

SCRAPPING GRATUITY

Isaiah 15 and 16

INTRODUCTION:

Gratitude is a golden jewel. People are touched by it. God is pleased with your acknowledgement of Him. When you scrap gratuity God is displeased.

I bundle two chapters of Isaiah together in this message using the text 16:1 "Send ye the lamb to the ruler". I will intrepret this later, but observation tells us Moab had decided upon a course of scrapping gratuity, in turn judgment become the burden of 15 and 16.

Some one will ask -- Why not pass these two chapters by? What does Moab have to do with us? Is there value in this history?

Portion of God's word that can have a part in making "you, a child of God, perfect!" Don't miss the symbol.

- A simple outline:
- I. Survey The Land - Verse 15:1-9.
  - II. Silenceing Gratuity 16:1-3.
  - III. Signs of Mercy 16:5.
  - IV. Sins of Moab 16:6.
  - V. Senseless Prayer 16:7-14.

I. Survey The Land 15:1-9.

Verse 1 - The Land - District east of the Dead Sea. Extended some distance North of it and to its Southern end. Eastern Boundry along the desert. Length was about 50 miles. Width - Average about 30 miles. 3,000 Ft. above level of Mediterranean. 4,300 Ft. above level of Dead Sea.

Range of mountains - deep chasms and gorges -- that of the river Arnon being about 1,700 Ft. deep is 2 miles wide, yet very narrow at the bottom. Colorado River - Grand Canyon

Table - land is fertile, but lacks water. The up-lands are almost destitute of water.

People got water from cisterns.

Today some 45 place names are known - most of these are in ruins.

The People: They were of Sem Stock and kin to the Hebrews. Descent from Lot. The nephew of Abraham. Gen. 19:30-37. By an incestrous union with his elder daughter. 24:27.

Their Religion: Chemosh - Chief Diety. Mentioned in the Old Testament. National God of Moab, as Molech was of Ammon. It is pretty certain that human sacrifices were offered. 2 K. 3:27. But there were other gods of Moab - Nu. 25. They had their Baalim.

The History: Origin Gen. 19 - Little is known until the time of the Exodus.

They had suffered from invasion by the Amonites. Nu. 21:21-31.

Moab saw the powerful people settling near his boarder and made an alliance with the midianites against them and called upon Balaam, but could not get him to curse the people. Num. 22:24.

Saul smote Moab - not subdue it. I S. 14:47.

David had friendly relation with for awhile. I. S. 22:34.

David made war and overpowered them. 2S 8:2.

Jeroboam obtained it as a possession. I K. 12:20.

Ahab had it as a tributary. 2K. 1:1.

Revolt after revolt - Jehoshaphat - great slaughter. 2 K. 3

Bands carried out raids. 2 K. 13:20.

Moabite Stone 2 K. 3:4-5. Erected at Dibon by Mesha, King of Moab to commemorate his successful revolt from Israel and conquest of Israelitish territory.

Discovered in August 19, 1868 by German missionary. It was 3' 10" high - 2' broad with semicircular top.

Berlin Museum entered negotiations for purchase of.

M. Clermont - Of French consulate at Jerus. sent agents to take squeezes and tempt Arabs to sell it for large sum of money.

Turkish officials interferred and in 1869 Arabs lighted a fire under the stone and by pouring cold water on it broke it into pieces and carried it away as charms.

M. Clermont - Ganneau succeeded in getting a copy of the stone and in recovering a large proportion of the stone. Some fragments are in London, Paris, and Jerusalem.

King Mesha tells of his reign. His victories over Israel - and building of the city Krbh and of his god Chemosh.

Book of Ruth - gives something of the warmth between Moab and Judah and David by descent from Ruth - History now more important to us!

Naomi sojourned there when there was a famine in Canaan.

Prophet begins by telling how 2 cities Ar and Kir are destroyed at night. False Gods will be judged.

Chief cities - great grief - taking these cities opened the whole country for the enemy. As for example Washington and New York Falls, or London.

Single night - is the point.

Verse 2 - Become Serious about religion.

Still a few Moabites left. Time of calamity they fly to religion!

Wailing crowds rush to the house of their gods at Dibon.

Pour out their tears before Chemosh - in his temple - High places - idols.

Man ought to seek God in trouble! However, often these are profitless tears!

□ They were pious: □

(A) Bare heads (Cut hair during mourning.)

Verse 3 - (B) Sackcloth - custom - known to Assyrians, Jonah 3:5, Syrians I K. 20:31; Persians Esth. 4:1-2; Israelites Neh.9:1.

