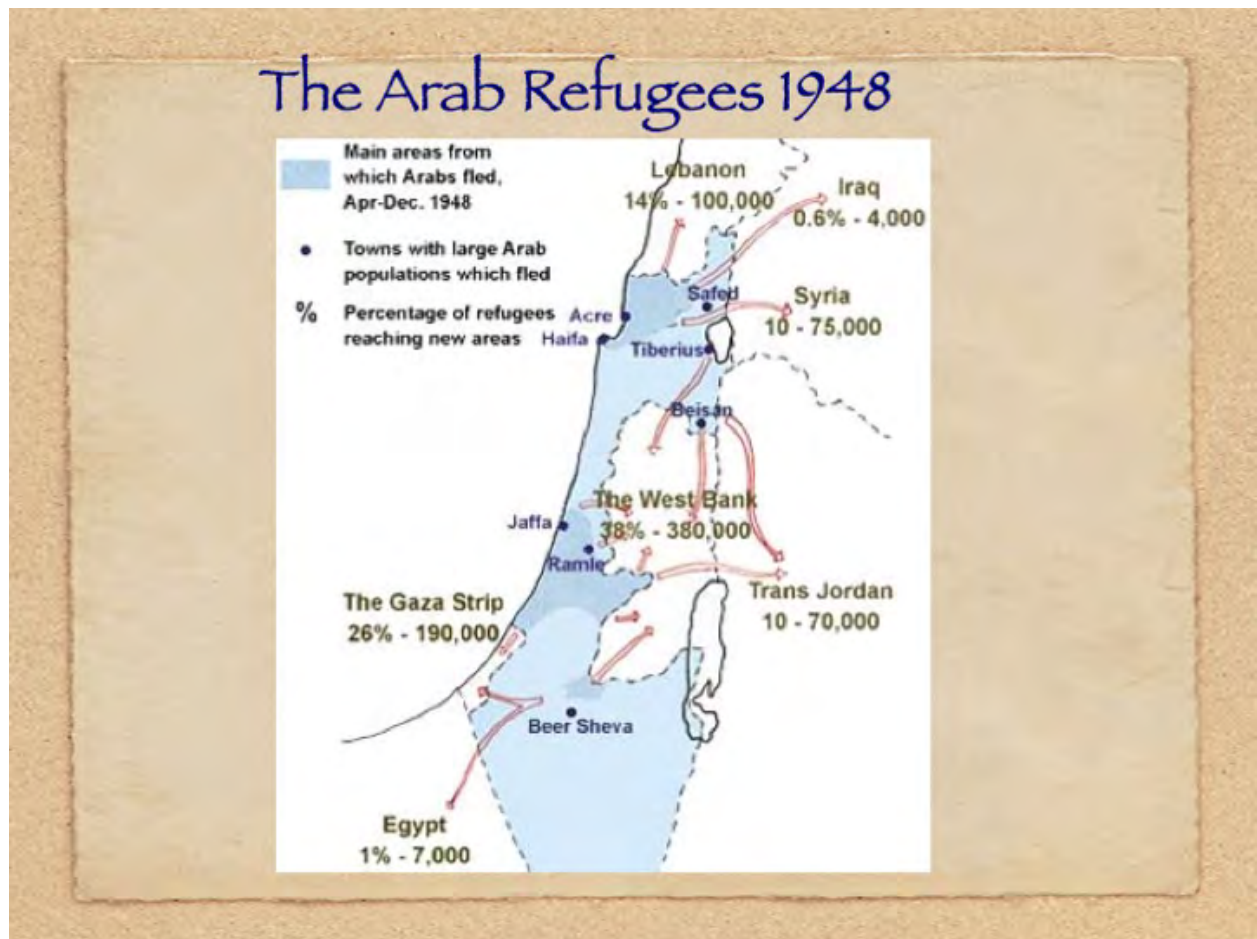


During the war for Israel's independence, many Jewish villages were destroyed, synagogues and cemeteries desecrated, and fields and buildings burned. The Jewish quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem was besieged, and kept without food or water, and eventually the Jordanians expelled the Jews from the Old City.

The Jordanians took over East Jerusalem and a large portion of land on the west bank of the Jordan River, thereby narrowing Israel, to approximately nine miles at its narrowest point. Egyptian troops overran the Gaza strip in the west as well as the southern outskirts of Jerusalem. Despite tremendous losses, the new Jewish state survived.

