

8/24/25

Sermon Title: Proclamation of judgment against the Moab

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Jeremiah 48:1-47

(Jeremiah 48:1) Concerning Moab: This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Woe to Nebo, for it will be ruined. Kiriathaim will be disgraced and captured; the stronghold will be disgraced and shattered.

(Jeremiah 48:2) Moab will be praised no more; in Heshbon ^[2] men will plot her downfall: 'Come, let us put an end to that nation.' You too, O Madmen, ^[3] will be silenced; the sword will pursue you.

(Jeremiah 48:3) Listen to the cries from Horonaim, cries of great havoc and destruction.

(Jeremiah 48:4) Moab will be broken; her little ones will cry out.

(Jeremiah 48:5) They go up the way to Luhith, weeping bitterly as they go; on the road down to Horonaim anguished cries over the destruction are heard.

(Jeremiah 48:6) Flee! Run for your lives; become like a bush in the desert.

(Jeremiah 48:7) Since you trust in your deeds and riches, you too will be taken captive, and Chemosh will go into exile, together with his priests and officials.

(Jeremiah 48:8) The destroyer will come against every town, and not a town will escape. The valley will be ruined and the plateau destroyed, because the LORD has spoken.

(Jeremiah 48:9) Put salt on Moab, for she will be laid waste ^[6] ; her towns will become desolate, with no one to live in them.

(Jeremiah 48:10) "A curse on him who is lax in doing the LORD's work! A curse on him who keeps his sword from bloodshed!

(Jeremiah 48:11) "Moab has been at rest from youth, like wine left on its dregs, not poured from one jar to another-- she has not gone into exile. So she tastes as she did, and her aroma is unchanged.

(Jeremiah 48:12) But days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will send men who pour from jars, and they will pour her out; they will empty her jars and smash her jugs.

(Jeremiah 48:13) Then Moab will be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed when they trusted in Bethel.

(Jeremiah 48:14) "How can you say, `We are warriors, men valiant in battle'?

(Jeremiah 48:15) Moab will be destroyed and her towns invaded; her finest young men will go down in the slaughter," declares the King, whose name is the LORD Almighty.

(Jeremiah 48:16) "The fall of Moab is at hand; her calamity will come quickly.

(Jeremiah 48:17) Mourn for her, all who live around her, all who know her fame; say, `How broken is the mighty scepter, how broken the glorious staff!'

(Jeremiah 48:18) "Come down from your glory and sit on the parched ground, O inhabitants of the Daughter of Dibon, for he who destroys Moab will come up against you and ruin your fortified cities.

(Jeremiah 48:19) Stand by the road and watch, you who live in Aroer. Ask the man fleeing and the woman escaping, ask them, `What has happened?'

(Jeremiah 48:20) Moab is disgraced, for she is shattered. Wail and cry out! Announce by the Arnon that Moab is destroyed.

(Jeremiah 48:21) Judgment has come to the plateau-- to Holon, Jahzah and Mephaath,

(Jeremiah 48:22) to Dibon, Nebo and Beth Diblathaim,

(Jeremiah 48:23) to Kiriathaim, Beth Gamul and Beth Meon,

(Jeremiah 48:24) to Kerioth and Bozrah-- to all the towns of Moab, far and near.

(Jeremiah 48:25) Moab's horn is cut off; her arm is broken," declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 48:26) "Make her drunk, for she has defied the LORD. Let Moab wallow in her vomit; let her be an object of ridicule.

(Jeremiah 48:27) Was not Israel the object of your ridicule? Was she caught among thieves, that you shake your head in scorn whenever you speak of her?

(Jeremiah 48:28) Abandon your towns and dwell among the rocks, you who live in Moab. Be like a dove that makes its nest at the mouth of a cave.

(Jeremiah 48:29) "We have heard of Moab's pride-- her overweening pride and conceit, her pride and arrogance and the haughtiness of her heart.

(Jeremiah 48:30) I know her insolence but it is futile," declares the LORD, "and her boasts accomplish nothing.

