

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

Sep 2016

**Isaiah**

Holy Living

## Lesson # 9 The Oracle of Moab & Damascus

### INTRODUCTION

When you see modern refugees, what strikes you the most of their plight?

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

#### **Read Isaiah 15:1-16:14**

*Note: Moab is a country east of the Dead Sea that has been a perpetual enemy of the Jews. The Moabites were the product of Lot's incestuous relationship with his daughter.*

1. What are some of the 14 "lamentations" that Isaiah gives? 15:1-9
2. How could the weak Moabites ever hope to defeat the great Assyrians?
3. The Moabites wanted Judah's protection but not their God. 16:4 They wanted deliverance (salvation) on their terms. How does that compare to people today?
4. From God's perspective, what is the reason for their destruction? 16:6a; **Jer 48:29**
5. How does Isaiah (and God) feel about the destruction of Moab? 16:9-11; **Ezek 33:11; Prov 24:17-18**

#### **Read Isaiah 17:1-14**

*Note: The nations of Damascus and Israel were both opposed to Judah so Isaiah addressed them both at once. Ephraim (vs. 3) refers to northern Israel which was allied with Damascus, Syria's capital. Asherah poles (vs. 8) were wooden symbols of the Canaanite fertility goddess in Baal worship.*

6. How did Isaiah describe the impending destruction of Damascus? 17:3, 4a, 5-6, 9-11, 12-13a, 13b
7. Why is God referred to as a Rock and fortress? V 10; **Ps 18:2**
8. Like these people, what gods (idols) do people trust today that they have made instead of the God who made them? 17:8,9 **Prov 1:20-33**

### APPLICATION

In what false god did you once trust? How would you live differently if you remember the King described in **Isa 16:5**?

*Isaiah's laments in chapters 13–23 were most likely uttered before a Judean audience, not in the lands to which they referred. It may seem that Isaiah laments the demise of Judah's enemies, and some interpreters have suggested that parts or all of chapters 15–16 were ironic laments intended to taunt or mock Moab, Judah's long-time enemy. That view is probably incorrect in light of Isaiah's personal declaration of deep sorrow in verse 5 and 16:9. Isaiah lamented that the Moabites had rejected the possibility of finding refuge from their enemies in Judah's hope, the enduring throne of David (16:4–5). It is worth noting that the Davidic royal family had, in Ruth the wife of Boaz, a Moabite ancestry (Ru 4:13–22). Perhaps the prophet reflected God's sorrow over Moab so the Judeans would recognize the hopelessness of following Moab's path.<sup>1</sup>*

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Cabal, T., Brand, C. O., Clendenen, E. R., Copan, P., Moreland, J., & Powell, D. (2007). *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (1013). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.