

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 34

Title: Send Ye the Lamb

Scripture: Isaiah 15: 1-9; 16: 1-6

Date: 7-5-09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

Isaiah 15: 1: The burden of Moab.

In judgment of the LORD upon Moab we are reminded that God's judgment is coming upon this world.

In a short time, the burden which Moab faced will be the burden all the nations of the earth shall face. More personally, this is the burden that all sinners shall face who meet God outside of Christ Jesus the Lord.

Isaiah 14: 27: For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul *it*? and his hand *is* stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

You may think that you have great ease by not taking the yoke of Christ. But your ease will only be for season. Soon you will bear the full burden of God's judgment upon your own shoulder.

For those who put their trust in Christ, the burden is light, because the government is upon the shoulder of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Oh that God would give you wisdom this day to put your trust in Christ Jesus.

Divisions: I. The Sure Destruction of Moab; II. The Sure Salvation by Christ the King

I. THE SURE DESTRUCTION OF MOAB

The Chief Cities Shall Be Destroyed.

Isaiah 15: 1: The burden of Moab. Because in the night Ar of Moab is laid waste, *and* brought to silence; because in the night Kir of Moab is laid waste, *and* brought to silence;

Ar and Kir were two chief cities in Moab. These cities represent the very pride of Moab, their security, all that they had worked to achieve as a people. The word of the LORD is that in one night both the chief cities of Moab would be cut off and brought to silence.

Religious Bartering Shall Avail Nothing.

Isaiah 15: 2: He is gone up to Bajith, and to Dibon, the high places, to weep: Moab shall howl over Nebo, and over Medeba: on all their heads *shall be* baldness, *and* every beard cut off. 3: In their streets they shall gird themselves with sackcloth: on the tops of their houses, and in their streets, every one shall howl, weeping abundantly.

Bajith was the house or temple of Chemosh, their idol god. Dibon was another place with a temple. They went up to their high places, cut off the hair of the head and the beard, dressed in sackcloth, cried out, weeping abundantly, not only in their temples, but on the flat-roofs of their houses and in their streets. Yet, they came down from their high places crying the same as when they went up—weeping abundantly. Why?

Hoshea 7:14: And they have not cried unto ME with their HEART, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves FOR CORN AND WINE, *and* they rebel AGAINST ME.

The same thing was happening in Judah, not in heathen places, but in the Lord's house.

Isaiah 1: 12: When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

The LORD calls their so-called worship vain oblations; iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

Isaiah 1: 15: And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

But Judah was coming to the Lord's house? They were coming with the sacrifices God ordained? Why did God not receive them? They did not worship the LORD. And they did not worship the LORD in their heart.

Isaiah 1: 3: The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: *but* Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Isaiah 57: 10: Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; *yet* saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved. 11: And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid *it* to thy heart?

Mark 7:6: He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me.

Their tears were not from a broken and contrite spirit, not over their sin against God, not in spirit and in truth, but all their religious exercise was an offer of their service in exchange for their cities and their substance to be restored.

Isaiah 58:3: Wherefore have we fasted, *say they*, and thou seest not? *wherefore* have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.

The LORD says it is rebellion against me.

All The Chief Defenses Shall Flee to Insignificance

Isaiah 15: 4: And Heshbon shall cry, and Elealeh: their voice shall be heard *even* unto Jahaz: therefore the armed soldiers of Moab shall cry out; his life shall be grievous unto him.

The voice of crying spreads throughout the country, all the way to a border town called Jahaz. The picture we get from this is that the LORD is spreading this woe throughout their whole land. Therefore the armed soldiers of Moab shall cry out. The army is the last holdout for a country's defense. When the soldier, who are equipped for war, who have weapons to fight, is reduced to fear and tears, so that he is no longer trying to defend his country but is grieved for only his own life, then the whole land is defeated.

Isaiah 15: 5: My heart shall cry out for Moab; his fugitives *shall flee* unto Zoar, an heifer of three years old: for by the mounting up of Luhith with weeping shall they go it up; for in the way of Horonaim they shall raise up a cry of destruction.

His Fugitives--his bars—his protectors—his princes, his rulers, under whose leadership the nation was protected shall flee unto Zoar. A great distance from where they lived, from the pomp of their large cities to a tiny town. The name Zoar says it all. It means “insignificance.” They shall go like an heifer of three years old--lowing, balling, and unaccustomed to the yoke.

