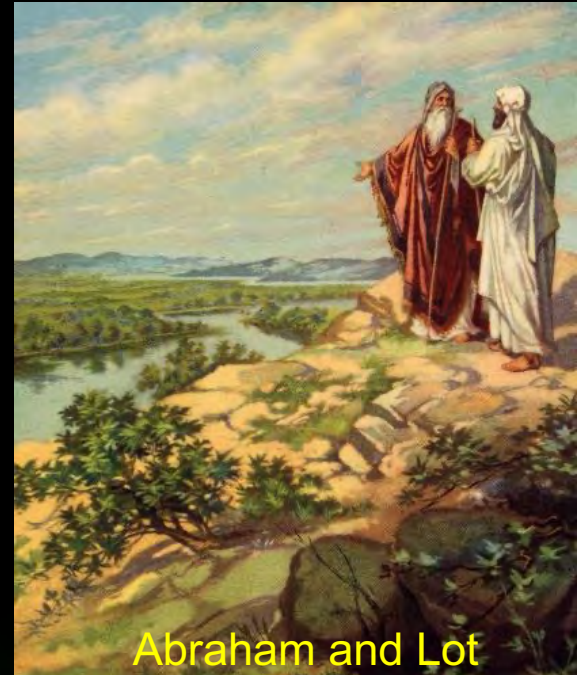
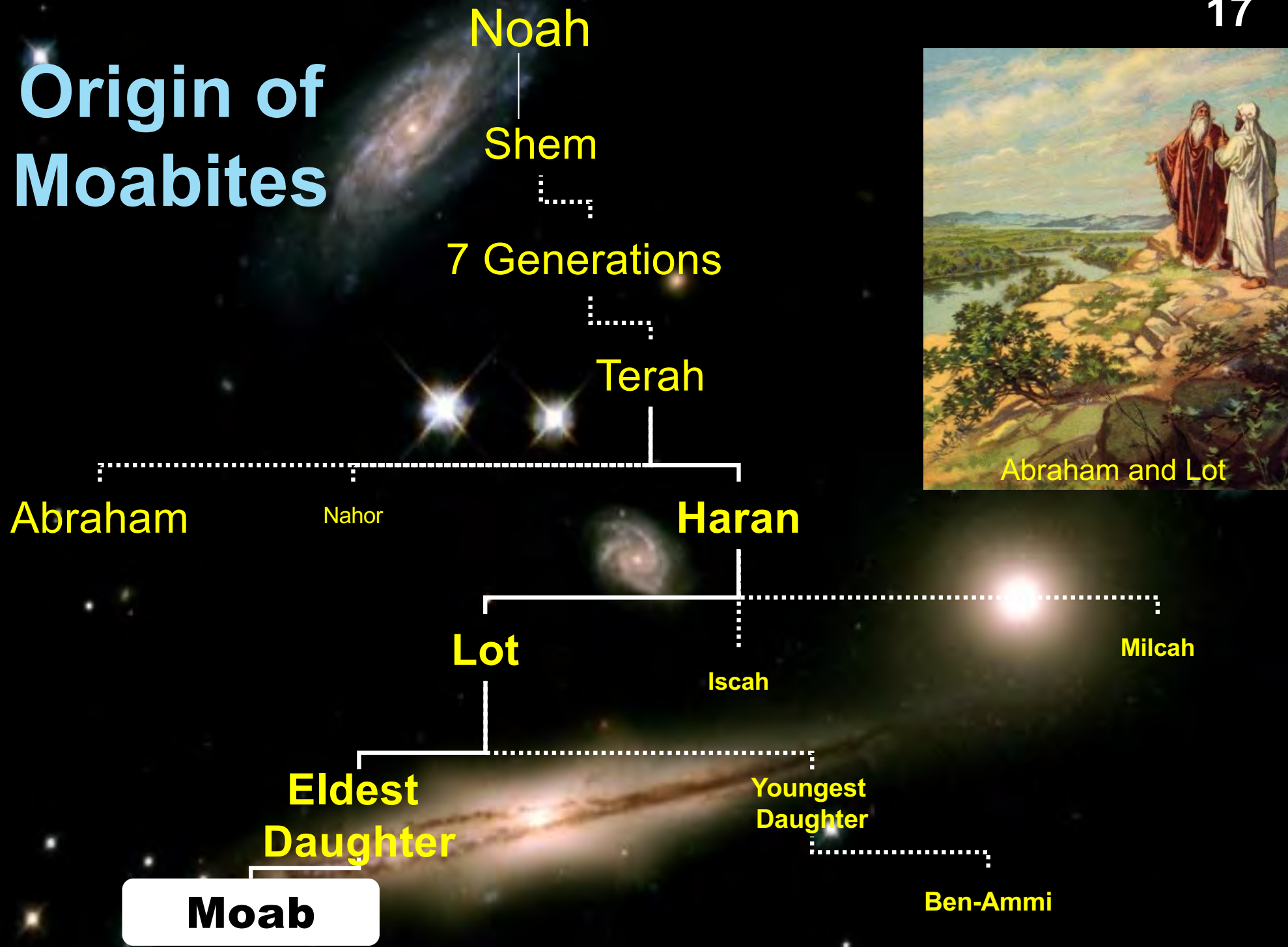




The Moabites

Origin of Moabites



Abraham and Lot

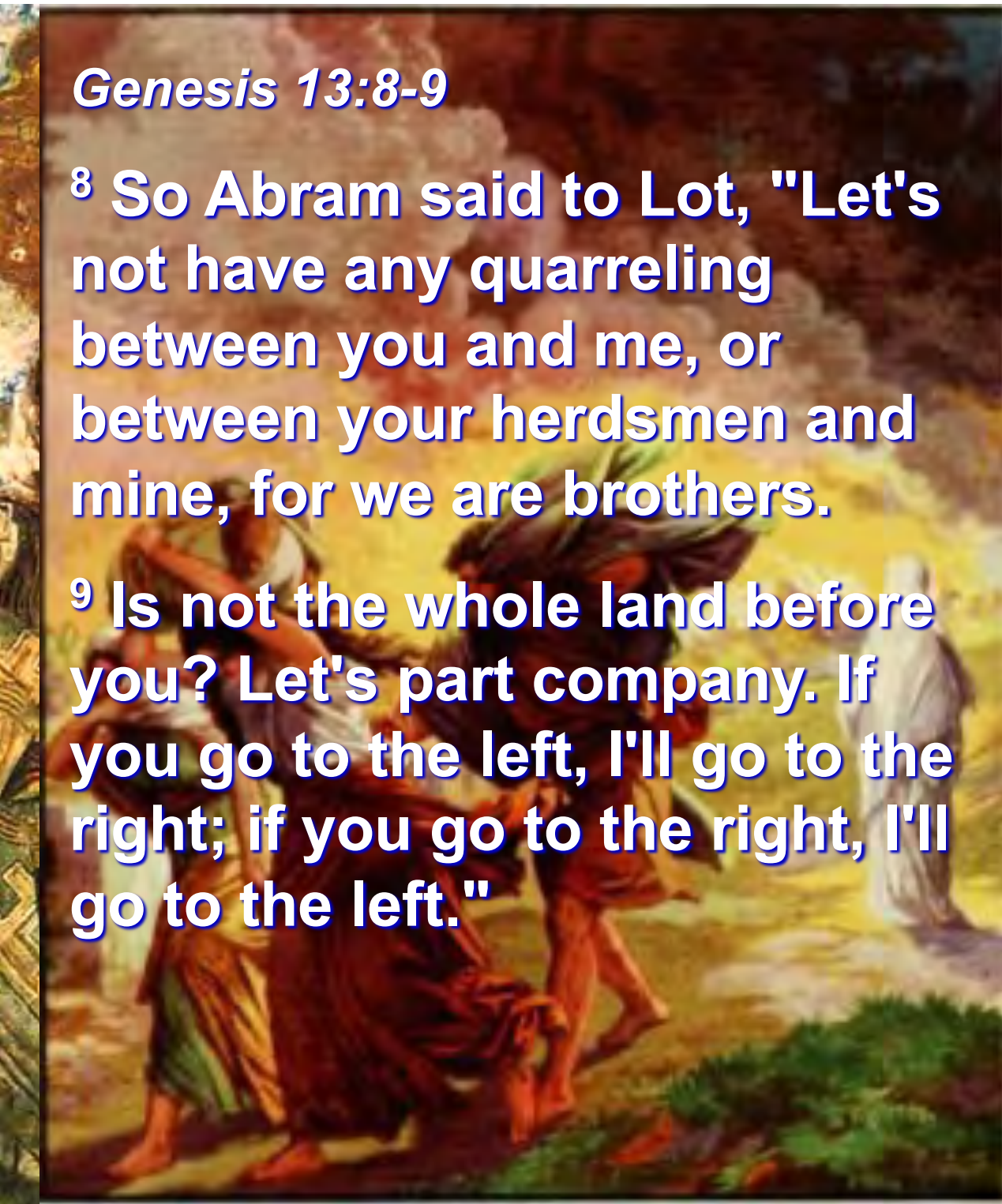
Moab

Ben-Ammi

Genesis 13:8-9

⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers.

⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."





is

my name is
Ben-Ammi

Genesis 19:36-38

³⁶ So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father.

³⁷ The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab, he is the father of the **Moabites** today.

³⁸ The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.

