

14:28-32 The Vision for the Philistines

1. Jews and Philistines in the Era of the Kings

Solomon rules them	Kings I 5:1, Chronicles II 9:26
Yehoshaphat rules them	Chronicles II 17:11
Uziah rules them	Chronicles II 26:6-7
Allies of Aram	Yeshayah 9:11, Chronicles II 28:18
Future punishment	Yeshayah 11:14, Jeremiah 47

2. Malbim to Yeshayah 14:29

ופרי הצפע הזה יהיה שרף וארס מעופף המזיק למרחוק, שהוא חזקיה ופרי מעשיו הטובים שיזיקו לך:

And the fruit of this viper will be a venomous snake, with flying venom which causes harm from afar – this is Chizkiyah, and the fruit of his good deeds, which will harm you.

3. Ibn Ezra to Yeshayah 14:32

ומה יענה, כל מלאך ממלאכי כל גוי? זה יענה, כי ד' יסד ציון, ולא יוכל מלך אשור לה:

And what will each agent among the nations' agents say? This one will respond, "For Gd has established Zion," and the King of Assyria cannot defeat her.

Moav: Introduction

4. Midrash, Bereishit Rabbah 41:3

"ויזכור אלקים את אברהם וישלח את לוט מתוך וגו', " וכנגדו היו בניו צריכים לפרוע לנו טובות, לא דיין שלא פרעו לנו טובות אלא רעות, הה"ד (במדבר כב) וישלח מלאכים אל בלעם בן בעור וגו'... (שופטים ג) ויאסף אליו את בני עמון ועמלק וילך ויך את ישראל... (ד"ה ב כ) ויהי אחרי כן באו בני מואב ובני מדין ועמהם מן העמונים על יהושפט, ועוד כתיב (איכה א) ידו פרש צר על כל מחמדיה..."

"And Gd remembered Avraham, and He sent Lot from, etc." Opposite this, [Lot's] descendants should have paid us back with kindness! Not only did they not pay us back with kindness, but [they did so] with evil! As Bamidbar 22 says: And he sent messengers to Bilam, son of Be'or, etc..... And Judges 3 says: And he gathered to him Amon and Amalek, and he went and struck Israel... And Chronicles II 20 says: And afterward, Moav and Midian came, along with Amon, against Yehoshaphat. And Eichah 1 says: The enemy spread his hand upon her treasures...

5. The Mesha Stele <https://www.livius.org/sources/content/onet/320-the-stela-of-mesha/>

In the first half of the ninth century BCE, Israel was a mighty kingdom. Its king Omri (884-873) owned at least two thousand chariots and even king Salmaneser of Assyria admitted that Israel was a powerful enemy. Omri's son Ahab (873-852) brought the kingdom to even greater prominence.

However, king Hazael of Aram-Damascus defeated Ahab's son Jehoram, and a general named Jehu overthrew the dynasty of Omri. There is archaeological evidence that part of the kingdom's heartland was even occupied by Aramaean troops. At the same time, Moab, a vassal state of Israel, broke away from Israelite overlordship. Israel's fortunes were restored when the Assyrians attacked Aram-Damascus in 842, but Moab was lost.

The story is told in the Bible, and was more or less confirmed by a Moabite inscription that was discovered by a German missionary in 1868 in Dhiban, the ancient Moabite capital Dibon. It records the building of Karchoh, which appears to have been a fortified quarter in the city. This was not without importance, because in the nineteenth century, many scholars had started to doubt the reliability of the Bible as source for ancient history. The stela in which king Mesha offers his view on the war against Israel was seen as an important argument against these skeptics.

To some extent, the inscription offers few surprises. The author of *2 Kings* claims considerable Israelite successes; the Moabite king Mesha makes the same claim. His victory, he says, is the result of support from the national god Kemoš, which was not a strange theological idea. The inscription also contained a reference to יקוק; until now, this is the earliest occurrence of the name of the god in an inscription...