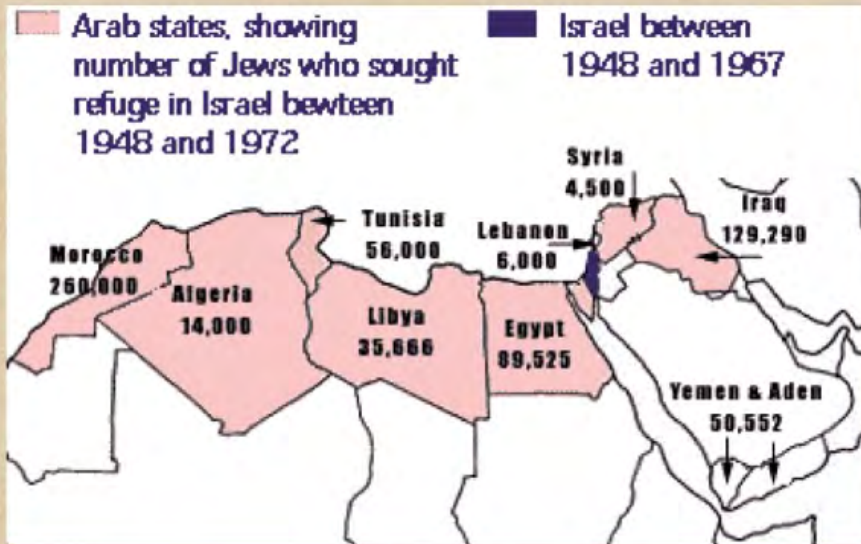
In 1949 Israel signed armistice agreements with Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan, which in April 1949 changed its name to Jordan. One of the major consequences of this was Jordan's annexation of Judea and Samaria. This annexation was not recognized by the international community, with the exception of Britain and Pakistan. This territory became a launching ground for constant terrorist attacks against Israel's civilian population.

Approximately 720,000 Arabs, encouraged by their leaders to leave, fled from what is now Israel between April and December, 1948. The Arab leaders promised them that they would soon be able to return following Israel's destruction. In some cases, the Jews, including Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, urged the Arabs to remain, promising that they would not be harmed. Those who remained became full and equal citizens of Israel, while those who chose to leave went to neighboring Arab states. Instead of welcoming their Arab brothers, and integrating them into the mainstream of their societies, the Arab states kept them in squalid refugee camps and used these refugees, who now called themselves Palestinians, as political pawns in their fight against Israel.



In 1945 there were more than 870,000 Jews living in the various Arab states. Many of their communities dated back 2,500 years. Throughout 1947 and 1948 these Jews were persecuted. Their property and belongings were confiscated. There were anti-Jewish riots in Aden, Egypt, Libya, Syria, and Iraq. In Iraq, Zionism was made a capital crime. Approximately 600,000 Jews sought refuge in the State of Israel. They arrived destitute, but they were absorbed into the society and became an integral part of the state. In effect, then, an exchange of populations took place between Arab and Jewish refugees. Though, while the Jewish refugees became full Israeli citizens, the Arab refugees remained "refugees" according to the wishes of the Arab leaders.

The Jewish Refugees 1948-1972



Having lost in battle what they could have had in the peace envisioned by the 1947 Partition Plan, Palestinian Arab terrorist groups, called "Fedayeen", began systematic raids against the Israeli civilian population. 1,300 Israelis were killed and wounded by Arab terrorists between 1949 and 1956. The "Fedayeen" operated from bases located in and controlled by Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan.

With tensions mounting, the Straits of Tiran blocked, and Arab armies poised to strike, Israel decided (on June 5th 1967) to launch a pre-emptive attack on the massive Egyptian forces aimed at her. Within 190 minutes the backbone of the Egyptian air force was broken, and by the end of the first day of war 298 Egyptian airplanes were destroyed. Backed by complete air superiority, Israeli army divisions then thrust into the Sinai desert approaching the bank of the Suez Canal. At the same time, Israel issued an appeal to Jordan to stay out of the war. Jordan refused and opened a heavy artillery barrage on both west Jerusalem and the Tel-Aviv area which forced Israel to counterattack. By June 8th the Israel Defence Forces defeated the Jordanian forces and captured the whole of Judea and Samaria. On the morning of June 9th, Israel attacked the Syrians and captured the Golan Heights. From these heights, Syria had shelled and destroyed 205 houses, 175 acres of orchards and 75 acres of grain. The six days of fierce fighting ended in Israel's occupation of the Sinai desert and the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the West Bank, providing Israel's cities with a much-needed buffer zone and dramatically reducing the danger of extinction by a surprise Arab attack. Furthermore, victory had a special religious meaning because of the unification of Jerusalem and the return of Jews to Judea and Samaria from Jordan, which was part of biblical Israel.