Contents

1. Genealogy

2. Geography

3. History

4. Religion

5. Reflection & Application

6. Sources & Bibliography

Location of Moab





Jerusalem

Mt. Nebo

Dead
Sea

Moab

The Arnon Gorge

Looking North



Northern Plateau

Wadi al Majib (Arnon Gorge)

Looking South



Moab Proper (Central Plateau)





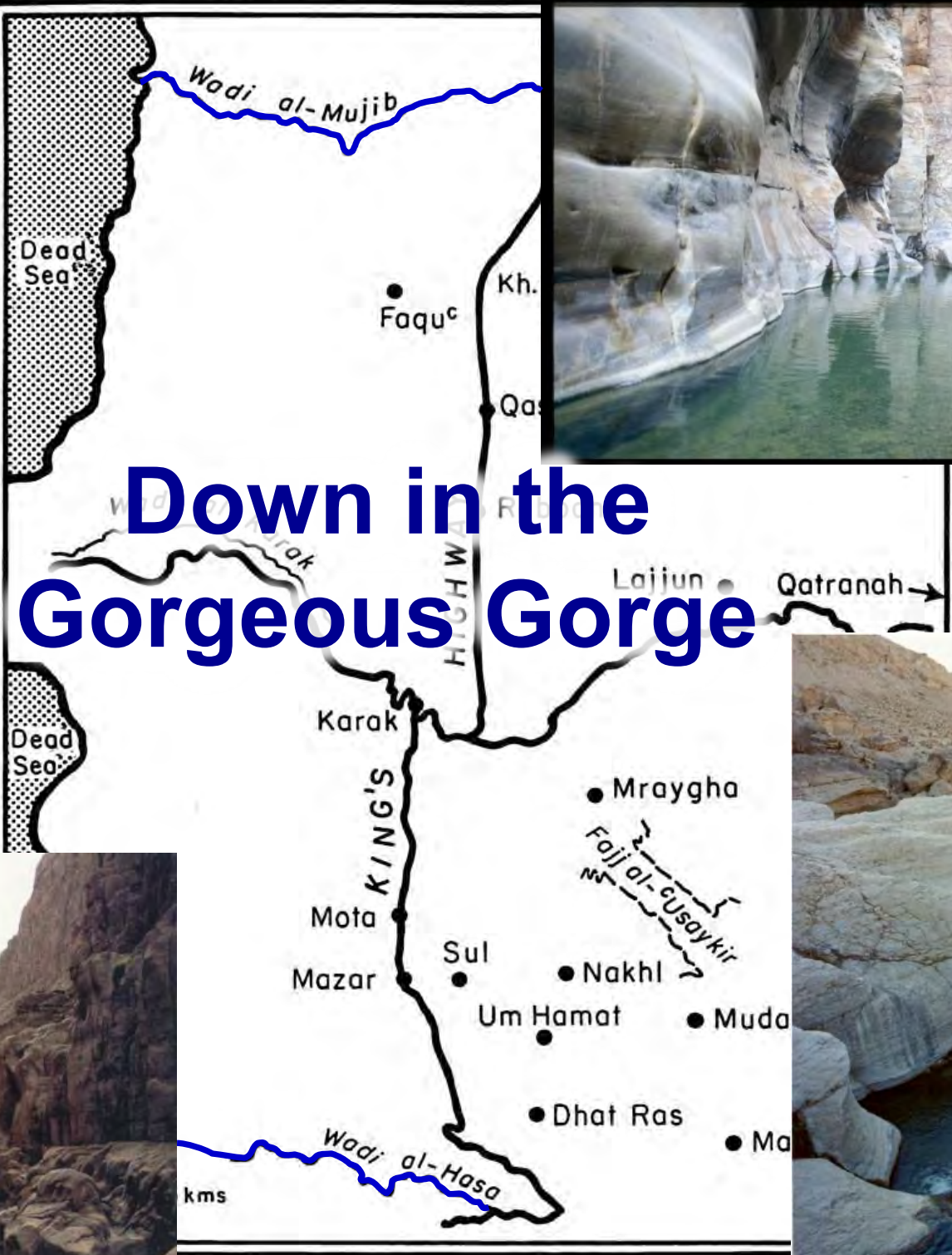
Arnon River view to north



Plateaus on Both Sides



New Dam on the Arnon River



Down in the Gorgeous Gorge





Satellite image of the Karak Plateau
Used by permission of Dr. Richard Cleave

Southern Boundaries

King's Highway

- This was the route Moses wished to follow as he led his people north to the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 2:27; Numbers 20:17; 21:22)
- Crossed half the Fertile Crescent from Egypt to Syria.
- Major north-south transportation artery on the east side of the Dead Sea
- Spread goods and culture throughout the Middle East



Significant Sites



Mosaic Map



Israel

Dead Sea

Dibon

Amon River

Kerak

Jordan

Quatrana

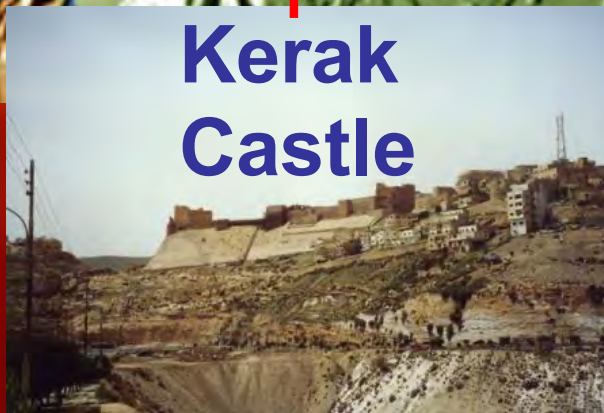
andphotos.org



Moses' Monument

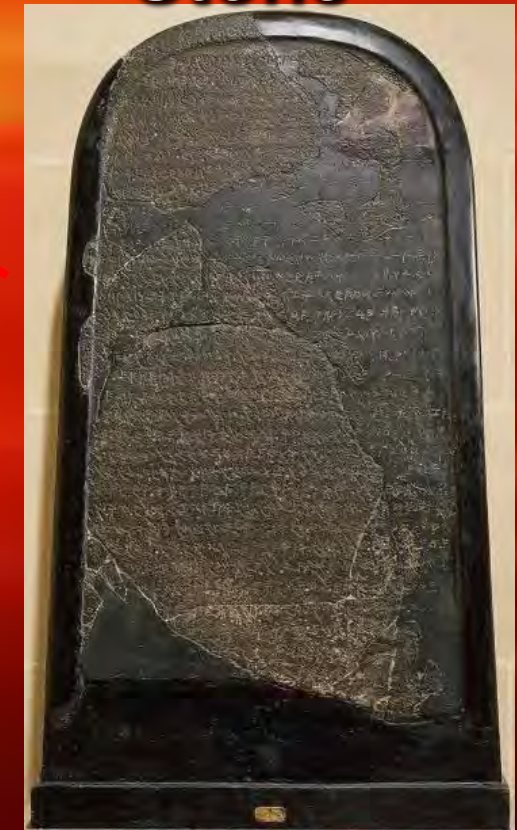


Herodian Castle



Kerak Castle

Moabite Stone



Kerak Fortress

- First existed at the first millennium BC under the name of Kir-Heres
- Used by the Crusaders to protect the areas near the Holy City



Herodian Fortress Machaerus



- 15 mi (23 km) southwest of Madaba
- Elevation of 2300 ft overlooking the Dead Sea
- First fortified by the Hasmonean ruler Alexander Janneus (103-76 BC) with Masada on the west side of the Dead Sea
- It was subsequently fortified by Herod the Great (37-4 BC).
- Jewish Zealots took over Machaerus during the first revolt against Rome.

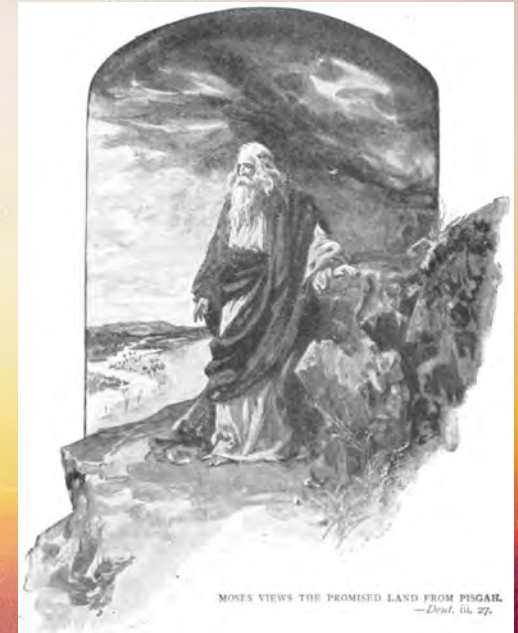
Herodian Fortress Machaerus



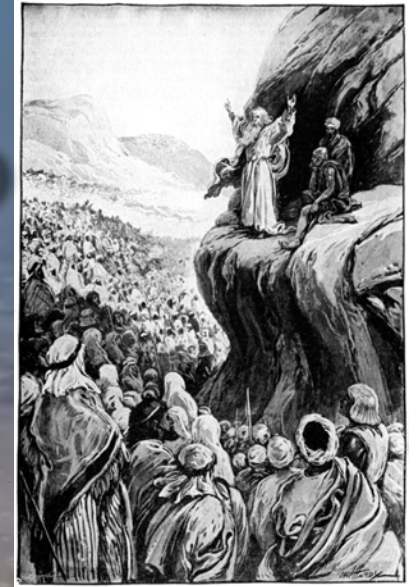
- **Herod Antipas beheaded John the Baptist at the request of Salome, the daughter of his wife Herodias (Matt 14:1-12; Mark 6:21-29; Luke 9:7-9).**
- **Although the New Testament does not say where this happened, the Jewish historian Josephus placed the execution here at Machaerus (Antiquities 18.116–19).**

