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The Oracle Concerning Mo’ab
15:1 to 16:14

For centuries **Mo’ab**, east of the Dead Sea, had been the enemy of **Isra’el**. In **Israel’s** wilderness wanderings, **Moabite** women seduced **Isra’el’s** men **(Numbers 31:15-17).** In the time of **the Judges, Isra’el** was oppressed by **Mo’ab** for eighteen years **(Judges3: 12-14).** Saul fought **Mo’ab (First Samuel 14:47)** and David defeated **Mo’ab (Second Samuel 8:2, 12).** Solomon was influenced by his wives to build an altar to **Mo’ab’s** god Chemosh **(First Kings 11:7-8).** Mesha, **Mo’ab’s** king, had to pay tribute to Ahab, king of **Isra’el (Second Kings 3:4).** After Ahab died in 853 BC Mesha rebelled against Joram but was defeated **(Second Kings 3:5-27).** The destruction of **Mo’ab** described in **Isaiah**, **Chapters 15** and **16,** caused the **Moabites**, under Assyrian attack, to flee south to Edom. The thrust of the oracle is to discourage **Judah** from attempting to join forces with **Mo’ab** for security. **Mo’ab** will be reduced to hopeless poverty and be forced to rely on Judah’s only hope: **the Messiah (16:5).**