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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 (**Judges 3:12-14**). 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)**.