Deuteronomy 34:1-5

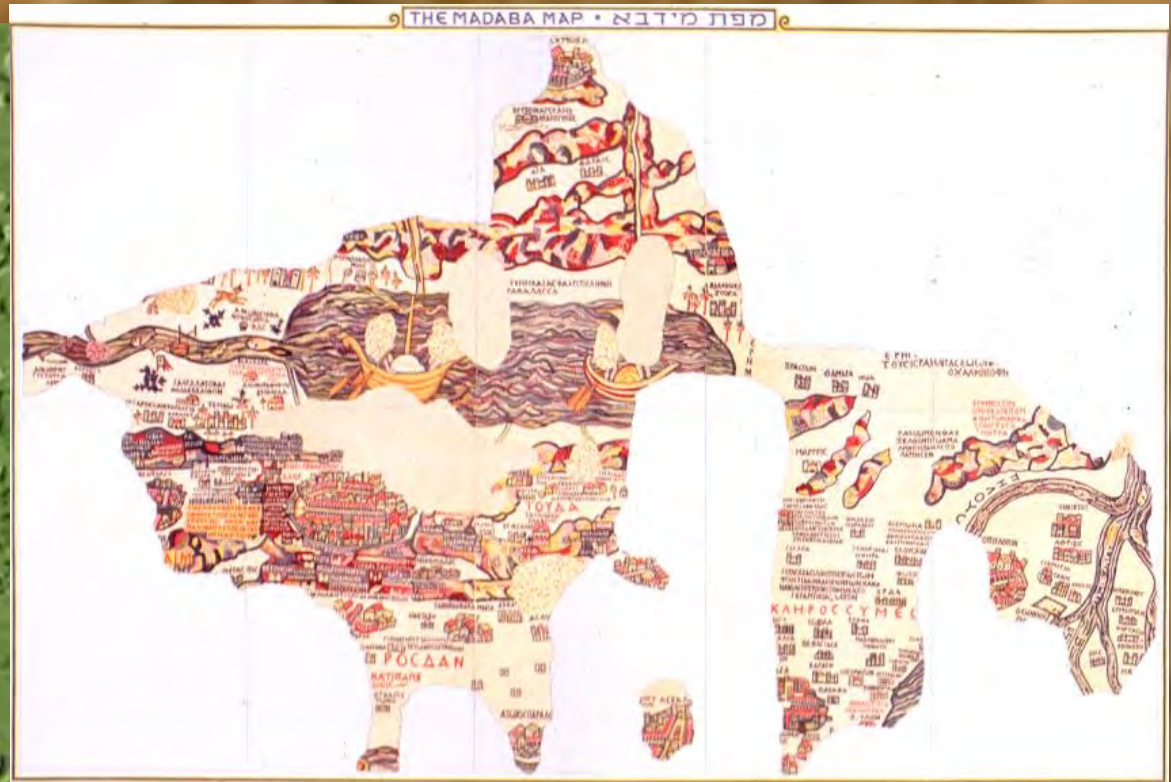
- 1 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan,
- 2 all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea,
- 3 the Negev and the whole region from the valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar.
- 4 Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants, I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.'"
- 5 And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD has said.



View from Mount Nebo



Madaba Mosaic Map



- Found as a pavement of a church in the town of Madaba (6-7 century AD) in the Byzantine Near East.
- It represents the biblical land from Egypt to Lebanon: Israel, Palestine and Transjordan.

Madaba Mosaic Map



- The map was discovered accidentally in 1897 during construction of a new church. It still functions as the floor of the Greek Orthodox parish church St. George
- Out of 94 sqm only about 25 sqm are preserved
- Jerusalem is the center of the mosaic composition.
- 156 places/biblical memoirs are present in the preserved portion of the map

Madaba Mosaic Map



Kerak Castle



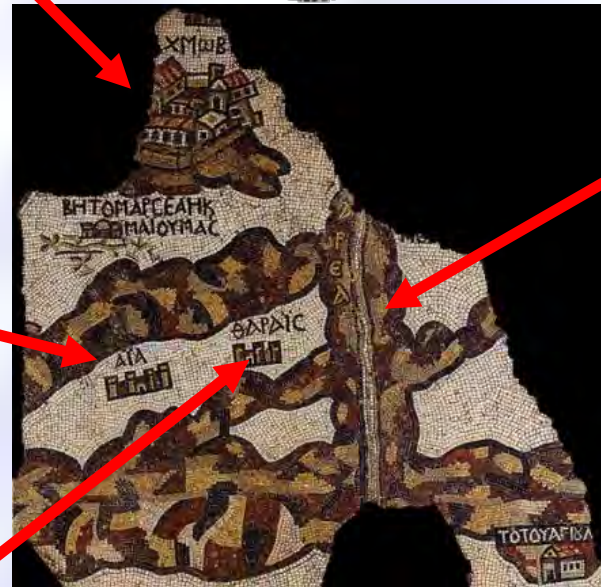
Zered River
(Deu 2:13)



Aia
(Kh.'Ay)



Tharais
(Ayn Tar'in)



Church of St. Lot



Moabite Stone

100

- Stone slab, 3.5 ft high and 20.6m)
- Dated 9th century BCE
- Mesha
- Discovered (Dibon) 1868



Moabite Stone

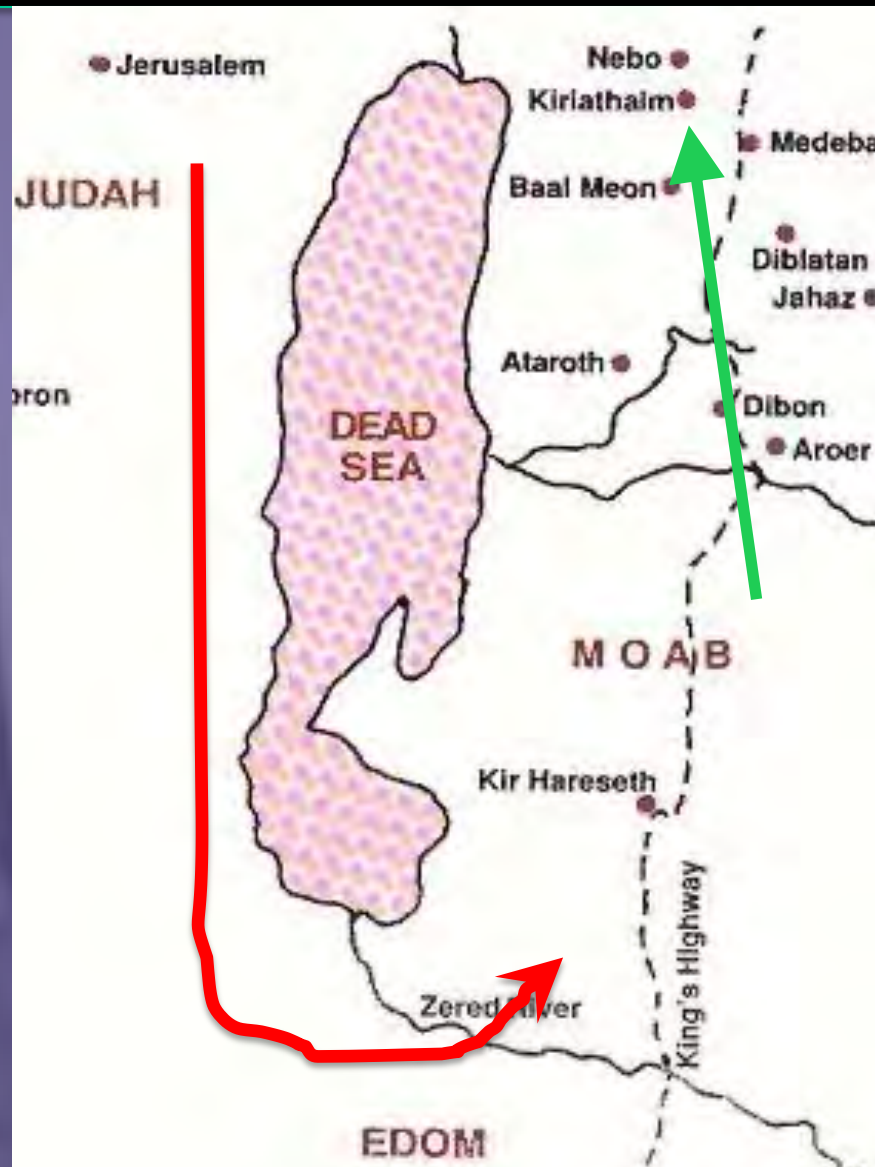
- 34 lines, written in Moabite (close to Hebrew), the only source of Moabite tongue
- The longest monumental inscription yet found in Palestine.
- Preserved by a *squeeze* made by placing a soggy piece of paper over the inscription, which then retained the form of the inscription when it dried



Content of the Moabite Stone

1st part of story:

Mesha recaptured northern land up to Mt. Nebo



2nd part of story:

Israel, Judah & Edom joined forces to defeat Moab from the south

The Moabite Stone describes the revolt of Mesha

A Mixed Victory

98

The Moabite record has no record of defeat in the south at the hands of the coalition armies. However, Moab retained its independence as confirmed by both the Mesha Inscription and this Scripture:

An open Bible with a pair of glasses resting on it. The text of the Bible is visible on the pages, and the glasses are positioned over the text. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the Bible and glasses.

"The fury against Israel was great; they withdrew and returned to their own land" (2 Kings 3:25)

Why is the Moabite Stone Special?

- "altar-hearths? of Yahweh" (lines 17-18). This is the earliest mention of Yahweh, God of the Israelites, outside the Bible.