Not one shall be left with any strength from one side of the country to the other, from the highest (Luhith) to the lowest (Horonaim), all shall “raise up a cry of destruction”--the cry of those whose bones are broken.

All Natural Resources Shall Be Dried Up

Isaiah 15: 6: For the waters of Nimrim shall be desolate: for the hay is withered away, the grass faileth, there is no green thing. 7: Therefore the abundance they have gotten, and that which they have laid up, shall they carry away to the brook of the willows.

In this drought--the waters of Nimrim being desolated, the hay withering, the grass failing, no green thing growing--the LORD makes it clear that their destruction is at his hand. The abundance they worked for and hoarded up as their security, they will carry away to the brook of the willows. “The brook of the willows” was on the border of Moab. It means that their abundance shall be brought to an end.

Isaiah 15: 8: For the cry is gone round about the borders of Moab; the howling thereof unto Eglaim, and the howling thereof unto Beerelim. 9: For the waters of Dimon shall be full of blood: for I will bring more upon Dimon, lions upon him that escapeth of Moab, and upon the remnant of the land.

In this place where there was once ease and laughter, now there is only burden and howling. Why? Because the waters of Dimon shall be full of blood—FOR I—this is the judgment of the LORD God—FOR I--will bring more upon Dimon, lions upon him that escapeth of Moab, and upon the remnant of the land.

If you notice, Moab is described here with personal pronouns as if it were one person. By this we see what shall become of the sinner, personally, who puts his trust in these things. And before the child of mercy is converted to trust Christ alone, all these things shall be stripped from us so that we are hedged about and sweetly made willing to cast all our care on Christ. This burden delivered in the present tense presses home the urgency to flee to the LORD God of mercy, now.

II. THE SURE SALVATION BY CHRIST THE KING

Isaiah, the prophet is delivering the burden of the Lord's judgment prior to the day of God's judgment upon Moab, just as I am delivering this word of the Lord to you in our day prior to his judgment beginning upon this world. Back in Isaiah 15: 5, Isaiah says,

Isaiah 15: 5: My heart shall cry out for Moab

The Lord's messengers are sent to cry out and they do so from the heart.

Romans 10: 1: Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Galatians 4:19: My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Isaiah's Gospel

This cry is in truth concerning Christ Jesus the Lord. Here is the cry of Isaiah prior to those in Moab prior to this judgment coming to pass.

Isaiah 16: 1: Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.

Isaiah's gospel is this: cast all your care on the LORD God. Believe on him. This has been Isaiah's message throughout the book and so it is here. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Ruler of the land. He is God's anointed King. Cast your care on him.

Revelation 17:14: These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

At the time of this prophecy, Hezekiah is the king of Judah. He is God's anointed king. "Send the lamb to the ruler of the land." Repent from trusting in your own way and believe on the LORD God and his anointed King, Christ Jesus.

The Office of King of Judah Sets Forth the Glory of Christ the King

Let's consider a little history and we will see how the office of the king of Judah sets forth Christ. Long before this, David was God's anointed king who delivered the children of Israel into peace by smiting the Moabites and bringing them into service to him.

Numbers 24:17:...there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

The Star out of Jacob is Christ. The Sceptre that has risen out of Israel is Christ. The one who smote our enemies and has given his people rest is Christ Jesus the Lord, the King of kings and Lord of lords. David knew that Christ Jesus is the Lord.

Matthew 22: 43: He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, 44: The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? 45: If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?

Through king David's victory over the Moabites, the remnant which was spared became willing servants and continually brought gifts to the king.

2 Samuel 8: 2: And *so* the Moabites became David's servants, *and* brought gifts.

When Christ conquers a sinner that sinner becomes a willing servant to Christ. We offer up spiritual sacrifices to our King.

The father's in Moab paid tribute to David and to the kings after him, up until the reign of Ahab ended. But the children of Moab after them rebelled.

2 Kings 3: 5: But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

Now, as Isaiah delivers this prophecy, Hezekiah is king. He is a son of God and a son of David, typical of Christ Jesus the Son of God, the Son of David. So now, Isaiah comes forth with the word of the LORD to the children of Moab declaring that God's judgment is coming upon them. Repent and send ye the lamb to Hezekiah. Pay tribute to Hezekiah. Today, I say to you, "Send ye the Lamb to the Ruler of the land. The only sacrifice pleasing to God is the Lamb, Christ Jesus. Come by faith with the Lamb."

The Ruler is in Mount Zion

Isaiah 16: 1: Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.

