

# Exposition of Jeremiah - Lesson 48

## *“A Prophecy of Judgment Upon Moab”*

By:

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**Applicational Text: Romans 8:1** *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,”*

**Expositional Text: Jeremiah 48:7-8** *<sup>7</sup> For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken: and Chemosh shall go forth into captivity with his priests and his princes together. <sup>8</sup> And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape: the valley also shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD hath spoken.*

### **Introduction:**

The Moabites were the descendants of Abraham's nephew Lot by way of his incestual relationship with his oldest daughter after they had escaped Sodom, before God destroyed it. Upon the fulfillment of this judgment, pronounced by Jeremiah that they would be destroyed by Babylon, they ceased as a nation and were assimilated into the cultures around them. The territory they occupied is the area occupied today by Jordan.

Their claim to fame was established on the rumor that their god Chemosh had defeated the God of Israel. The story is found in II Kings chapter three where Israel, Judah, and Edom were in a battle with Moab and Moab was losing the battle. When the king of Moab saw he was losing the battle he offered his oldest son as a human sacrifice to his “god” Chemosh, and Israel, Judah, and Edom, seeing that, lost their will to fight and walked away from the battle. Because Israel, Judah, and Edom walked away from the battle, Moab claimed their god defeated Yahweh, and the rumor circulated among the nations. But that was then and this is now, and judgment is coming from Yahweh the Lord God of Israel, the only true God, the creator of the heavens and the earth.

### **I. Judgment pronounced against Moab**

**Jeremiah 48:1-8** *<sup>1</sup>Against Moab thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Woe unto Nebo! for it is spoiled: Kiriathaim is confounded and taken: Misgab is confounded and dismayed. <sup>2</sup> There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee. <sup>3</sup> A voice of crying shall be from*

*Horonaim, spoiling and great destruction. <sup>4</sup> Moab is destroyed; her little ones have caused a cry to be heard. <sup>5</sup> For in the going up of Luhith continual weeping shall go up; for in the going down of Horonaim the enemies have heard a cry of destruction. <sup>6</sup> Flee, save your lives, and be like the heath in the wilderness. <sup>7</sup> For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken: and Chemosh shall go forth into captivity with his priests and his princes together. <sup>8</sup> And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape: the valley also shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD hath spoken.*

This judgment begins at the most notable landmark in the area, Mount Nebo. Nebo is a mountain in Moab and is the mountain to which God took Moses and allowed him to look into the promise land before his death and God's burial of him somewhere in the Moab valley (**Deuteronomy 34:5-6**). This judgment begins at Nebo and then, like dominoes, the major cites fall; Kiriathaim, then Mishgab. It is noted in the prophecy here, *There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Hesh-bon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation.* Ah, the Babylonians have held a strategy camp at *Hesh-bon* and have devised their battle plan there, so the warning is issued, *Flee, save your lives, and be like the heath in the wilderness.* Then it is on to the town of "*Mad-mean*" which means "*dunghill*" or city of refuge, the specific location is not known. The voice of crying will be heard up on the high plateau of Moab from *Lu-hith* all the way down off the plateau to the town of *Horo-naim*. The cry of distress can be heard throughout the land of Moab, it is a cry of distress and the instruction is "*Flee, save your lives, and be like the heath in the wilderness.*" The *heath* is a small scrubby bush that grows in the desert and manages to survive in spite of the odds. The Babylonians are coming to every city and throughout the valley, the plain too will be destroyed, the entire land of Moab is going to be destroyed.

*"Chemosh shall go forth into captivity with his priests and his princes together."* **Chemosh** is the false god of the Moabites, the "god" they boasted had defeated Yahweh the God of Israel. He, that is the idol they had fashioned to represent him, is taken by the Babylonians. They also took the priests and princes into captivity. If one's religion is based on material things those things can be quickly taken away. Jesus said, *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* (**John 4:24**)

The invading Babylonians and Chaldeans will not stop until they have destroyed the entire land of Moab. **Jeremiah 48:8** *And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape: the valley also shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD hath spoken.*

The Lord had decreed it. and it would come to pass.