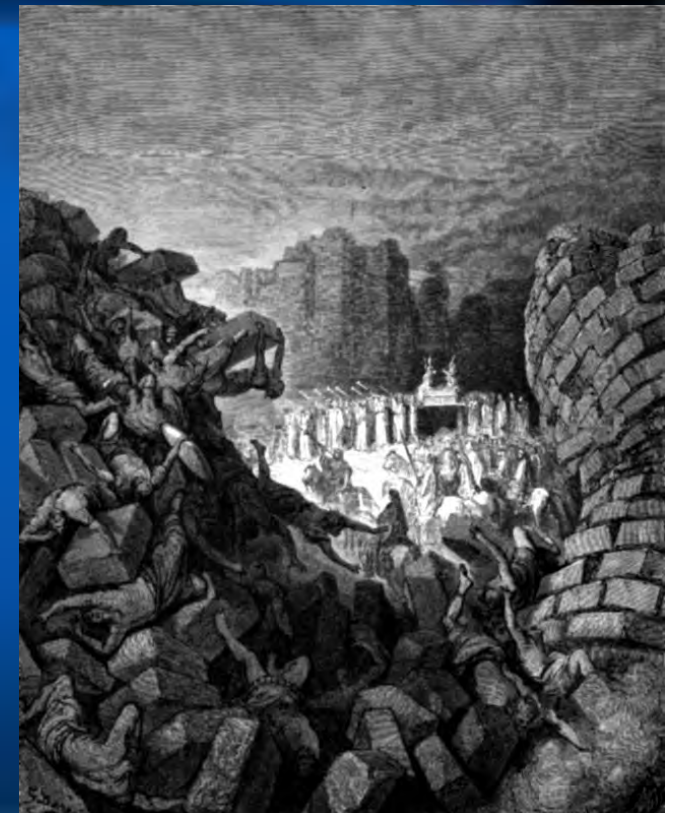
Why So Special?

- "House of David" mentioned in line 31 (used a number of times in the Old Testament for the Davidic dynasty)



Why So Special?

- Chemosh mentioned eight times in the OT (Num 21:29; Jgs 11:24; 1 Kgs 11:7, 33; 2 Kgs 23:13; Jer 48:7, 13, 46) and
- 12 Moabite towns mentioned in the Scripture
- Verified by the Mesha Inscription



Archaeology on Moab

- **Little attention from archaeologists on Moab, and mostly focused on northern Moab.**
- **In 1868 at Dibon, discovery of Mesha Inscription (Moabite Stone)**

Balu'ah Stele

- In 1930 the Balu'ah Stele (dated near the close of the Late Bronze Age) was discovered, bearing 4 lines of indecipherable text
- The three figures depicted in relief show definite Egyptian influence



Egypt's Relationship to Moab



Egyptian Records Also Mention Moab



1. Middle Bronze Egyptian texts mention "Moab." Thutmose III (1479-1425 BC)'s temple of Amun probably mentioned Moab. The first confirmed mention was in the Luxor temple of Rameses II (1304 -1237 BC).
2. In 1926 other Moabite designations were recognized on ostraca, graffiti and papyrus fragments from Saqqara.

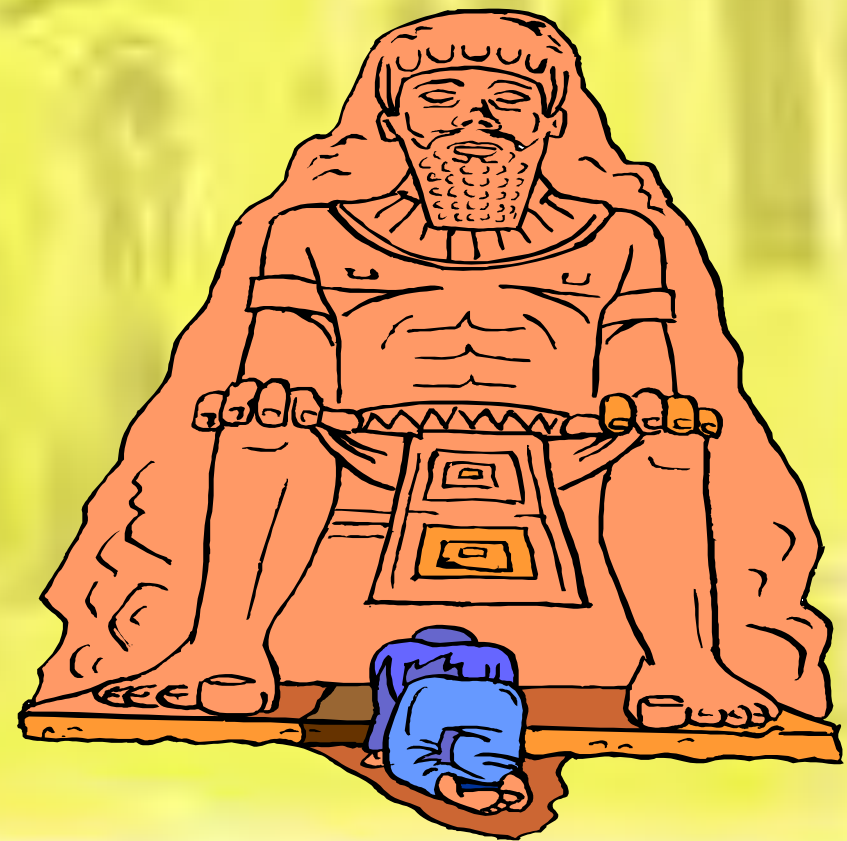
Assyrians Mention Moab

Moabite relations with Assyria were mentioned in the annals of Ashurbanipal, Sennacherib and Esarhaddon

The Main Problem

A significant decrease in the number of settlements came in the Middle & Late Bronze Ages, followed by a surge of resettlement especially in the 13th century BC. Such archaeological evidence supports the late establishment of Moabite and Amorite (King Sihon's) settlement and thus a late date of Exodus.

The Moabite Religion



Introduction

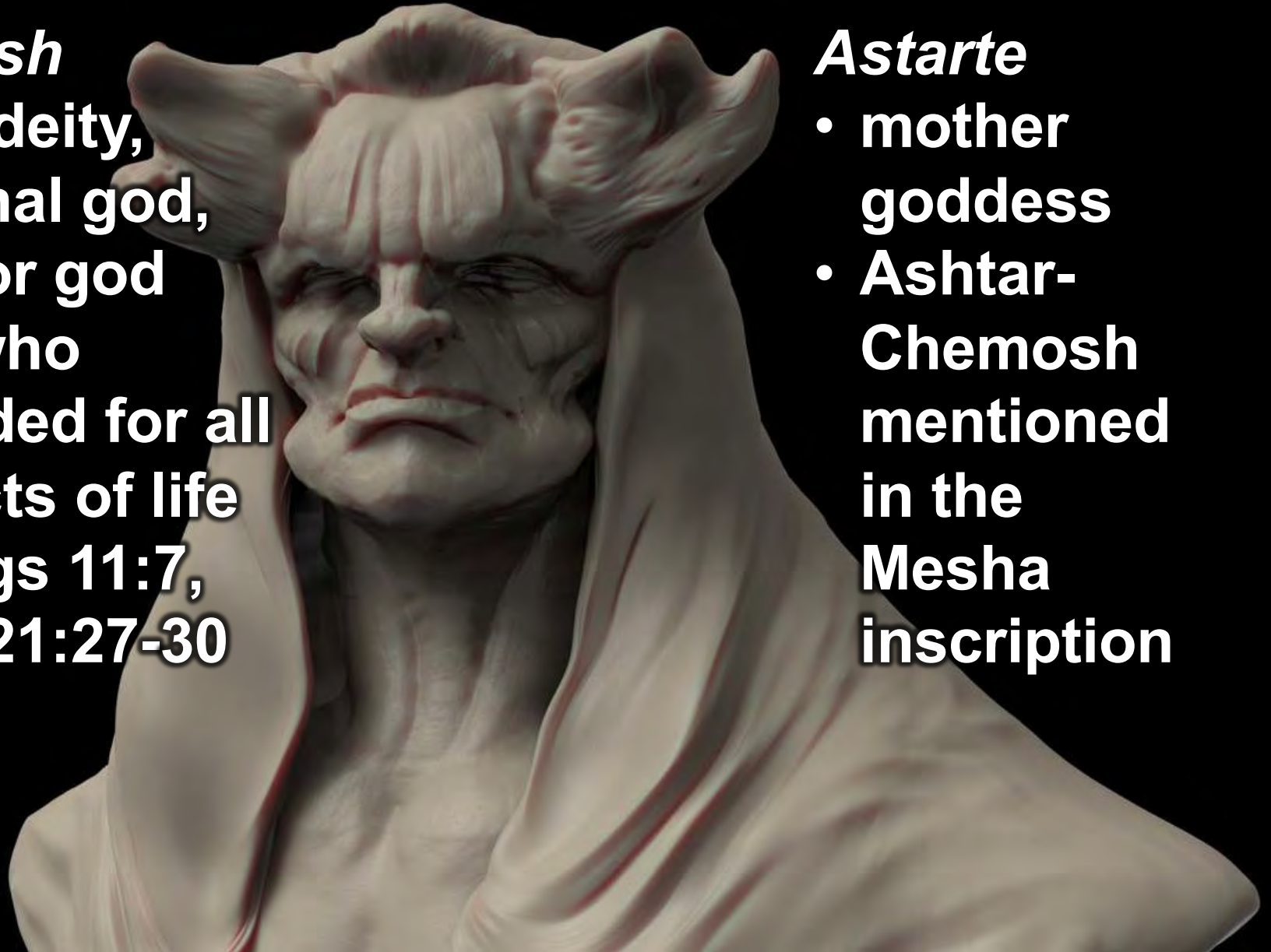
Much of what we know is due to the discovery of the Moabite Stone and the Bible.