(Jeremiah 48:31) Therefore I wail over Moab, for all Moab I cry out, I moan for the men of Kir Hareseth.

(Jeremiah 48:32) I weep for you, as Jazer weeps, O vines of Sibmah. Your branches spread as far as the sea; they reached as far as the sea of Jazer. The destroyer has fallen on your ripened fruit and grapes.

(Jeremiah 48:33) Joy and gladness are gone from the orchards and fields of Moab. I have stopped the flow of wine from the presses; no one treads them with shouts of joy. Although there are shouts, they are not shouts of joy.

(Jeremiah 48:34) "The sound of their cry rises from Heshbon to Elealeh and Jahaz, from Zoar as far as Horonaim and Eglath Shelishiyah, for even the waters of Nimrim are dried up.

(Jeremiah 48:35) In Moab I will put an end to those who make offerings on the high places and burn incense to their gods," declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 48:36) "So my heart laments for Moab like a flute; it laments like a flute for the men of Kir Hareseth. The wealth they acquired is gone.

(Jeremiah 48:37) Every head is shaved and every beard cut off; every hand is slashed and every waist is covered with sackcloth.

(Jeremiah 48:38) On all the roofs in Moab and in the public squares there is nothing but mourning, for I have broken Moab like a jar that no one wants," declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 48:39) "How shattered she is! How they wail! How Moab turns her back in shame! Moab has become an object of ridicule, an object of horror to all those around her."

(Jeremiah 48:40) This is what the LORD says: "Look! An eagle is swooping down, spreading its wings over Moab.

(Jeremiah 48:41) Kerioth will be captured and the strongholds taken. In that day the hearts of Moab's warriors will be like the heart of a woman in labor.

(Jeremiah 48:42) Moab will be destroyed as a nation because she defied the LORD.

(Jeremiah 48:43) Terror and pit and snare await you, O people of Moab," declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 48:44) "Whoever flees from the terror will fall into a pit, whoever climbs out of the pit will be caught in a snare; for I will bring upon Moab the year of her punishment," declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 48:45) "In the shadow of Heshbon the fugitives stand helpless, for a fire has gone out from Heshbon, a blaze from the midst of Sihon; it burns the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of the noisy boasters.

(Jeremiah 48:46) Woe to you, O Moab! The people of Chemosh are destroyed; your sons are taken into exile and your daughters into captivity.

(Jeremiah 48:47) "Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab in days to come," declares the LORD. Here ends the judgment on Moab.

This is God's oracle concerning Moab.

Moab was a nation founded by the descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew.

Abraham, obeying God's command, left Ur of the Chaldeans and went to Canaan, taking with him his wife and his nephew Lot.

There, both men acquired many livestock, and conflicts arose between them.

As a result, they agreed to separate.

Abraham settled in Canaan, while Lot chose the fertile land of Sodom and lived there.

Although the land of Sodom was rich and well-watered, its inhabitants lived in great immorality, indulging in homosexuality and other sinful practices.

Because of this, God judged Sodom with fire.

Only Lot and his two daughters escaped; his wife disobeyed God's command, looked back, and became a pillar of salt, while his sons-in-law mocked the warning and perished.

Lot and his two daughters fled to the small town of Zoar, but fearing for their lives there, they moved into a cave in the mountains.

One day, the daughters, worried that their family line would be cut off, came up with an outrageous plan.

They decided to have children by their father.

They made Lot drunk with wine, and on the first night the older daughter slept with him, and on the second night the younger daughter did the same.

From these acts were born Moab and Ben-Ammi.

Their descendants became the Moabites and the Ammonites.

Moab was located east of the Dead Sea, between Ammon and Edom.

Its people engaged in livestock raising and viticulture, but they assimilated with the Canaanite natives and worshiped foreign gods.



God, following His judgment on Egypt and Philistia, now pronounces judgment on Moab.

He prophesies the destruction of Moab.

(Jeremiah 48:1) Concerning Moab: This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Woe to Nebo, for it will be ruined. Kiriathaim will be disgraced and captured; the stronghold will be disgraced and shattered.