Like modern times wearing a black garment or crepe is symbol of the old practice.

(C) Weeping - Howling! On every highway, top of the house, public square, whole scene - tears run like a river.

Verse 4 - (D) Soldiers lose courage - well armed but now shriek with fear. Sudden calamity has the "soul" of the nation filled with terror.

Verse 5 - Love never faileth - Prophet issues His sympathy for Moab - "My Heart".

God's minister must have a tender heart - tender spirit. Paul before Felix reasoned of righteousness, temperance, judgment, did so with a warm heart. He denounced sinners. "The wages of sin is death". The work of the flesh - adultery,

fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like - shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. Gal. 5:19-21. "Brethern my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved". Rom. 10:1.

Jesus - tender in judgment - "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Matt. 7:19.

Isaiah not callous to the judgment of Moab. Special note of ZOAR.

Gen. 19:20-22 - Lot was a flee to the little town of Zoar, it was spared for Lot's sake, from the doomed cities of the plain - refuge.

Contrast to Fair Heifer in her Prime, never been yoked. Suggested here is a city never been captured, known for its security, as tradion told of Sodom and Gomorrah. Now all is vain!

Verse 6 - Fire sweeps whole land.

Hay - withered.

Pasture land - failed to yield.

Verse 7 - Accumulations carried through the gorge.

Verse 8 - Every corner of the country in lamentations. Reached the leaders.

Verse 9 - Additional Calamities are mounting daily!

Di - Mon - River - So many slain that rivers next to the cities run red with blood.

✓  
II. Silenceing Gratuity - 16:1-3.

Verse 1 - Here is the Key - Trumpet Blast.

Demand for tribute - "Send ye the lambs".

2 K. 3:4. Yearly tribute of a hundred thousand lambs and a hundred thousand rams with the wool to the King of Israel till the death of Ahab.

Moab was to submit to the house of David as their only hope of safety.

Come under the spiritual rule of the Messiah as the anointed King.

Pride still diverts us from grace! Tribute of lambs will not go to Zion!

2 Kings 3:4.

Be just with the House of David.

Bring your gratuity!

Refused!

Verse (2) - Bird out of the Nest - cast out.

Little birds - kicked out of the nest - watched a brown thrush--you will not pay gratuity - your rent money - Be turned out of your house - like a wandering bird thrown out of the nest unable to fly.

Verse (3) - In this judgment noon will be like night.

Be kind to seed of Israel - "Hide the outcast" - Storm, care for those that belong to God - Jews had grievous trouble - Matt. 25:32.

### III. Signs of Mercy 16:4-5

Verse (4) - Become a covert for my "outcast". God claims these as His, Sennacherib claimed them as his!

He expects Moab to be a refuge for the Remnant. Elijah was fed by ravens!

God is going to extract the money due him from Moab - don't hold out on God.

Give every week.

Rahab's faith was justified and proved to be sincere. Heb. 11:31. She hid God's people for a stormy time: A Covert.

God known those that are his. Gets worshippers by Chemosh to show mercy, kindness. Rev. 2:10.

Verse (5) - Mercy Offered - Messiah.

Throne of David be set up - now overturned - but Messiah - established - hasten righteousness.

Invites the Moabites to look to this throne for an example.

God offers mercy and warning before visitation. "No pleasure in death of wicked". Ez. 18:32.

"All should come to repentance" 2 Peter 3:9.

Flood - Noah preached - warned.

Ninevites - Jonah preached - warned.

Moab - Isaiah preached - warned.

How was it received? Spurned - doubted whether God would punish, or thought there was time to repent later on.

#### IV. Sins of Moab 16:6

Verse 6 - Prophet indicates the sin he speaks of - now, you must know what your sins are and why the judgment will descend.

Those who will not listen to the preacher cannot be helped.

No covering up or side stepping their sin.

✓ First, PRIDE - This prevented her from accepting the offer of mercy. This prevented her from renewing the obligation to present Israel an offering - to pay up!

✓ Second, PROUD - Little deeper in guilt. Proud of her pride! Deut. 23:3. Law of God forbade a Moabite to enter into the congregation of the Lord.

They forgot the baseness of their origin, the brand of evil was upon them from the beginning.

The higher the proud climb the heavier his fall.

✓ Third, HAUGHTNESS - Rash and pays no attention to wise counsel. Moab thinks he is wise. Think not of love. Scorn the pattern of the prophet - arrogant, insolent, boastful, they can live without God!

Plan to go on in reckless forbidden and unholy pleasure.