The translation of the stela offered below is based on the surviving remains and Clermont-Ganneau's squeeze, and was adapted from a version by Klaas Smelik. The language closely resembles Hebrew...

[4] Omri had taken possession of the whole land of Medeba and he lived there in his days and half the days of his son, forty years, but Kemoš restored it in my days. And I built Ba'al Meon, and I made in it a water reservoir, and I built Kiriathaim.

[6] And the men of Gad lived in the land of Ataroth from ancient times, and the king of Israel built Ataroth for himself, and I fought against the city, and I captured, and I killed all the people from the city as a sacrifice for Kemoš and for Moab, and I brought back the fire-hearth of his Uncle from there, and I hauled it before the face of Kemoš in Kerioth, and I made the men of Sharon live there, as well as the men of Maharith.

[7] And Kemoš said to me: "Go, take Nebo from Israel!" And I went in the night, and I fought against it from the break of dawn until noon, and I took it, and I killed its whole population, seven thousand male citizens and aliens, female citizens and aliens, and servant girls; for I had put it to the ban of Aštar Kemoš. And from there, I took the vessels of יקוק, and I hauled them before the face of Kemoš.

[8] And the king of Israel had built Jahaz, and he stayed there during his campaigns against me, and Kemoš drove him away before my face, and I took two hundred men from Moab, all its division, and I led it up to Jahaz. And I have taken it in order to add it to Dibon...

[9] I have built Karchoh...

[10] I have built Aroer, and I made the military road in the Arnon. I have built Beth Bamoth, for it had been destroyed. I have built Bezer, for it lay in ruins.

[11] And the men of Dibon stood in battle-order, for all Dibon, they were in subjection. And I am the king over hundreds in the towns which I have added to the land.

[12] And I have built the House of Medeba and the House of Diblathaim, and the House of Ba'al Meon ...

6. Rashi to Yeshayah 15:1

נתנבא ישעיה שיבוא סנחרב על מואב ויגלם...

7. Outline

- 15:1-9 The cities of Moav are in ruins
- 16:1-5 Interlude regarding sheltering refugees
- 16:6-12 The land of Moav is in ruins
- 16:13-14 You have three years to go, Moav

15:1-9 Moav in Tears

8. Abarbanel to Yeshayah 15:1

ולפי ששניהם שודדו ונחרבו בפתע, אמר שמואב בליל שודד על דרך מה שאמר (יונה ד, י) שבין לילה אבד...

9. Eichah 4:16

10. Development of grief

Radak	Spread of grief	Prayer, Nation, Soldiers
Malbim	Escalation	Silence, Private mourning, Public mourning, War

11. Yeshayah 15:5, Yirmiyahu 48:36

12. Midrash, Bamidbar Rabbah 20:1

כל הנביאים היו במדת רחמים על ישראל ועל עובדי כוכבים שכן ירמיה אומר (ירמיה מח) "לבי למואב כחלילים יהמה" וכן יחזקאל (יחזקאל כז) "בן אדם שא על צור קינה", וזה אכזרי עמד לעקור אומה שלימה חנם על לא דבר! לכך נכתבה פרשת בלעם להודיע למה סלק הקב"ה רוח הקדש מעובדי כוכבים, שזה עמד מהם וראה מה עשה.

13. Rabbi Zev Wolf Torbavitz, Ziv Mishneh to Rambam's Hilchot Tefilah 12:15

"הבוחר בנביאים טובים", היא ברכה על הנביאים עצמן, ומשה רבינו ע"ה אב הנביאים ג"כ בכללם, ואנו מברכים לד' יתברך על שבחר בהם בהיותם רועים טובים ורחמנים, כי משה רבינו וכל הנביאים כולם מסרו נפשם על ישראל, וגם בעד האומות אמר ישעיה הנביא ע"ה "לבי למואב יזעק" (ישעיה ט"ו) וכדאמרו חז"ל. וגם באנו לשלול בזה נביאי השקר אשר התעו את ישראל ולא חמלו עליהם אשר לא בחר בהם ד'.

14. Yeshayah 15:5, Bereishit 19:18-22