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**SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 2 (God's Certain Judgment)**

**TITLE: Program 34 – Judgment On The Pride Of Moab**

**THURSDAY**

**OPEN**

Do you know anybody that's proud? That's haughty? That's arrogant? I mean, they know it all. They have it all. They don't need a thing. They don't need anyone. They don't even need God unless it's a god of their invention. What is going to happen to that person? Or what's going to happen to that group of people? Or what's going to happen to the nation that is haughty and arrogant and proud? We'll talk about it today.

**PART ONE**

The city had been destroyed. Their mother had been destroyed. All that was left was one man and two daughters, and they walked away from that city that had been leveled by God. And that night thinking: "How are we going to survive? We've got to raise up a seed. What are we going to do?" So the two daughters decided that they would get their father drunk and they got him drunk, and in his drunkenness they went into the bed and both of them

conceived. One conceived and named her son Moab. The other conceived and named her son Ammon. And this is where the Moabites and the Ammonites come from. Two people groups that will eventually be enemies of Israel. (See Genesis 19:30-38) If we were to go to Moab we would go across the Jordan River into Jordan. If we were to go into Ammon we would go across the Jordan River into present day Jordan. When you look at it, what you have is you have Ammon, and then you have Moab and then you have Edom, three enemies that God is going to talk about in Jeremiah. As He brings this book to a close He wants us to know the prophecies regarding the nations. The nations that He is going to tear down, uproot, overthrow; destroy. The nations, then, that He might choose to build and to plant; to restore their fortunes. (See Jeremiah 1:10) So you and I have the privilege of opening the Word of God and finding out the future of these people. We've come to Jeremiah chapter 48 and it opens this way: **"Concerning Moab..."** (Jeremiah 48:1) Now you might want to write in the margin "Genesis 19:30-38." Because this is the story that I just told you. It's the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot is the father, and the daughters are the ones that go in to Lot and have these two men. This is what it says. **"...Woe to Nebo, for it has been destroyed...."** (Jeremiah 48:1) Now when he's talking about Nebo here, he is not talking about Mt. Nebo. He is talking a city, a city in Moab. It says, **"...Kiriathaim has been put to shame, it has been captured; the lofty stronghold has been put to shame and shattered [put to shame, put to shame]."** (Jeremiah 48:1) Listen carefully our theme all this week is God's words to Baruch, and this is what he says, **"...Are you seeking great[ness] for yourself? Do not seek [it]."** (Jeremiah 45:5) God does not want us to seek greatness for ourself. God wants us to seek His glory, to seek Him. God wants us to lay down our lives for Him. And that's what God tells Baruch in chapter 45. [Don't seek greatness for yourself. I'm going to give you your life. And I'm going to protect you wherever you go.] (PARAPHRASE Jeremiah 45:5) We have a

life and we are to serve God with that life. So he goes on to say in verse 2: **“There is praise for Moab no longer; in Heshbon....”** These are cities in this area now. **“...They have devised calamity against her: ‘Come and let us cut her off from being a nation!’ You too, Madmen, will be silenced; the sword will follow after you. The sound of [the] outcry from Horonaim, ‘Devastation and great destruction!’ Moab is broken....”** (Jeremiah 48:2-4) He’s going to bring Heshbon against them, that city that is right on the border. They are going to be put to shame. And it says **“Moab is broken....,”** verse 4, **“...her little ones have sounded out a cry of distress. For by the ascent of Luhith they will ascend with continual weeping; for at the descent of Horonaim they have heard the anguished cry of destruction. ‘Flee, save your lives, that you may be like a juniper in the wilderness. For....”** (Jeremiah 48:4-7) Now listen carefully, **“[For] because of your trust in your own achievements and treasures, even you yourself will be captured...”** (Jeremiah 48:7) When you’re trusting in your own achievements, when you’re trusting in your own treasures it’s because you’re seeking greatness for yourself; therefore, the treasures, therefore these things that you are accumulating. And you know what? [God resists the proud. God resists the proud.] (PARAPHRASE, James 4:6, KJV) We’re gonna look at that, but not right this moment. So he goes on to say, **“...Even you yourself will be captured; and Chemosh will go off into exile....”** (Jeremiah 48:7) Now “Chemosh” is a false god. And so what I do is I mark every false god with a big “I”, a capital “I” to show that it is an idol. **“...Together with [its] priests and princes.”** (Jeremiah 48:7) They’re going to be taken into exile. Their god is not going to be able to deliver them. **“A destroyer will come to every city [in Moab] so that no city will escape; the valley also will be ruined and the plateau will be destroyed, as the LORD has said. Give wings to Moab [and] she will flee away; and her cities will become a desolation, without inhabitants in them.”** (Jeremiah 48:8-9) Now listen to what he says. **“Cursed be the one**

