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The Hope of Mo'ab's Salvation

16: 1-6

The hope of Mo'ab's salvation DIG: To whom are the Moabites to send these lambs? What need prompts them to do so? How was Judah to respond? What hope is held out for the Moabites? Who was that hope? How is this hope related to the prophecy in 11:1-5? What caused Mo'ab to refuse?

REFLECT: Isaiah held out the Messiah as the only real hope for his hearers and readers. In what way is the reign of Yeshua Messiah the only real hope for people suffering in the world? How does His rule serve as a model for how believers ought to respond now towards the poor, the homeless, and the hungry?

In the midst of the devastation coming on **Mo'ab**, protection was found in **Judah**. **ADONAI** instructs **the Moabites** to send **lambs as tribute to the ruler of the land, from Sela, across the desert, to the mount of the Daughter of Tziyon (16:1)**. The hope of **Mo'ab's** salvation is that **she** would submit to **Judah, the Daughter of Tziyon**. **The Moabites** had now fled all the way south to strongholds in Edom such as **Sela**, about 50 miles south of **Mo'ab's** southern border. If **they** really wanted to be safe **they** would send **lambs** ahead **as tribute**. Paying **tribute** was a sign of submission. **Mo'ab** had been under Jewish control, but in **Second Kings 3:4-5** **Mo'ab** rebelled. What **Isaiah** is telling **Mo'ab** to do is to resubmit. If **Mo'ab** would do that, **her** salvation would be assured. **Isaiah** could suggest this because **he** had already prophesied that Jerusalem would be spared from destruction by Assyria (**10:24-34**). **Like fluttering birds pushed from the nest, so are the women of Mo'ab at the fords of the Arnon (16:2)**. Frustrated, **the women of Mo'ab** are described as wandering **birds**, flying here and there, not knowing what to do or where to go.

ADONAI tells **Mo'ab** that **she** is to request the **counsel** of **Judah**, and **Judah** is instructed to respond to **Mo'ab's** request. **Give us counsel, render a decision. Make your shadow like night - at high noon. Hide the fugitives, do not betray the refugees**. They are to hide the outcasts and the refugees. The people of **God** are instructed to obey **Him** if **Mo'ab** would ask for protection. **Let the Moabite fugitives stay with you; be their shelter from the destroyer**. And **Isaiah** makes a promise that if **Mo'ab** obeys and submits to

Judah, **the oppressor will come to an end and destruction will cease; the aggressor will vanish from the land (16:3-4).**



The basis for this promise is the future of the Davidic throne. **In love a throne will be established; in faithfulness a man will sit on it - one from the house of David - one who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness (16:5).** Judah has a **throne** with a future. Although **Isaiah** had been sent to prophesy to a nation in rebellion against **God**, and although **the house of David** would be reduced to a cut down stump as a result (**11:1-5, 53:2**), it was still superior to the **Moabite** dynasty. **Mo'ab** had no future, but **the house of David** did. So **Mo'ab** is invited to share in the messianic hope with **Judah**. If they come, they will receive the *best*, the Messianic hope (**to see link click [Kg - The Second Coming of Jesus Christ to Bozra](#)**). Then **Isaiah** spells out the future of the Davidic throne. It will be established in grace; **Messiah** will sit on the **throne** in truth. **He** will judge, **He** will seek **justice**, and **He** will do **righteousness**. The background to this verse is **9:6-7**. So, **Isaiah** has given **Mo'ab** an offer of salvation, but **Mo'ab**, because of **her pride**, refuses.

But **Moab's pride and conceit** kept **her** from turning to **Y'hudah** for salvation (**Isaiah 25:10-11; Jeremiah 48:29 and Zephaniah 2:8-10**). We have heard of **Mo'ab's pride - her overwhelming pride and conceit, her pride and her insolence - but her boasts are empty (16:6)**. The people of **Mo'ab** should have realized **their** helplessness before the Assyrians and turned to **the LORD** through **their** neighbor Judah, but **they** refused to do so. Because of **their pride**, confident that **they** did not need **God**, **they** would meet destruction. **Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18).**

Mo'ab was famous for **their vineyards**, and **they** became the source of **Mo'ab's pride**. **They** got to a place where **they** relied on **their** accomplishments rather than relying on **God**. We need to learn this lesson today. There is no hope in our achievements. None of our

accomplishments can save us. We may be justly proud of the things we have done, but if that is the source of our eternal hope, our hope is small indeed. Perhaps the pyramids of Egypt will endure to the end of time, but what do they tell us about their builders? Next to nothing. What happened to the kings buried there? Every last thing they intended to endure for eternity has been stripped away.

It is the same for us, whose accomplishments are a lot less amazing than those ancient Egyptians. What will we leave behind? Everything! All our efforts to gain control of our environment, whether it is home, office or love of life will end with our death. Later, **Isaiah** will say: **Why do you labor on what does not satisfy?** Like **the Moabites**, we tend to look in all the wrong directions for our hope. Then, when our world falls apart, as it will, there is nothing left to do but wail for all that is lost. In this world the only certainty is death and loss.

Our hope is not in our accomplishments but in **ADONAI's**. In place of the world's seemingly endless tears and loss, **He** has given joy and abundance. If we wait for a day yet to come to see **Him** enthroned in all **His** glory, we can still live our days here on earth with confidence and rest.⁵¹