Moabite Deities

Chemosh

- chief deity, national god, warrior god
- god who provided for all aspects of life
- 1 Kings 11:7, Num 21:27-30



Astarte

- mother goddess
- Ashtar-Chemosh mentioned in the Mesha inscription

Moabites Deities



Dodah

Baal-peor

- **supreme god of the Canaanites**
- **"lord, master"**
- **Numbers 25**

Preparation to Occupy the Land

Preparing the Old Generation		Postponement for Unbelief				Preparing the New Generation			
1:1–10:10		10:11–25:18				26–36			
God's Faithfulness		Israel's Faithlessness				God's Faithfulness			
God's Blessings		God's Discipline				God's Blessings			
Israel's Commitment		Israel's Complaining				Israel's Commitment			
Order		Disorder				Reorder			
Mount Sinai		Wilderness				Moab			
20 Days		38 Years, 3 Months, 10 Days				ca. 5 Months			
Organization (1-4)	Sanctification (5:1-10:10)	To Kadesh (10:11-12:16)	Kadesh Sin (13-14)	Wilderness (15-19)	To Moab (20-21)	Moab Sin (22-25)	Provision for Land (26-27)	Offerings & Vows (28-30)	Final Preparations (31-36)

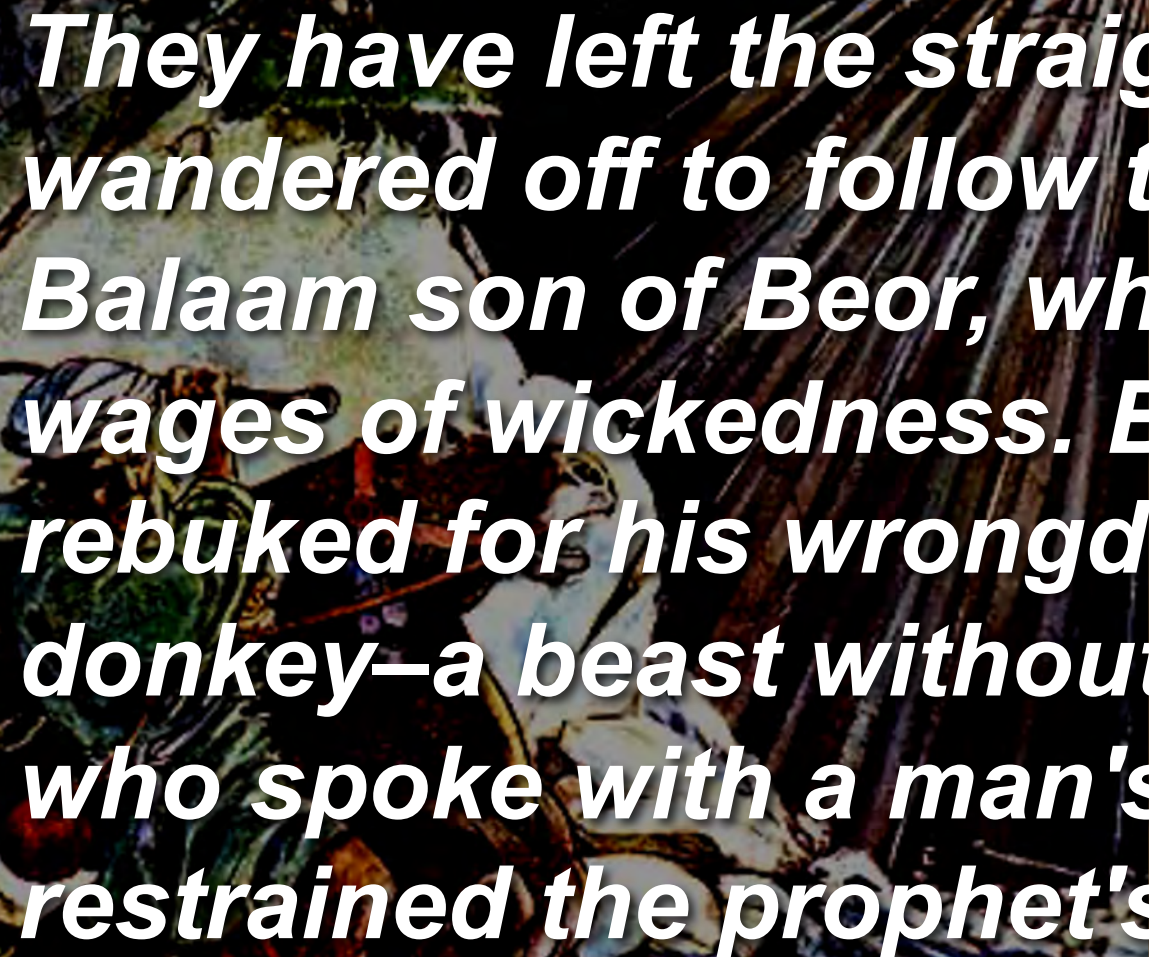
Transjordan Events

- Victory over Sihon and Og (Num. 21)
- Balak fails to turn God against Israel—blessing by Balaam (Num. 22–24)



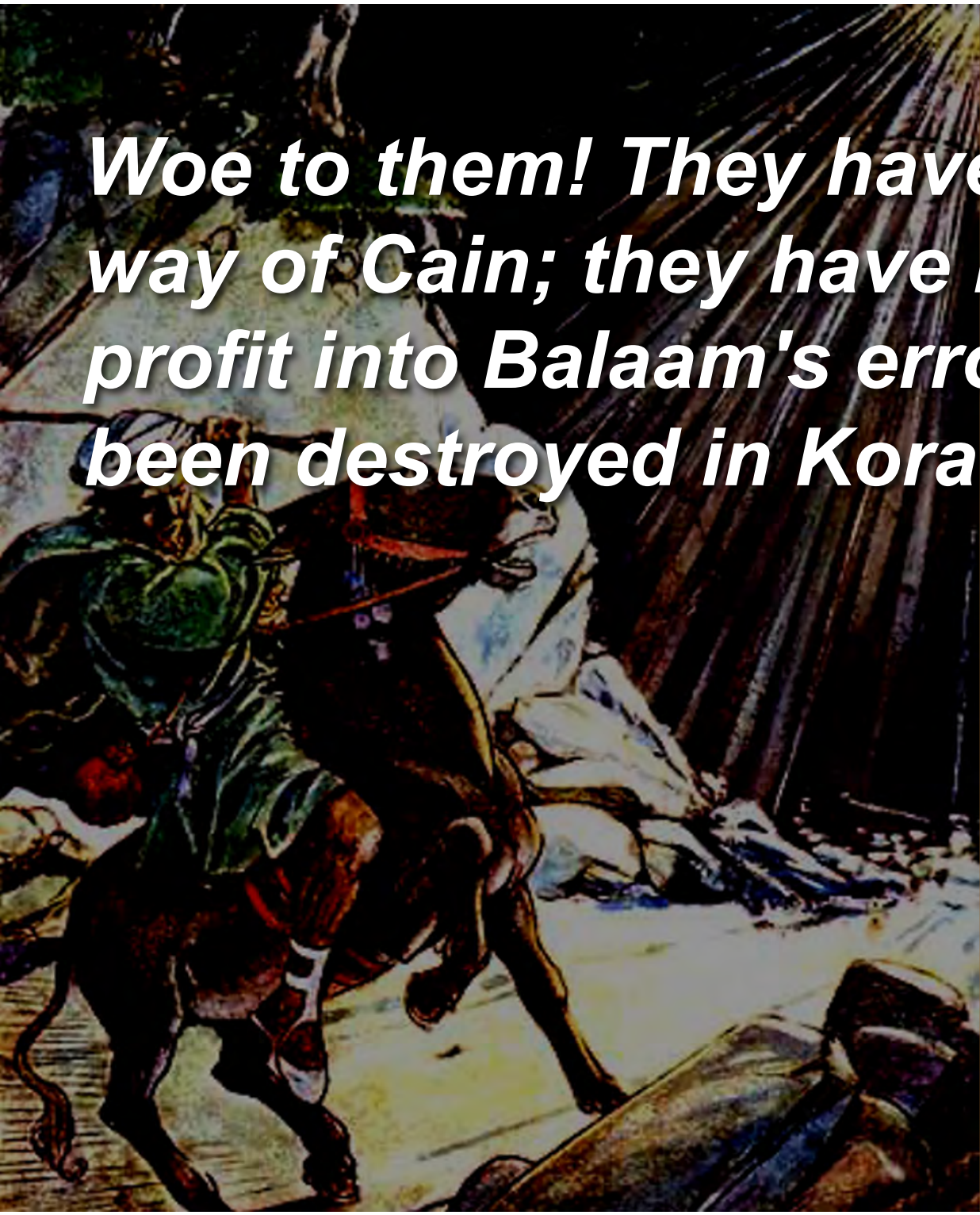


Balaam Numbers 22–24



They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—a beast without speech—who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