**who does the LORD'S work negligently...." (Jeremiah 48:10)** He is going to use others to judge Moab. And He says: **"Cursed be the one [that] does the LORD'S work negligently, [that] cursed [is] the one....,"** and he explains it, **"...who restrains his sword from blood." (Jeremiah 48:10)** If you're holding back then you're going to be cursed. You see in Ezekiel and if you can, go to Ezekiel chapter 25, verse 10; Ezekiel chapter 25, verse 10. And this is what he says, **"...I will give it for a possession along with the sons of Ammon to the sons of the east, so that the sons of Ammon will not be remembered among the nations. Thus I will execute judgments on Moab, and they will know that I am the LORD." (Ezekiel 25:10-11)** Judgment comes in order for us to see that we, apart from God, are absolutely impotent. It comes so that you and I can see that: "Our times are in Your hands, O Lord." (PARAPHRASE, Psalms 31:15) And when he talks about the judgment, the judgment that comes against Moab is a judgment that is coming from other tribes. It says in verse 11, and this is so important. **"Moab has been at ease since his youth; he has...been undisturbed, like wine on its dregs...." (Jeremiah 48:11)** In other words there's that accumulation of those grapes or whatever, at the bottom of the wine and it's undisturbed. Nobody's shaken it, because he's been at ease since his youth. He hasn't had any problems. Listen, it's problems in difficult situations that make you, if you turn to God. So listen to what he says. It says, **"...He has been...undisturbed, like wine on its dregs...he has not been emptied from vessel to vessel...." (Jeremiah 48:11)** He's been at ease all this time. **"...Nor has he gone into exile. Therefore he retains his flavor...his aroma has not changed. 'Therefore [the days are coming] behold...days are coming,' [says] the LORD, 'when I will send to him those who tip vessels, and they will tip him over, and they will empty his vessels and shatter his jars. And Moab....,'"** now listen carefully, **"...will be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel, their confidence.'" (Jeremiah 48:11-13)** Now when was Israel, the house of

Israel, ashamed of Bethel, their confidence? Well they were ashamed of it when they made a golden calf. Remember when the kingdom divides and Rehoboam, the son of Solomon takes over the Southern Kingdom, the Northern Kingdom splits. And Jeroboam, afraid that the children of Israel will go down to worship because Jerusalem is in the Southern Kingdom, then he makes two golden calves. He puts one at Bethel, at the house of God, and one at Dan. (See 1 Kings 12:27-30) And He says you're gonna be ashamed of those gods just as Moab is ashamed of Chemosh. Why? Because they cannot deliver, because they are an idol. He says **"How can you say, 'We are mighty warriors, and men valiant for battle'?" (Jeremiah 48:14)** How can you say that? **"Moab has been destroyed and men have gone up to his cities; his choicest young men have also gone down to the slaughter...." (Jeremiah 48:15)** Now listen to how God describes Himself again. It's the second time He's done it. **"Declares the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts." (Jeremiah 48:15)** What is He saying? He's saying "Listen, I am the King. I'm the King of nations." Read Psalm 2 and you'll see that. (See Psalms 2:1-9) **"The disaster of Moab will soon come, and his calamity has swiftly hastened. Mourn for him, all you who live around him, even all of you who know his name; say, 'How...the mighty scepter has been broken, a staff of splendor!' Come down from your glory...sit on the parched ground, O daughter dwelling in Dibon, for the destroyer of Moab has come against you, He has ruined your strongholds. Stand by the road and keep watch, O inhabitant of Aroer; ask him who flees and her who escapes and say, 'What has happened?'"** And then watch what it says. **"Moab has been put to shame, for it has been shattered...." (Jeremiah 48:16-20)** When you trust in someone other than God you will be put to shame.

## **PART TWO**

Have you ever seen somebody that was very prideful? And then all of a sudden they're drunk, and they're wallowing in their vomit. And you just look down at them, and you look in utter disgrace. Here they were so proud. Here they were so arrogant. Now you see them as they really, really are: out of control. Well this is the illustration that God is going to use about Moab. Now remember, the Moabites were enemies of Israel. When you go back and you follow the history of the Moabites, you know that they ruled over Israel in the days of Judges for 18 years. When you go to Numbers chapter 22, you find Moab fearing Israel and they're the ones that tried to hire Balaam to curse them. (See Numbers 22:2-6) They're the ones in Numbers chapter 25, that go over and try because Balaam won't curse them, because he can't. Because God won't let him. Then they're the ones that send their cute little Moabite daughters over to the camp of the Israelites. And those girls seduce them so that they sin. So Israel sins; so God has to judge them. (See Numbers 25:1-4) I mean these are a crafty, crafty people. But they're a people that have been at ease all their lives. They're a people that haven't been tipped over, so to speak, as we read. So in essence their lack of conflict, their ease of life has become something that has made them arrogant. So watch what he says: **"Moab has been put to shame, for it has been shattered. Wail and cry out; declare by the Arnon...."** That's a river that does one of the borders between that and Ammon. It says **"...that Moab has been destroyed. Judgment has also come upon the plain, on Holon, Jahzah...against Mephaath, against Dibon, Nebo and Beth-diblathaim [and] against Kiriathaim, [and] Beth-gamul and Beth-meon, [and] against Kerioth...."** and then I can say the next one, **"...Bozrah and all the cities of the land of Moab, far and near. The horn of Moab has been cut off...."** Now the horn was a symbol of power. **"...And his arm broken...."** (Jeremiah 48:20-25) And that was the symbol of his power and his defense. So God just takes away Moab's power. And listen to what he says. **"Make**