## II. A Warning to the Pursued and the Pursuer:

**Jeremiah 48:9-11** <sup>9</sup> *Give wings unto Moab, that it may flee and get away: for the cities thereof shall be desolate, without any to dwell therein. <sup>10</sup> Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood. <sup>11</sup> Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not*

*been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.*

This prophecy of Jeremiah serves first as a warning to the Moabites that God's judgment is coming. It almost sounds like a prayer for the people to be given deliverance, but it is actually an urgent warning that if they want to live, they better get out of the cities because they are all going to be laid waste. <sup>9</sup> *Give wings unto Moab, that it may flee and get away: for the cities thereof shall be desolate, without any to dwell therein.*

Then, secondly, there is the affirmation that God has initiated this action, as He declares, <sup>10</sup> *Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.* The Babylonians have been assigned this "...work of the Lord..." and they are not to do it "...deceitfully..." The Hebrew word is "aw-kobe" and means "fraudulently." The Lord has assigned this judgment of the Moabites to the Babylonians and He tells them to carry out the slaughter as "the work of the Lord" and not seek the glory for themselves or refuse to carry out the assignment. Yes! God is the one who is initiating this devastating judgment.

Then, the Lord states His justification for this judgment, **Jeremiah 48:11** *Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.* This statement indicates that they had not been judged previously, and He likens it them wine that has set for a long time undisturbed and has not had the dregs removed, and has not changed its flavor or fermentation, likewise without judgment, there has been no change in the people, but now judgment is coming.

### III. The Days of Judgment are Coming:

**Jeremiah 48:13-15** <sup>12</sup> *Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles.* <sup>13</sup> *And Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel their confidence.* <sup>14</sup> *How say ye, We are mighty and strong men for the war?* <sup>15</sup> *Moab is spoiled, and gone up out of her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.*

The Lord says that He will send "wanderers." The Hebrew word here is "tsaw-aw" and has a variety of definitions depending upon its use in context. Some have translated it **travelers** and interpret it as the Babylonian invaders that will travel from their home to destroy Moab. However, the root meaning of the word is "tippers" or "pourers." In the context the Lord has likened Moab to wine that has been ageing undisturbed, now these invaders have been "...caused... to tip that wine over and pour it out."

The Lord reminds them of their pride in their "god" when the children of Israel were ashamed of their God and packed up and went home. When the king of the Moabites made a human sacrifice of his oldest son and Israaël, Judah, and Edom backed out of the battle

and went home (II Kings 3). Now, the Moabites are going to be ashamed of their god as Israel was of theirs at Beth-el.

The Lord again identifies that He is the one who has authorized this coming judgment, *Moab is spoiled, and gone up out of her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.*

#### IV. Let The World Know That The Calamity of Moab is Near:

**Jeremiah 48:16-27** <sup>16</sup> *The calamity of Moab is near to come, and his affliction hasteth fast.* <sup>17</sup> *All ye that are about him, bemoan him; and all ye that know his name, say, How is the strong staff broken, and the beautiful rod!* <sup>18</sup> *Thou daughter that dost inhabit Dibon, come down from thy glory, and sit in thirst; for the spoiler of Moab shall come upon thee, and he shall destroy thy strong holds.* <sup>19</sup> *O inhabitant of Aroer, stand by the way, and espy; ask him that fleeth, and her that escapeth, and say, What is done?* <sup>20</sup> *Moab is confounded; for it is broken down: howl and cry; tell ye it in Arnon, that Moab is spoiled,* <sup>21</sup> *And judgment is come upon the plain country; upon Holon, and upon Jahazah, and upon Mephaath,* <sup>22</sup> *And upon Dibon, and upon Nebo, and upon Bethdiblathaim,* <sup>23</sup> *And upon Kiriathaim, and upon Bethgamul, and upon Bethmeon,* <sup>24</sup> *And upon Kerioth, and upon Bozrah, and upon all the cities of the land of Moab, far or near.* <sup>25</sup> *The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken, saith the Lord.* <sup>26</sup> *Make ye him drunken: for he magnified himself against the Lord: Moab also shall wallow in his vomit, and he also shall be in derision.* <sup>27</sup> *For was not Israel a derision unto thee? was he found among thieves? for since thou spakest of him, thou skippedst for joy.*

