

Isaiah 15:1–9 – The Burden Against Moab

In Isaiah 15, the prophet turns his attention to Moab, the nation situated east of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. The Lord reveals through Isaiah the swift destruction that would fall upon Moab and its major cities:

“The burden against Moab. Because in the night Ar of Moab is laid waste and destroyed, because in the night Kir of Moab is laid waste and destroyed” (Isaiah 15:1, NKJV).

The judgment comes suddenly—in the night. The cities Ar and Kir, once strong, are brought to silence. Other cities such as Bajith, Dibon, Heshbon, Elealeh, and Medeba are also mentioned as places where wailing and mourning would fill the land (Isaiah 15:2–4).

Isaiah describes the grief of the people:

- Heads shaved and beards cut off—an ancient sign of mourning (Isaiah 15:2).
- Sackcloth worn in the streets and on rooftops, expressing grief and shame (Isaiah 15:3).
- Loud cries heard across the land, from one end of Moab to the other (Isaiah 15:4).

Even the soldiers, men usually hardened to grief, are overwhelmed and cry out in despair. The prophet himself says, *“My heart shall cry out for Moab”* (Isaiah 15:5). This reveals something profound: even when God brings judgment, His heart—and the heart of His prophet—grieves for the people.

The chapter also points to the collapse of Moab’s resources. Streams dry up, fields wither, and grass fails (Isaiah 15:6). Fugitives try to escape southward toward Zoar and the brook of Nimrim, but find only desolation. The devastation is complete:

“For the waters of Dimon will be full of blood; because I will bring more upon Dimon, lions upon him who escapes from Moab, and on the remnant of the land” (Isaiah 15:9, NKJV).

Even those who escape will find no refuge. The judgment is thorough and unavoidable.

Practical Application

1. **The Certainty of God’s Word** – Just as the prophecy concerning Moab was fulfilled, so every word of God is reliable. When the Lord speaks of judgment, salvation, or hope, His word cannot fail. We can build our lives on this unshakable foundation.
2. **The Fleeting Security of This World** – Moab trusted in its fortified cities, fertile land, and strong armies. Yet in a single night, all was overturned. Likewise, our possessions, careers, or even nations can crumble in a moment. True security is found only in the Lord.
3. **The Compassion of God’s Heart** – Even in announcing judgment, Isaiah shares God’s sorrow. The Lord is not cold or detached when people suffer the consequences of sin. Scripture says, *“The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9). His heart longs for people to turn to Him.

4. **The Call to Readiness** – The sudden fall of Moab reminds us that life is fragile. We are not promised tomorrow. That is why the Bible says, *“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Conclusion and Invitation

Isaiah 15 is sobering. It shows that nations and individuals who turn from God eventually face judgment. Yet, in the middle of this dark chapter, we see God’s grieving heart. His desire is not destruction but restoration.

Where is your trust today? Are you relying on your own strength, your resources, or your surroundings like Moab did? Or are you trusting in the Lord who alone gives lasting peace and salvation?

Jesus Christ came to bear the judgment we deserved. On the cross He shed His blood so that instead of facing destruction, we could be forgiven and made new. He rose again, conquering sin and death, and now offers eternal life to all who believe.

Today, you can make the most important decision of your life. Turn from self-reliance and place your trust fully in Jesus Christ. Call upon Him in faith and receive the gift of salvation. Then, walk with Him daily—trusting Him not only for eternity but also for every step of your life here and now.

Will you give your life to Jesus today? Will you trust Him to be your Savior and Lord, and follow Him each day? His arms are open wide.