(Jeremiah 48:2) Moab will be praised no more; in Heshbon men will plot her downfall: 'Come, let us put an end to that nation.' You too, O Madmen, will be silenced; the sword will pursue you.

(Jeremiah 48:3) Listen to the cries from Horonaim, cries of great havoc and destruction.

Because of its geopolitical location, Moab had rarely been conquered by outsiders. Yet, God declares that Moab will be overtaken and destroyed by its enemies. The whole land of Moab will fall into the hands of the enemy.

We see Moab perishing, crying out in the agony of destruction.

(Jeremiah 48:4) Moab will be broken; her little ones will cry out.

(Jeremiah 48:5) They go up the way to Luhith, weeping bitterly as they go; on the road down to Horonaim anguished cries over the destruction are heard.

(Jeremiah 48:6) Flee! Run for your lives; become like a bush in the desert.

Moab enjoyed economic prosperity because it possessed relatively abundant water resources and fertile land.

Moreover, being situated in the highlands, it rarely faced external invasions and thus lived in stability.

As a result, they became proud.

They boasted in their own strength and achievements rather than in God.

God determined to thoroughly break their pride.

He declares that not only will Moab be conquered, but also that Chemosh, the god they worship, along with his priests and officials, will be taken into captivity.

(Jeremiah 48:7) Since you trust in your deeds and riches, you too will be taken captive, and Chemosh will go into exile, together with his priests and officials.

There was also a shrine to Chemosh in Israel.

King Solomon built a shrine to Chemosh on the hill east of Jerusalem for one of his Moabite concubines, and until King Josiah removed it, the Israelites would visit that shrine.

(1kings 11:6) So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done.

(1kings 11:7) On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites.

(1kings 11:8) He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

(2kings 23:13) The king also desecrated the high places that were east of Jerusalem on the south of the Hill of Corruption—the ones Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the vile goddess of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the vile god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the people of Ammon.

(2kings 23:14) Josiah smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles and covered the sites with human bones.

The enemies will destroy all the towns of Moab, along with its valleys and plains.

(Jeremiah 48:8) The destroyer will come against every town, and not a town will escape. The valley will be ruined and the plateau destroyed, because the LORD has spoken.

(Jeremiah 48:9) Put salt on Moab, for she will be laid waste ^[6]; her towns will become desolate, with no one to live in them.

Here, the valleys and plains refer to the Jordan Valley and the Transjordan Plateau stretching above the Arnon River north of Heshbon.

God's judgment will come decisively and thoroughly.

(Jeremiah 48:10) "A curse on him who is lax in doing the LORD's work! A curse on him who keeps his sword from bloodshed!

Those who execute God's judgment will wield the sword until they have fulfilled their duty—that is, until Moab is completely destroyed.

God compares Moab, who had been living in economic prosperity due to abundant water resources and fertile land, and enjoying a stable life without foreign invasions thanks to its highland location, to well-aged wine.

He declares that He will send men to pour out the wine, empty the vessels, and shatter the jars.

(Jeremiah 48:11) "Moab has been at rest from youth, like wine left on its dregs, not poured from one jar to another-- she has not gone into exile. So she tastes as she did, and her aroma is unchanged.

(Jeremiah 48:12) But days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will send men who pour from jars, and they will pour her out; they will empty her jars and smash her jugs.

God explains the reason why Moab must face destruction.

First, it is because they worshiped Chemosh.

Just as Israel worshiped the calf at Bethel and was destroyed by Assyria in 722 B.C., with many of its people taken into captivity, so also Moab, for worshiping Chemosh, will be destroyed and its people will be exiled.

(Jeremiah 48:13) Then Moab will be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed when they trusted in Bethel.

Jeroboam, who became king of Northern Israel, set up golden calves at Bethel and Dan and made the people offer sacrifices there, in order to prevent them from going to Jerusalem in Judah to worship.

Second, it was because they did not rely on God but trusted in their own military power.

(Jeremiah 48:14) "How can you say, `We are warriors, men valiant in battle'?