Note, that the world is put on notice as to why Moab is being judged as a warning to all of them and for them to observe the Lord's reason, "...*for he magnified himself against the Lord: Moab also shall wallow in his vomit, and he also shall be in derision. For was not Israel a derision unto thee? was he found among thieves? for since thou spakest of him, thou skippedst for joy.*

Remember, *"The fear of the Lord is clean (pure), enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."* (Psalms 19:9)

#### V. Pride and a Haughty Precedes A Fall:

**Jeremiah 48:28-31** <sup>28</sup> *O ye that dwell in Moab, leave the cities, and dwell in the rock, and be like the dove that maketh her nest in the sides of the hole's mouth.* <sup>29</sup> *We have heard the pride of Moab, (he is exceeding proud) his loftiness, and his arrogancy, and his pride, and the haughtiness of his heart.* <sup>30</sup> *I know his wrath, saith the LORD; but it shall not be so; his lies shall not so effect it.* <sup>31</sup> *Therefore will I howl for Moab, and I will cry out for all Moab; mine heart shall mourn for the men of Kirheres.*

*"...dwell in the rock..."* This is reminiscent of their beginning, when God destroyed their home in Sodom and they fled to the hills and made their home in a cave in the rocks.

*“...Therefore will I howl for Moab, and I will cry out for all Moab; mine heart shall mourn for the men of Kirheres.* Some interpret this statement to be made by the Lord, while others attribute it to Jeremiah himself. Regardless, we are reminded that the Lord had said He would put His words in Jeremiah’s mouth. God is compassionate but He is also holy and just. In His plan for mankind’s failure, He provided grace to whosoever will. The people of Moab have had ample time to repent from their idolatry and immorality, now it is judgment day. Their lack of repentance is seen in their *haughtiness*.

Proverbs 18:16 says, *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*

## **VI. Even The Vineyards and Fields Will Not Escape:**

The whole of creation is affected by man’s sin. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden the ground became cursed *“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;”*

Romans 8:22 says, *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.*

We see that continuing here in the judgment of Moab, with the ground and crops being destroyed.

Jeremiah 48:32-34 <sup>32</sup> *O vine of Sibmah, (Famous vineyards of Sibmah) I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer: thy plants are gone over the sea, they reach even to the sea of Jazer: the spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage.* <sup>33</sup> *And joy and gladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab, and I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses: none shall tread with shouting; their shouting shall be no shouting.* <sup>34</sup> *From the cry of Heshbon even unto Elealeh, and even unto Jahaz, have they uttered their voice, from Zoar even unto Horonaim, as an heifer of three years old: for the waters also of Nimrim shall be desolate.*

Moab was known for its vineyards and its wine which had been exported over the seas, but alas it will be no more *“...for the waters also of Nimrim shall be desolate.”*

## **VII. Their Pagan Worship is to Replaced With Mourning:**

Jeremiah 48:35-39 <sup>35</sup> *Moreover I will cause to cease in Moab, saith the LORD, him that offereth in the high places, and him that burneth incense to his gods.* <sup>36</sup> *Therefore mine heart shall sound for Moab like pipes, and mine heart shall sound like pipes for the men*

*of Kirheres: because the riches that he hath gotten are perished. <sup>37</sup> For every head shall be bald, and every beard clipped: upon all the hands shall be cuttings, and upon the loins sackcloth. <sup>38</sup> There shall be lamentation generally upon all the housetops of Moab, and in the streets thereof: for I have broken Moab like a vessel wherein is no pleasure, saith the LORD. <sup>39</sup> They shall howl, saying, How is it broken down! how hath Moab turned the back with shame! so shall Moab be a derision and a dismaying to all them about him.*

The Moabites are fleeing to the wilderness, but their “god” is being carried off to Babylon and instead of songs of praise, the sound heard will be that of lamentation and mourning. The “*pipes*” are instruments that are played at funerals, and the apparel will be “*sackcloth.*” *Moab shall be a derision and a dismaying to all them about him.* Once again there is an opportunity for others to learn from the discipline of others and avoid their own pain, loss, and suffering.