**him drunk, for he has become arrogant toward the LORD....”**

**(Jeremiah 48:26)** I mean, he’s just arrogant. Anyone that does not submit themselves to God; listen to me carefully. Anyone that seeks to change laws, anyone that seeks to re-interpret the Word of God when God has spoken very clearly, anyone that uses anything in the Scriptures to twist it and distort it and cover their sin is arrogant. Anyone that thinks that they can live the way they want to live against the clear and plain teaching of the Word of God is arrogant. And they will only get away with it for a short while because God has to deal with it. It says, **“Make him drunk, for he has [been] arrogant [before] the LORD; so [uh] Moab will wallow in his vomit...he [will] also become a laughingstock....was not Israel a laughingstock to you...?”** **(Jeremiah 48:26-27)** You laughed at Israel. **“...Or was he caught among thieves? For each time you speak about him you shake your head in scorn.”** **(Jeremiah 48:27)** You talk to the Moabites. You talk to those people that live across the Jordan River, that live in Jordan and they just, there’s scorn. There’s ah, scorn among those people for the Jews. You’ve got to remember that the crown jewel, the main diamond, the great pearl, the outstanding stone in the Middle East is Israel, and all the rest of the nations are there simply to glorify the God of Israel. They’re doing everything but that. He says, **“Leave the cities and dwell among the crags, O inhabitants of Moab...be like a dove that nests beyond the mouth of the chasm. We have heard of the pride of Moab—he is very proud—of his haughtiness, his pride, his arrogance...his self-exaltation.”** **(Jeremiah 48:28-29)** And you can see that pride goes before a fall. (See Proverbs 16:18) In 1 Peter 5:5 it says God resists the proud. He gives grace to the humble. (See 1 Peter 5:5, KJV) Pride is that which made Satan, Satan. (See Isaiah 14:13) And God cannot tolerate pride. He has to bring it down. He says, **“‘I know his fury,’ declares the LORD, ‘but it is futile; his idle boasts have accomplished nothing. Therefore I will wail for Moab...,’”** God is speaking. **“...Even for all [of] Moab I will cry out;**

**I will [mourn] for the men of Kir-heres. More than the weeping for Jazer I will weep for you, O vine of Sibmah! Your tendrils stretched across the sea, they reached to the sea of Jazer; upon your summer fruits and [the] grape harvest the destroyer has fallen.” (Jeremiah 48:30-32)** He says, **“So gladness and joy are taken [out of the] way from the fruitful field, even from the land of Moab...I have made the wine to cease from the wine presses; no one will tread them with shouting, the shouting will not be shouts of joy.” (Jeremiah 48:33)** It was wine that got Lot drunk; that enabled those girls to sleep with their father. (See Genesis 19:32-36) And now He’s saying, “Listen, all your wine and all your vines, the destroyer has destroyed them. **“So gladness and joy are taken away from the fruitful field, even from...Moab. And I have made the wine to cease from the wine presses; no one will tread them with shouting, the shouting will not be shouts of joy.” (Jeremiah 48:33)** He says **“[For] the outcry [of] Heshbon even to Elealeh, even to Jahaz they have raised their voice, from Zoar...to Horonaim...to Eglath--; for even the waters of Nimrim will become desolate.” (Jeremiah 48:34)** Now listen to what He says: **“‘I will make an end of Moab,’ declares the LORD, ‘the one who offers sacrifice on the high place...the one who burns incense to his gods.’” (Jeremiah 48:35)** “I’m going to make an end. That’s it.” He says, **“‘Therefore My heart...,’”** God is speaking, **“‘...wails for Moab like flutes; My heart...wails like flutes for the men of Kir-heres. Therefore they have lost the abundance it produce[s]. For every head is bald and every beard cut short; there are gashes on [their] hands and sackcloth on [their] loins.” (Jeremiah 48:36-37)** Look at ’em because of their pride, because of their arrogance; look at where it took ’em. **“On...the housetops of Moab and in its streets there is lamentation everywhere; for I have broken Moab like an undesirable vessel....how shattered it is! How they have wailed! How Moab has turned his back—he is ashamed! So Moab will become a laughingstock and an object of terror to all [those] around**



**him.” (Jeremiah 48:38-39)** Beloved, listen to me, what is your lesson for today? Your lesson is you cannot live in pride. You cannot live in arrogance. You cannot live in haughtiness. You cannot seek your own greatness. You cannot throw off the shackles and the fetters of God. He is God and every nation is accountable to Him, not to any other god. There is the LORD and there is no other. (See Deuteronomy 4:35) He is “Yehovah”. He is “Jehovah-Sabbaoth”, the Lord of hosts. He has a Son whose name is Jesus Christ, and “**...at the name of Jesus every knee [is going] to bow...and...every tongue [is going to] confess that Jesus...is Lord....**” (Philippians 2:10-11) Otherwise they’re gonna be broken and shattered. So where will you be on that day?