They trusted in their own superior military strength.

However, the military power in which they trusted will prove useless.

Its cities will vanish, and its chosen young men will be put to death.

(Jeremiah 48:15) Moab will be destroyed and her towns invaded; her finest young men will go down in the slaughter," declares the King, whose name is the LORD Almighty.

(Jeremiah 48:16) "The fall of Moab is at hand; her calamity will come quickly.

Moab will be completely deprived of its strength.

(Jeremiah 48:25) Moab's horn is cut off; her arm is broken," declares the LORD.

The horn and the arm are symbols of strength.

Third, it is because of their pride against the LORD God.

(Jeremiah 48:26) "Make her drunk, for she has defied the LORD. Let Moab wallow in her vomit; let her be an object of ridicule.

They fortified the main highlands with their accumulated wealth, establishing defenses and feeling confident against enemy invasions.

However, their wealth and military power will not be able to protect them from the enemy's attack.

Because God has already determined their judgment.

Fourth, it is because they mocked Israel.

When Israel was in distress, Moab, though a brother nation, mocked them and rejoiced over their misfortune.

(Jeremiah 48:27) Was not Israel the object of your ridicule? Was she caught among thieves, that you shake your head in scorn whenever you speak of her?

Such actions are a contempt for the God who chose Israel.

God, in His justice, will judge Moab, yet as He foresees their destruction, He weeps bitterly.

(Jeremiah 48:36) "So my heart laments for Moab like a flute; it laments like a flute for the men of Kir Hareseth. The wealth they acquired is gone.

God's heart is troubled as He judges them.

It is a deep, heart-wrenching pain.

Who are they?

Are they not the descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew?

Moab will become a subject of ridicule to all people around and an object of terror.

(Jeremiah 48:37) Every head is shaved and every beard cut off; every hand is slashed and every waist is covered with sackcloth.

(Jeremiah 48:38) On all the roofs in Moab and in the public squares there is nothing but mourning, for I have broken Moab like a jar that no one wants," declares the LORD.

(Jeremiah 48:39) "How shattered she is! How they wail! How Moab turns her back in shame! Moab has become an object of ridicule, an object of horror to all those around her."

Moab will not escape judgment and will disappear from history.

(Jeremiah 48:42) Moab will be destroyed as a nation because she defied the LORD.

None of the people of Moab will be able to escape disaster.

Those who flee from fear will fall into a pit, and those who climb out of the pit will be caught in a snare.

Even if they escape from the city and flee to Heshbon, what awaits them will be the great fire burning in Heshbon.

And even if they escape that fire, the sons and daughters of Moab will be taken captive.

(Jeremiah 48:46) Woe to you, O Moab! The people of Chemosh are destroyed; your sons are taken into exile and your daughters into captivity.

According to God's decree, Moab was destroyed around 582 B.C.

Nevertheless, just as He did with Egypt, God also gave Moab a promise of restoration.

(Jeremiah 48:47) "Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab in days to come," declares the LORD. Here ends the judgment on Moab.

The "last days" refers to the Messianic age.

Beloved members of Church of God's Dream,
God, after declaring judgment on Egypt and Philistia, now proclaims a thorough judgment upon Moab.

In this declaration, He specifies the reasons for judgment, which were not clearly stated in the judgments against Egypt and Philistia:

First, because they abandoned Him and worshiped the foreign god Chemosh.

Second, because they relied on their own strength rather than trusting in God, falling into arrogance.

Third, because their accumulated wealth made them proud.

Fourth, because they mocked and ridiculed Israel—their own blood relatives—when Israel was in pain.

The reasons God has made clear for Moab's judgment serve as a lesson for us who stand before judgment.

If we take these warnings to heart and turn back, we may escape judgment.

The door of grace is still open.

Return to God immediately!

Declare that as for me and my house, we will serve only the Lord!
No foreign gods, wealth, power, or honor can save us from judgment.
There is no more time to delay.
Very soon, the time of grace will end and the door of salvation will be shut.
When that time comes, even if you weep and beg, it will be of no use.
Too Late!