

“Weeping for Moab” **Isaiah 15-16**

Moab – Moab was a mountainous region with lush farming and herds. Most of the Lambs sacrificed in Jerusalem came from Moab. The people were semi Semitic in that many people from Israel settled there and intermarried, in Christ’s day these were the Samaritans. They also had Hebrew roots in that they were the descendents of Lot and his oldest daughter. **Genesis 19:30-38**

Chemosh – A Semitic mother goddess that was similar to Yahweh in wrath and high legalistic requirements but lacked forgiveness and grace. Ultimate obedience and sacrifice were required to appease wrath with no expectation of blessing. Human sacrifice was common. **2 Kings 3:21-27**

The Tears V. 15: 2-5, 8, 16:7, 9-11

Moab Weeps V. 15: 2-5, 8, 16:7 – These are the tears of the refugees fleeing the land. They leave behind all their possessions, money, homes and everything that is familiar knowing it will be gone. **Psalm 51**

God Weeps V. 16:9-11 – God mourns and weeps not only for the physical devastation, but primarily for the spiritual devastation and condition of the people. **Luke 19:41-44**

The Flight Ch. 15

When Assyria attacks from the north the People of Moab flee to the south. This is evident in the north to south progression or mention of the cities. They get to the border of Moab and Edom and attempt to make a right turn into Judah. At this point either Assyria catches them, Edom defends them off, or they cannot cross the Dead Sea. The River and Valley is filled with their blood and escape never happens V. 9.

“The efforts which we make to escape from our destiny only serve to lead us into it.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

When problems arise we can...

1. Endure it – then the problems have power over us.
2. Escape it – then we escape from the lesson God has for us.
3. Enlist it – then we face them, learn and grow through them. **Romans 8:18-28**

The Abandoned Destruction Ch. 16

Chapter 16 describes an abandoned, desolate and destroyed Moab. The herds and fields are left unattended and then destroyed by the marching army of Assyria. Everything is killed, cut down, trampled on and then abandoned like an instantaneous ghost town.

Deuteronomy 31:1-6 (Joshua 1:5, Psalm 94, Hebrews 13:5-6)

The Hope V. 16:3-5

“Tent of David” – Justice, shelter, and rest from the oppressor will come through the steadfast love of Jesus Christ. **Isaiah 6:1-6**

Discussion Questions

How have you “enlisted” the problems you have faced?

What can you do when you feel abandoned by God?

In the midst of problems how can you nurture Hope?

Homework

Read *Isaiah 17:1-11*

Answer the following questions:

1. What does God’s Word say? List the facts.
2. What does God’s Word mean? Learn the lessons.
3. What does God’s Word mean to me? Listen to His voice.
4. How will I respond to God’s Word today? Live it out.

Write out and review your answers to the discussion questions above each day and see how they apply to you that day.