2 Peter 2:15-16 (NIV)

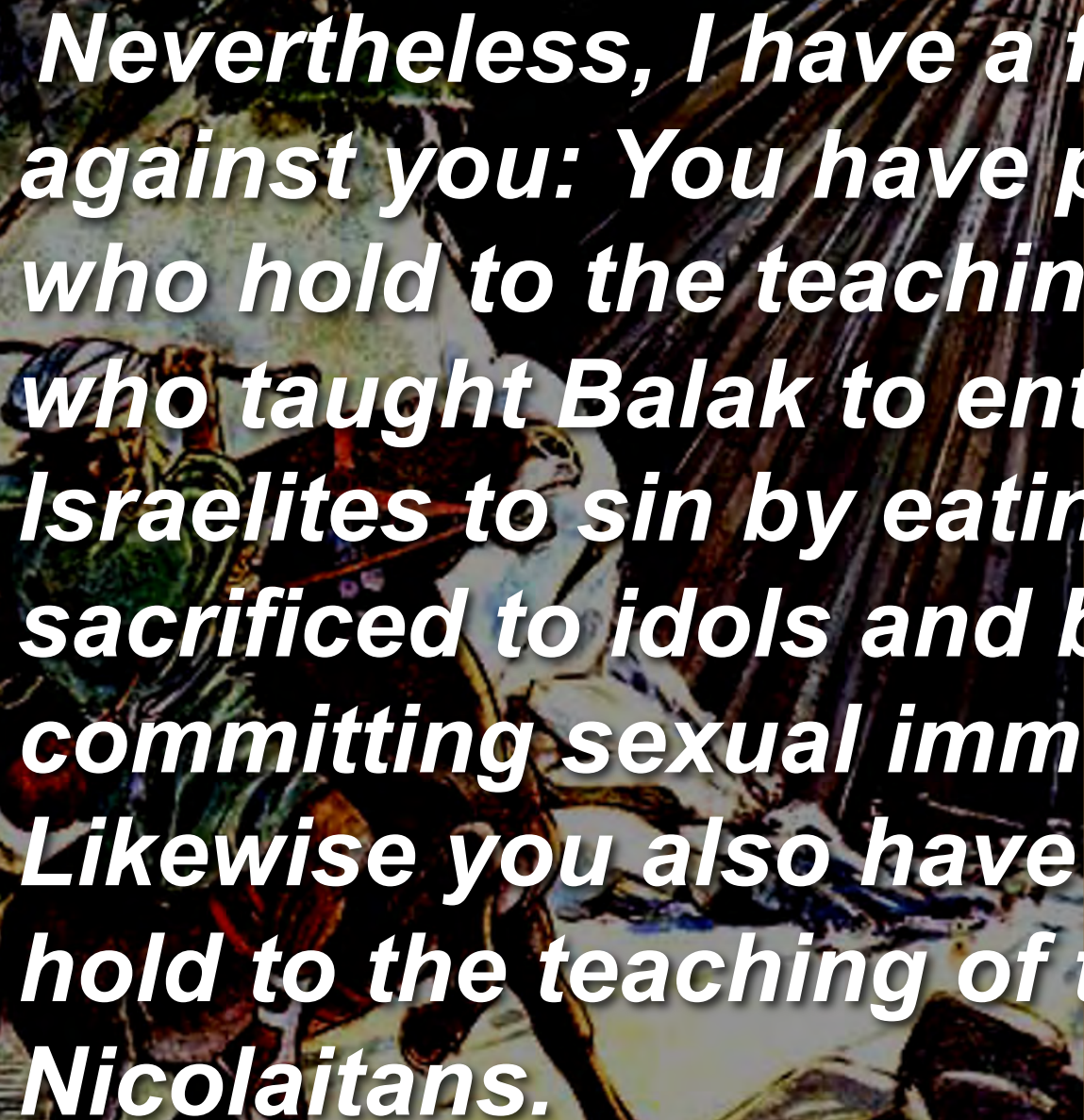


Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

Transjordan Events

- Victory over Sihon and Og (Num. 21)
- Balak fails to turn God against Israel—blessing by Balaam (Num. 22–24)
- Balak succeeds to turn Israel against God—immorality with Moabite women at Beth-peor (Num. 25)





Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Revelation 2:14-15

Israel's Sin at Baal Peor



“While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods. So Israel joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them.”

Numbers 25:1-3

Moabite Worship

1. Temples

- "high places"
honored deities
- Num. 22:41;
1 Kings 11:7-8

Child Sacrifice to Chemosh



Moabite Worship

2. Sacrificial system

- animals (Num. 23:1, 14)
- child sacrifice by King Mesha (2 Kings 3:26-27)



Moabite Worship

3. Priesthood
 - led by the king
 - e.g. Balak, Jer. 48:7



Numbers 22:7

The elders of Moab and Midian left, taking with them the fee for divination. When they came to Balaam, they told him what Balak had said.

Numbers 22:12

But God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed."



4. Divination Num 22–24 - Balak & Balaam

Moabite Worship

5. **Canaanite fertility rites**
Num. 25 - grotesque in God's eyes; Israelite participation led to God's judgment in a plague killing 24,000



God's Response

99

“The LORD said to Moses, ‘Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the LORD's fierce anger may turn away from Israel.’

“So Moses said to Israel's judges, ‘Each of you must put to death those of your men who have joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor.’

“...Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.”

Numbers 25:4-9

Implications

This polytheistic immoral pagan worship was opposed to the monotheistic worship of Yahweh who expects His people to be holy. God used a donkey to curb a false prophet and judgment to preserve His people.



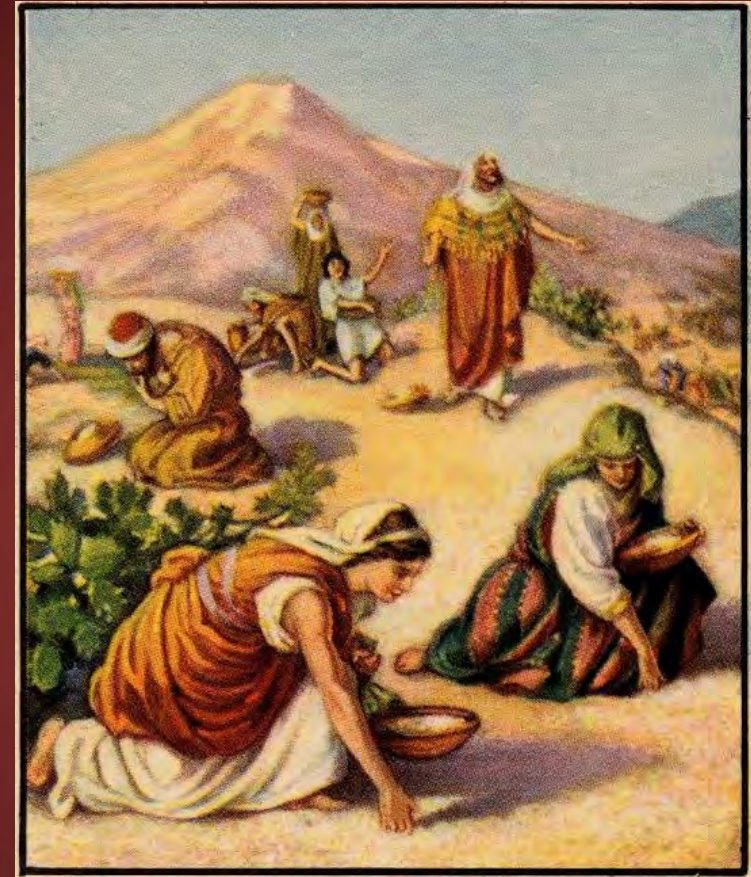
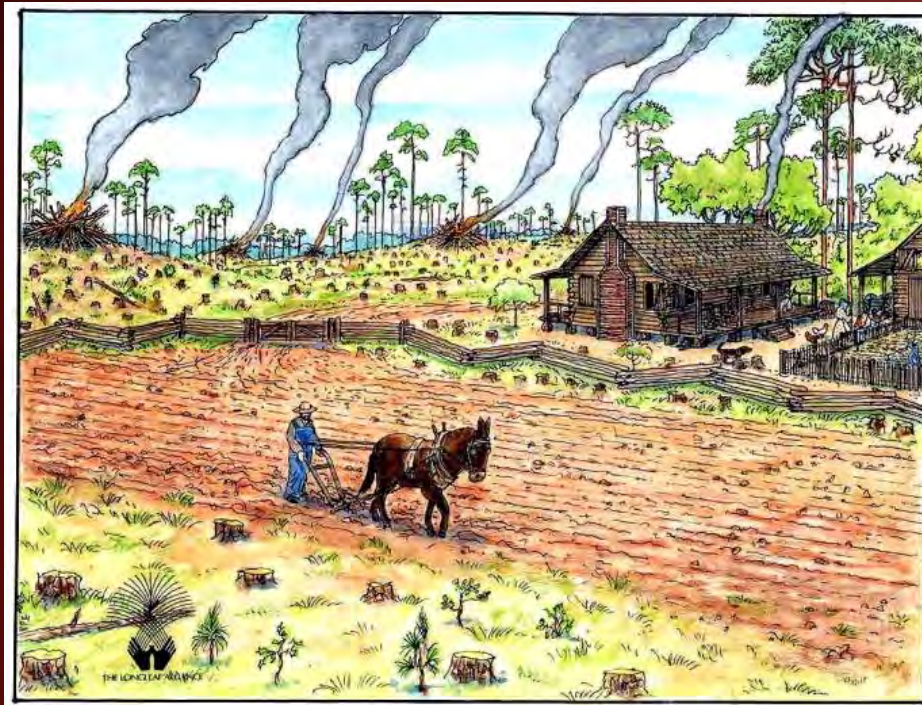
5. Culture

99

Economy:

- Farming

The plains of Moab are fertile



Shepherding

2 Kings 3:4

"Now Mesha king of Moab raised sheep, and he had to supply the king of Israel with a 100,000 lambs and with the wool of a 100,000 rams."