It is an amazing thing that when unbelievers are judged, they naturally turn to mourning instead of repentance. The Bible is explicit that during the Tribulation when people are suffering so from the judgments that God will be sending upon the earth, even when they want to die and can't, instead of repenting, they blaspheme the name of God.

**Revelation 16:9** *And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.*

**Revelation 9:6** *And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*

These, and many other passages indicate they know who God is and why the judgments are given, but they will not repent- I suppose the Lake of Fire is justified.

## **VII. Moab Will Lose Its National Identity For A While:**

**Jeremiah 48:40-47** <sup>40</sup> *For thus saith the LORD; Behold, he shall fly as an eagle, and shall spread his wings over Moab. <sup>41</sup> Kerioth is taken, and the strong holds are surprised, and the mighty men's hearts in Moab at that day shall be as the heart of a woman in her pangs. <sup>42</sup> And Moab shall be destroyed from being a people, because he hath magnified himself against the LORD. <sup>43</sup> Fear, and the pit, and the snare, shall be upon thee, O inhabitant of Moab, saith the LORD. <sup>44</sup> He that fleeth from the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that getteth up out of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for I will bring upon it, even upon Moab, the year of their visitation, saith the LORD. <sup>45</sup> They that fled stood under the shadow of Heshbon because of the force: but a fire shall come forth out of Heshbon, and a flame from the midst of Sihon, and shall devour the corner of Moab, and the crown of the head of the tumultuous ones. <sup>46</sup> Woe be unto thee, O Moab! the people of Chemosh perisheth: for thy sons are taken captives, and thy daughters captives.*

There is no hiding place from the wrath of God: strongholds are overthrown, the mighty men become like women in childbirth, the one fleeing will fall in a pit, the one getting out of the pit will be caught in a snare, those who take refuge in the shadow of the mountain



will be consumed by fire, the others will be taken as captives. There is no hiding place from the wrath of God, but there is refuge from His judgment in the grace of God.

## Conclusion:

But listen to verse forty-seven: **Jeremiah 48:47** *Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the LORD. Thus far is the judgment of Moab.*

God said He would once again restore Moab *“...in the latter days...”*

The establishment of nations was initiated at the Tower of Babel following the Noahic Flood. The division of the human race was initiated by the Lord in order to prevent a one world government in a world in which Satan is identified as the god of this world order, and while man still retains his Old Sin Nature. Even in eternity it appears there are going to be nations.

**Revelation 22:1-3** *<sup>1</sup>And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup>In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*

Although you cannot hide from the judgment of God, it is possible to avoid it altogether.

**Romans 8:1** says, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

Ah! You say: there is a condition though, *“...who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* Rejoice! That phrase is not in the older manuscripts but is a copy mistake from verse four where it speaks of our previous nature and is rightly in all the manuscripts. The only condition for avoiding the judgment of God is to be, *“in Christ Jesus.”*

**John 3:16** says, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth in (into) Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”* Yes! That word *“in”* is translated from the Greek preposition *“eis”* which means *“into.”* When we call upon the name of the Lord for salvation we are “baptized” (immersed) into Him (Romans 6:3). In Him there is no judgment.

God’s message to Israel was surrender and live, His message to us today is “surrender and live.” When Judgment comes surrender in repentance and experience the benefits of the amazing grace of God and avoid His discipline. God does discipline His children-punishment for unbelievers but discipline for His children.

**Hebrews 12:1-13** says, *<sup>1</sup>Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising*

*the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. <sup>4</sup> Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. <sup>5</sup> And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: <sup>6</sup> For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. <sup>7</sup> If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? <sup>8</sup> But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? <sup>10</sup> For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. <sup>11</sup> Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. <sup>12</sup> Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; <sup>13</sup> And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.*

The distinction between discipline and punishment: “punish” means to impose a penalty of pain, loss or suffering as a penalty for incorrect behavior; “discipline” means to impose a penalty of pain, loss or suffering to modify behavior.

### **But it all Begins at Salvation:**

- *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...*
- *The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...*
- *With the heart man believes unto righteousness...*
- *But with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...*
- *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved...*

*Let Us Learn From The Failure of Others and Avoid  
The Pain, Loss, Or Suffering of Personal  
Discipline!*