✓ Fourth, WRATH - Mean - Prophet says, you have wrath against God's people. You would rather persecute them than protect!

✓ Fifth, LIES - These will be of no worth - He tries to cover up boasting of his worth. Heart of unbelief!

V. Senseless Prayer 16:7-14

Verse 7 - Pay for this sin - prepare to howl - sad circumstances - destruction of cities.

Verse 8 - Destruction of country = fields - vineyards. Fields idle, Vines fruitless, production cut off.

Verse 9 - Summer crop lost. Stripped of Food.

Verse 10 - Joy exchanged for mourning.

Treaders - of their grapes - trod the wine press and usually they would sing as they worked. Opposite. Grape gatherers are wailing - enemy tramples the vineyards.

Verse 11 - Prophets Inner Compassion. Sympathy.

Like our Lord. Foretells - fore sees - actually with tears. He takes no pleasure in the sorrow of Moab! He takes up lamentation!

In Verse 9 - Puts light on this verse. "I'll weep with the weeping of Jazar. Isaiah is a man of God. He is not a paid mourner! His innermost being is moved by what he foresees.

Verse 12 - (Flock to heathen temple for Prayer)

Natural Religion is alright in day of prosperity, but fails in day of trouble.

Moab turns to false god for help! Goes to high places - Temple of Chemosh.

Perhaps it may mean that Moab sought to come to God's sanctuary when they found the high places would not work, but this will not prevail - senseless prayer!

Praying all over the place - "Thought be heard for their much speaking. Matt. 7:7.

Praying to non-existent gods.

Prayers that are formal. "Honour God with their lips, but their hearts are far removed from Him". 29:13.

Prayer of Pride - Luke 18:9.

Prayer of Impenitence - Prov. 15:29.

Prayer of Unbelief - Heb. 11:6.

Prayer of Irreverence - Heb. 5:7.

In prayer God demands:

1. Clean hands.
2. Unforgiveness towards Your brother.
3. Importunity - Sign of earnestness.
4. Unselfish intentions.

God's Sanctuary - Get this - Don't Miss - "Nobody can help me - let me see if God is able to do something".

Every means of relief had been exhausted.

Men with irreligious lives rush in when the going is rough.

Isaiah 1:15.

Why are some prayers unanswered?

1. Person praying has no faith. Essential condition for blessing.
2. Person praying really not earnest. Lukewarmness is an offense.
3. Person praying really not penitent. Just a cry of distress in time of need.

No change of life or promise to God of complete dedication. Still rebellious.

Verse 13 - Author of this prophecy! The Lord - a fixed decree.

Verse 14 - Fixes a Time Limit - 3 years.

Nineveh - 40 days!

Few repent. Described as feeble - small in number. Let us glory not in numbers but in the Lord.

Ancient Moab is type of those who are opposition to our Lord who show no gratuity.

Recall: Their Origin - offsprings of incest.

Christian parents think well of your children. You are helping to produce the next generation. You bewail your child's worldliness! Does your own have nothing to do with it?

Land of Moab is still crowded with worldliness - Demas.

Their location - land next - on East side of Israel. Fertile - rich - wealth.

Borders the true possession of Israel. Today - Formalism in religion borders the true church, dead worldliness borders the true church. Pharisee - formal ritualist.

Their Religion - Opposite of faith in the Lord. Worshipped Satan's throne - doctrine of Balaam who taught Balac, King of Moab to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit fornication". He was a false prophet.

Religious Worldliness of being a Moabites today is the churches worst enemy.

Pride dulls our affection for Christ and His people.

Isaiah - said "send the lamb of the tribute to the ruler". Give the willing submission of your heart over to God. Come before the lamb of redemption! Leave Moab - world loving Christian, the world is under doom.

Days of Gold Rush - California. MAN Went West, left Wife, son in New England.

Soon he succeed & sent for his Family - Joy -

N.Y. boarded Pacific steamer bound for SAN FRANCISCO.

Not far out to sea - Fire. Powder Magazine aboard -  
Life Boats - quickly - overcrowded - Last Boat, Mother  
Pled with boatman to take her & her boy! el dare not, another  
& we will sink.

Earnestly Mother continued to plead - boatman consented  
to take one -

Do you think the Mother leaped in the boat, leaving her boy  
with the others? No -

Seized him, gave him one last hug & dropped him into  
the boat, with the cry.

"My son, if you live to see your father, tell him that  
el died in your place."

Need Return to this kind of giving - No selfishness -  
Jesus gave himself as