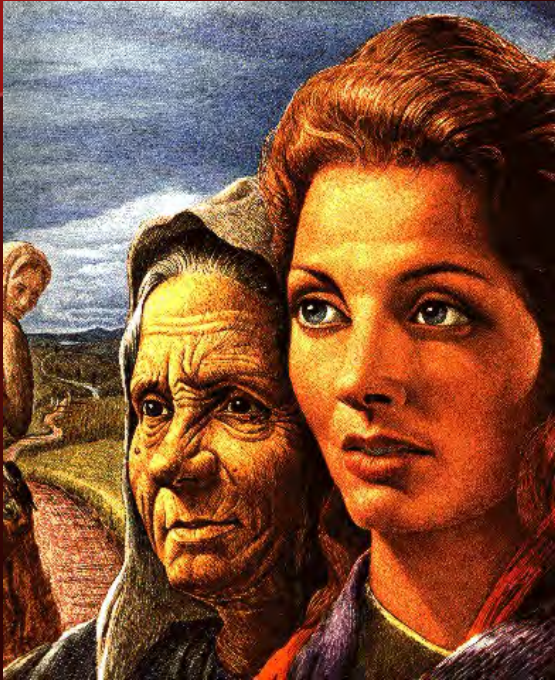
Isaiah 16:1

"Send lambs as tribute to the ruler of the land, from Sela across the desert, to the mount of the Daughter of Zion."



Marriage

99



Ruth 1:4

"They married **Moabite** women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth."

1 Kings 11:1 (King Solomon)

"King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter – **Moabites**, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites."

1 Chr. 8:8 (King Saul)

"Sons were born to Saharaim in **Moab** after he had divorced his wives Hushim and Baara."

Nehemiah 13:23

"Moreover in those days I saw men of Judah who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and **Moab**."

Language

99

- Language also called Moabite
- Very much like ancient Hebrew
- Alphabet was initially developed by the Phoenicians.
- Grammatical elements in common with Ugaritic, Aramaic, Arabic



The Hesbon Ostraca



El-Kerak Inscription

Moabites are described as:

- Isaiah 16:6 (**Proud and arrogant**)

"We have heard of Moab's pride - her overweening pride and conceit, her pride and conceit, her pride and insolence - but her boasts are empty"

- Jeremiah 48:29 (**Proud and arrogant**)

"We have heard of Moab's pride, her overweening pride and conceit, her pride and arrogance and the haughtiness of her heart"

- 1 Kings 11:7 (**Idolatrous**)

"On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh, the detestable god of Moab..."

Moab and Israel

- The Moabites were the descendants of Lot through his incestuous relations with his daughters (**Gen. 19:36, 37**).
- During the wanderings in the wilderness, the Israelites had to go pass the land of Moab. God forbade the Israelites from harassing Moab which was to be Lot's possession (**Deut. 2:8,9**).
- As the Israelites travelled north, Sihon king of the Amorites refused to let them pass through his territory and went out to war with Israel. Sihon was defeated and Israel occupied the land from Arnon to Jabbok (**Num. 21:21-26**). This land formerly belonged to Moab which was conquered by Sihon.

Moab and Israel

- While the Israelites camped along the Jordan across from Jericho, Balak king of Moab joined with the elders of Midian in enlisting the help of Balaam to curse the Israelites (**Num 22-24**).
- But God would only allow Balaam to bless Israel. However, the Israelites sinned against God when they were involved with the Moabite's religion and committed apostasy and immorality (**Num 25**).
- Moses delivered his 'last messages' to the people of Israel in the territory of Moab (**Deut 1:5**) and he died in Mt Nebo, northeast of the Dead Sea, which is also in Moab's territory (**Deut 32: 48-50**).

Moab and Israel

- **During the period of the Judges, Israel was subjected to Moab for 18 years until the judge Ehud assassinated Eglon, the king of Moab.**
- **A Moabite who had a place in the history of Israel was Ruth, the great-grandmother of David.**
- **Moab came under the rule of the Assyrians and Babylonians. When the Israelites returned from the exile, they were required to abandon marriages with Moabite women (**Ezra 9:1-2**).**

Prophecies against Moab

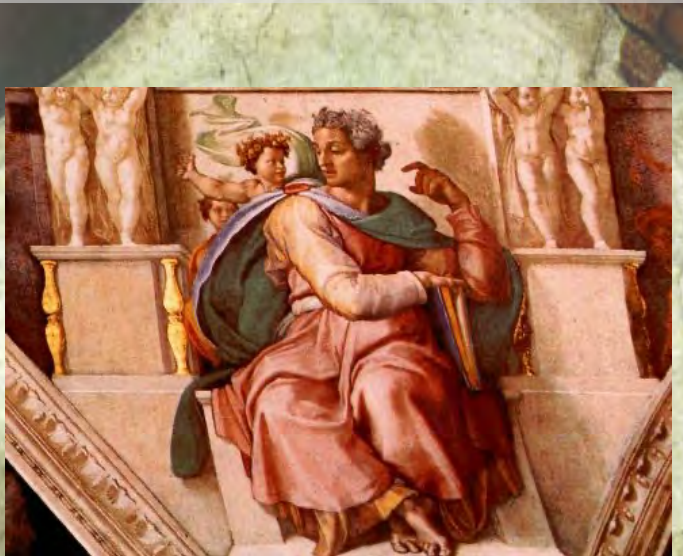
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Exodus 15:15 (terror on account of Israel)

"The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling..."

Isaiah 16:12 (inability to avert destruction)

"When Moab appears at her high place, she only wears herself out; when she goes to her shrine to pray, it is to no avail."



Isaiah 11:14 (subjugation to Israel)

"They will swoop down on the slopes of Philista to the west; together they will plunder the people to the east. They will lay hands on Edom and Moab..."

Prophecies against Moab

99

Jeremiah 48:7 (to be captives in Babylon)

"Since you trust in your deeds & riches, you too will be taken captive, and Chemosh will go into exile, together with his priests and officials."

Jeremiah 48:47 (restoration from captivity)

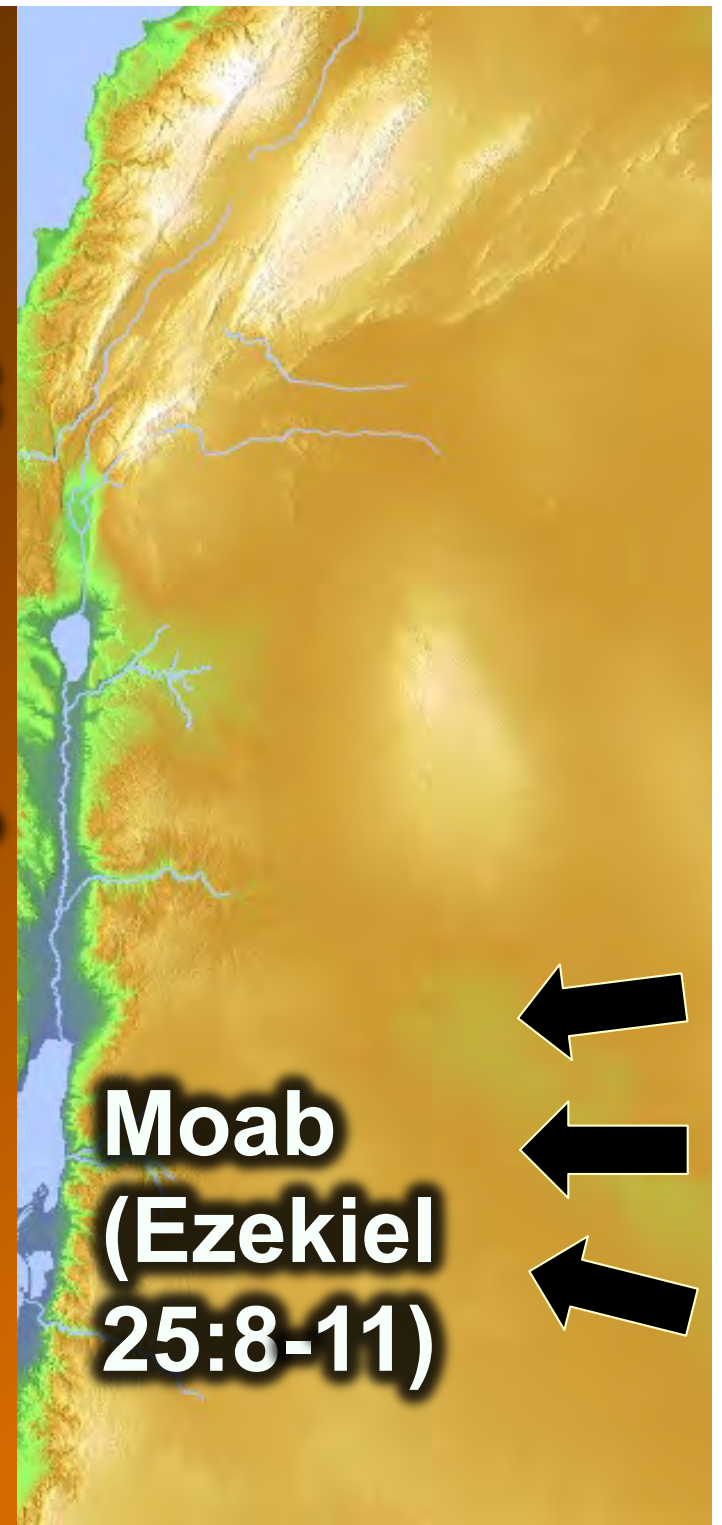
"Yet I will restore the fortunes of Moab in days to come."