Christ's throne is in heavens Zion. The picture we get here of sending the lamb to Hezekiah in Jerusalem in mount Zion is of heart worship, the full assurance of faith, of trusting Christ the King in heavens Zion.

Psalm 2: 6: Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7: I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8: Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession. 9: Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10: Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11: Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him

Where do the saints kiss the Son? When the harlot came worshipping Christ she kissed his feet. This is obeisance, this is reverence. It is in the inward part, in the heart made pure by God, washing of regeneration, sprinkling of blood of Christ, a heart purified by faith. We see God in Christ seated at God's right hand.

Psalm 51: 6: Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom...16: For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. 17: The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalm 95:6: O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

Christ Jesus our Wise Solomon will take no less than a heart set solely upon Christ: Son give me thine heart (Pr 23: 26.)

The Fords of Arnon

Isaiah 16: 2: For it shall be, *that*, as a wandering bird cast out of the nest, *so* the daughters of Moab shall be at the fords of Arnon.

The fords of Arnon are the same as the brooks of the willows. It means, when you are come to the borders of Moab--to your end--this is how it shall be.

First, if you do not trust Christ alone, you will have no strength to cross over the waters of Arnon. When everything that a sinner puts his confidence in is brought to nothing--your chief cities, your confidence in religion, your armed soldiers and your chief rulers, when the waters are dried up and earth dissolved--if you are not trusting in Christ to deliver, you shall be like a wandering bird cast out of the nest, helpless and fit for destruction.

Secondly, this is a positive thing to those who trust Christ. The LORD declares in the law how he protects those who are escaped from their former master to Christ the Master.

De 23:15: Thou shalt not deliver unto his master the servant which is escaped from his master unto thee: 16: He shall dwell with thee, *even* among you, in that place which he shall choose in one of thy gates, where it liketh him best: thou shalt not oppress him; 24:14: Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant *that is* poor and needy, *whether he be* of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that *are* in thy land within thy gates.

Those wandering birds who are cast out, the poor and needy, whether Jew or Gentile, are forever secure under the care of Christ Jesus who fulfills this law in the perfection of holiness. We shall dwell with Christ and he shall not oppress us nor allow any other to oppress.

Hear and Obey the Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 16: 3: Take counsel, execute judgment;

Not the counsel of men or of our own understanding.

Isaiah 30:1: Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin:

But take counsel of the LORD.

Isaiah 1:18: Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 16: 3: Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth. 4: Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.

This judgment is what Christ has done for those who have fled from the oppressor to him. He has covered us completely from the burning sunbeams of sin, of the law, and of death. He has covered us completely in his righteousness as the night in the midst of the noon day. Christ has hidden us and not bewrayed us and we abide in Christ.

Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Christ is our covert from the face of the spoiler. Oh, the believer may be an outcast—cast out by the enemy, cast out by the world, cast out from all that would injure us by the chastening hand of the Lord, but the LORD God of heaven and earth says that his people are "MINE outcast!"

Matthew 25:40: And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

So Isaiah says to those who send the lamb to the ruler of the land, "execute the same judgment toward your brethren."

- Don't shove the brethren under the heat of justice but love them in mercy.
- Don't uncover the sin of those for whom Christ has died, love covers a multitude of sins.
- Don't turn the Lord's people over to the hand of the spoiler, be a covert for them even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.

It is Useless to Fight Against God.

Isaiah 15: 4: Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36: As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Isaiah 16: 5: And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he [the Ruler of the land] shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.

Ps 85:10: Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.

Proverbs 29:14: The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

Ps 89:1: <<Maschil of Ethan the Ezrahite.>> I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. 2: For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens.

He who shows mercy to the LORD's outcast is the LORD's outcast. He does so because he has tasted the LORD's mercy.

Application.

Moab refused because of his pride.

Isaiah 16: 6: We have heard of the pride of Moab; *he is* very proud: *even* of his haughtiness, and his pride, and his wrath: *but* his lies *shall* not *be* so.

Moab was destroyed under the LORD's hand just as he promised. This stands for you and I as a token that what God says concerning this whole world shall surely come to pass.

Isaiah 14: 26: This *is* the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this *is* the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

Christ Jesus the King of heaven and earth is hastening righteousness—delivering his people, protecting us and he will soon judge the whole world in righteousness and shall destroy this whole earth as he did Moab.

2 Peter 3:11: *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, 12: Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13: Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. 14: Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. 15: And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation... 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. 18: But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.