Position of Arab Forces May 1967



	Soldiers	Tanks	Jets
Egypt	270,000	1400	550
Syria	65,000	550	120
Jordan	55,000	300	40
Lebanon	12,000	130	35
S.Arabia	50,000	100	40
Iraq	75,000	630	200

In March 1969, still humiliated by the 1967 defeat, Egypt launched a War of Attrition against Israeli forces in the Sinai with intense artillery fire against Israel's 'Bar-Lev Line' on the east bank of the Suez Canal. After heightened losses in May, June and July 1969, Israel responded with air raids into Egypt. Egyptian president Nasser, in response, appealed to the Soviet Union for aid and on March 19, 1970 Soviet missile batteries were installed in Egypt near the Canal. Not only did Moscow supply weapon systems, but they also operated some of them and took a direct part in fighting Israel. Intense US pressure led to a cease-fire on August 7, 1970 with plans to put into effect a US plan for peace in the region based on land for peace. However, the cease fire, which called for a freeze on the situation in the Canal (no movement of either troops or military equipment) was breached by Egypt's movement forward of forces on the same day it came into effect. Israel responded by suspending her participation in negotiations until the situation, which had prevailed on the eve of the signing of the ceasefire agreement, was restored. The peace plan was never implemented.

The October War began shortly after midday on Saturday, October 6, 1973, when Egypt and Syria launched a concerted surprise military attack on Israel. They had chosen to attack on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, a day when most Israelis were in synagogues praying and fasting. Due to the advantage of surprise, Egypt succeeded in crossing the Suez Canal on October 7th and Syrian forces advanced on the Golan Heights. By October 10th, however, after heavy losses, Israeli forces succeeded in reversing the tide of battle in the North and during the next

three days, Israeli forces advanced 10 km beyond the 1967 cease-fire lines into Syrian territory. On the Egyptian front, Israeli forces succeeded in crossing the Canal on the 14th and surrounded the Egyptian Third Army. Fighting continued despite a cease-fire agreement on October 22nd, which almost brought the USSR and the US to confrontation. Finally, on Oct. 26th a US-Soviet sponsored Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire was accepted by all parties.

Talks between Egypt and Israel, with the active participation of US Secretary of State Kissinger, continued for two months and concentrated on Israeli withdrawal to post-Six Day War lines, the problem of the encircled Third Army, and the exchange of prisoners. Israel agreed to withdraw to 20 km from the Canal. The size of both armies was reduced, and a Disengagement Agreement was signed between Israel and Egypt on January 18, 1974. The negotiations with Syria took much longer and mutual fire continued throughout the spring of 1974. In the final agreement, signed on May 31, 1974, Israel returned parts of the Syrian town of Quneitra. A UN buffer zone was established and as in the case of the Israel-Egypt agreement, a US Memorandum of Understanding was given to Israel.

FINAL JUDGMENT ON MOAB & AMMON

Moab, and Ammon will both will suffer destruction (Jeremiah 48:1–46), but it will not be complete. Those who survive will come to repentance and a remnant of Moab will return, and live at peace with Israel in the Messianic Kingdom. Therefore, there will be a national salvation of Moab and Ammon. And there will be saved nations called Moab and Ammon in the Messianic Kingdom.

Jeremiah 48:47:

⁴⁷Yet will I bring back the captivity of Moab in the latter days, says Jehovah. Thus far is the judgment of Moab (ASV, 1901).

Jeremiah 49:6

⁶But afterward I will bring back the captivity of the children of Ammon, says Jehovah (ASV, 1901)

NEXT MESSAGE: SALVATION – BORN AGAIN FROM JOHN CHAPTER 3

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