Isaiah 25:10 (subjugation to Messiah)

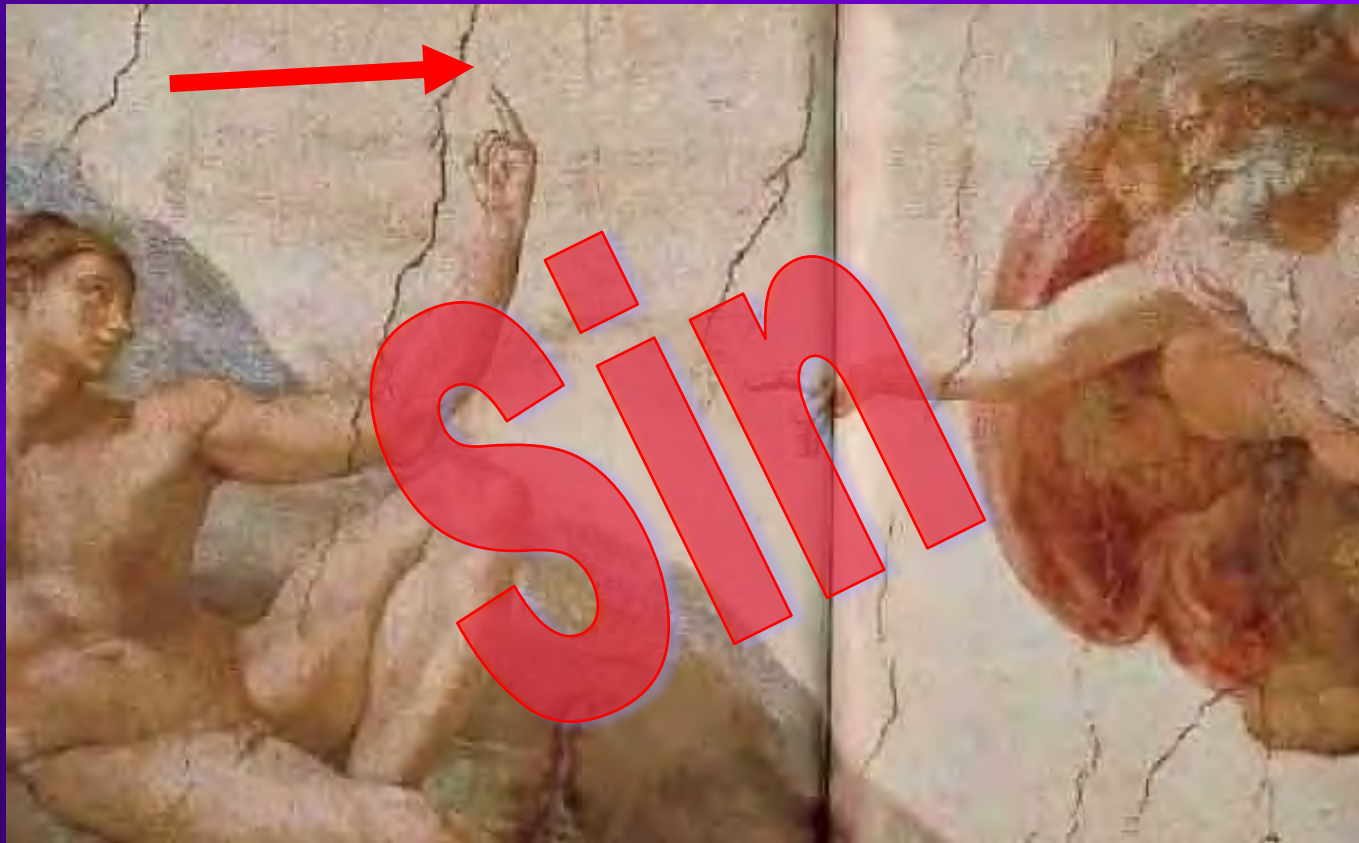
"The hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain; but Moab will be trampled under him, as a straw is trampled down in the manure."

"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because the people of Moab have **said that Judah is just like all the other nations,⁹ I will open up their eastern flank and wipe out their glorious frontier towns—Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, and Kiriathaim.¹⁰ And I will hand Moab over to nomads from the eastern deserts, just as I handed over Ammon..."**



Reflection & Application

- a) **God judges idolatry**
- b) **God can divinely protect his people, but his people can destroy themselves by choosing the path of sin**
- c) **God's mercy and grace always extends to those willing to turn to him (e.g., Ruth)**



d) The Lord only needs to lift his blessings for nations to disappear from history...

Israel's Early Eastern Neighbors

100b

John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the OT*, 2d ed., 71

Period	EDOM	MOAB	AMMON	AMALEK
FATHER	Esau: son of Isaac	Moab: son of Lot and his eldest daughter	Ben-Ammi: son of Lot and his second daughter	Amalek: son of Eliphaz, who was a son of Esau
EXODUS	Controlled to some degree by Amorites. Refused passage to the Israelites (Num 20:14-21).	Conquered by Sihon & Amorites (Num. 21:26). King Balak feared Israel and sought Balaam to curse them (Num 22).		Defeated by the Israel (Exod. 17). Defeated Israel after report by spies (Num 14:45).

Israel's Early Eastern Neighbors

100b

John H. Walton, *Chronological and Background Charts of the OT*, 2d ed., 71

Period	EDOM	MOAB	AMMON	AMALEK
JUDGES	Continued under partial Amorite control (1350 BC; Judg 1:35-36).	Eglon hurt Israel 18 yrs. until Ehud (1350 BC; Judg 3:12-30)	Ally of Eglon of Moab (1350 BC); Hurt Israel until Jephthah (1100 BC; Judg 10-12).	Ally of Eglon of Moab (1350 BC)
UNITED MONARCHY	Saul took some cities from Edom (1030 BC; 1 Sam 14:47). Conquered and subjugated by David (1000 BC; 1 Chron 18:12).	Saul took some cities from Moabite territory (1030 BC; 1 Sam 14:47). Conquered and subjugated by David (1000 BC; 2 Sam 8:2).	Saul defeated Nahash (1050 BC; 1 Sam 11:1-11) & took some Ammonite cities (1030 BC; 1 Sam 14:47); David defeated Hanun (990 BC; 2 Sam 12:26-31)	Saul defeated Agag (1050 BC; 1 Sam 15:1-9); Destroyed David's camp at Ziklag but David wiped them out. This is last mention of them (1 Sam 30).

5. Sources & Bibliography

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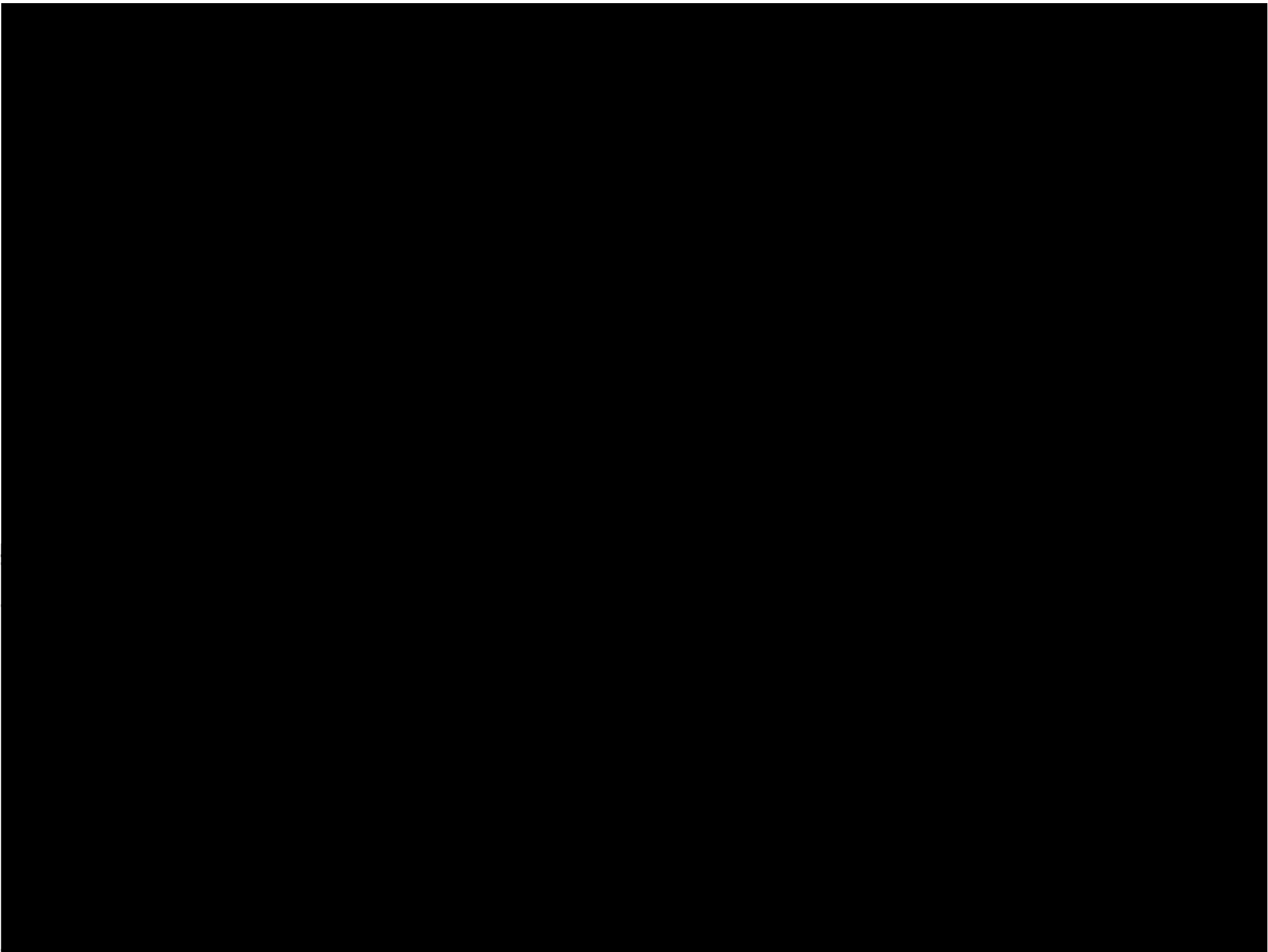
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Moabites

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