

The Prophecies of Isaiah ³³

Lesson 12

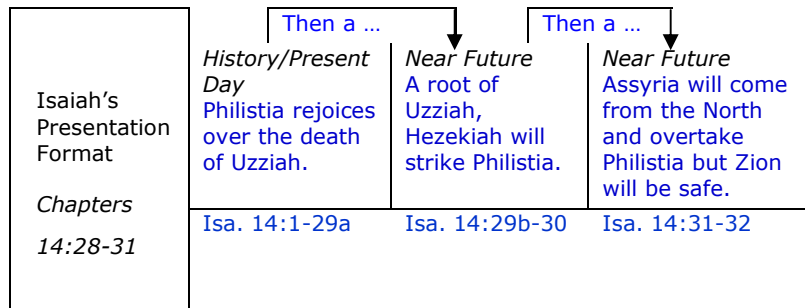


Figure 26: Vision 8

726 BC - Philistia's Warning – Vision 8

Isaiah 14:28 In the year that King Ahaz died this oracle came:

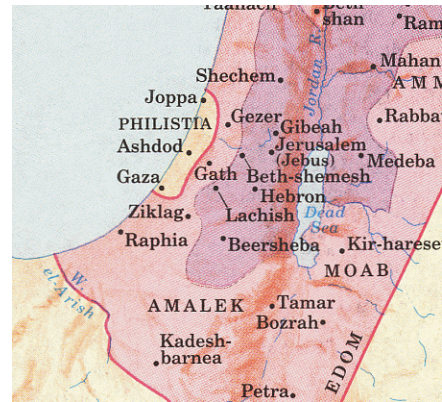
King Ahaz dies in 726 BC and his son Hezekiah takes the throne to reign for 29 years. Although verse 28 acts as a time-marker, it does not tell whether the oracle is heard before or after Ahaz's death, just that it is delivered in that year. Because it is an oracle, we know that the Lord gives these specific words to Isaiah to deliver to the Southern Kingdom to shed light on the plight of Philistia.

History/Present Day

Uzziah

Isaiah 14:29a "Do not rejoice, O Philistia, all of you, because the rod that struck you is broken;

The word Philistia, referring to the land of the Philistines on the eastern bank of the Mediterranean Sea next to the Southern Kingdom, means the land of the wanderers or the land of the strangers. They are descendants of Noah's grandson Canaan, the son of Ham and part of the Canaanite tribes that ruled the land before it was given to Abraham and his descendants. During the days of the conquest of the Promised Land as well as during the reigns of David and Solomon, Philistia's control of land is limited to what we call the Gaza Strip today as seen in Map 11. The Gaza Strip area was never included in the Promised Land acquisition. With the onset of the Divided Kingdom, Philistia expands its land grab to that shown in Map 12. During his reign, Uzziah had taken land from Philistia as recorded in Second Chronicles.



Map 11: Philistia During the Days of David and Solomon



Map 12: Philistia at the End of the Divided Kingdom from 760 BC - 586 BC

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2 Chronicles 26:6 Now he went out and warred against the Philistines, and broke down the wall of Gath and the wall of Jabneh and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities in *the area of* Ashdod and among the Philistines. ⁷ And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians who lived in Gur-baal, and the Meunites.

Uzziah is the rod that smites Philistia. Upon his death, Philistia marches on the Southern Kingdom during the reigns of Jotham and Ahaz, but the Lord will push them back with Hezekiah, the offspring of the root of Uzziah.

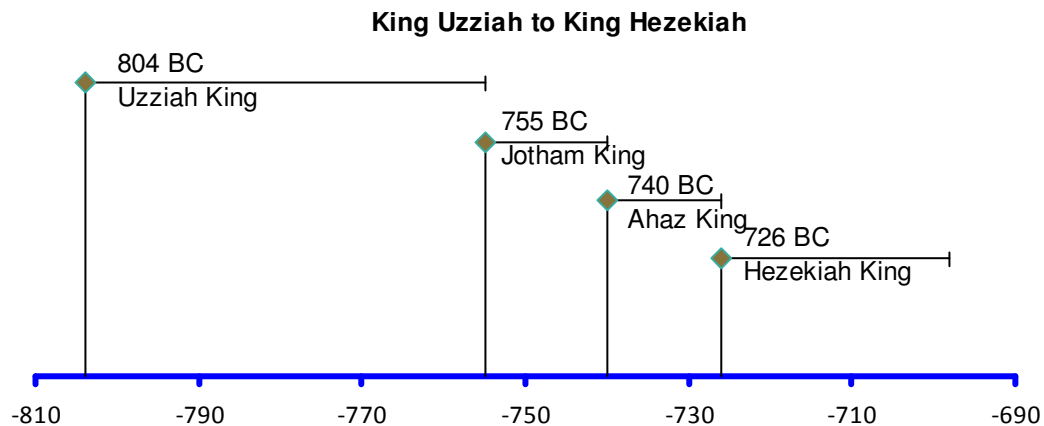


Figure 27: Length of Reigns King Uzziah to King Hezekiah

Near Future

Hezekiah

Isaiah 14:29a

... for from the serpent's root a viper will come out, And its fruit will be a flying serpent. ³⁰ "And those who are most helpless will eat, and the needy will lie down in security; I will destroy your root with famine, and it will kill off your survivors.

When Ahaz dies, his son, his root, Hezekiah, will strike Philistia like a serpent as recorded in Second Kings.

2 Kings 18:6 For he (Hezekiah) clung to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses. ⁷ And the LORD was with him; wherever he went he prospered. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. ⁸ He defeated the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

Hezekiah's attack on Philistia is successful, reclaiming the poor of the Southern Kingdom and providing for their needs and security. Philistia then endures a famine which kills many of its people.

Near Future

Assyria from the North

Isaiah 14:31

"Wail, O gate; cry, O city; Melt away, O Philistia, all of you; for smoke comes from the north, and there is no straggler in his ranks. ³² "How then will one answer the messengers of the nation? That the LORD has founded Zion, and the afflicted of His people will seek refuge in it."

Hezekiah is not Philistia’s main threat. His attack extends only to the walls of its fortified cities in order to reclaim the land taken during his father’s day. Philistia’s main threat will be Assyria as she attacks from the north.

Ashdod, one of Philistia’s cities, joins Judah in revolt against Assyria. Judah’s actions are justified because the Lord is protecting her and her king Hezekiah from Assyria, but Philistia does not have the same promise of protection. In 711 BC, Sargon II defeats Ashdod and makes it an Assyrian province. Prior to the attack, Ashdod feels secure in following the lead of Judah but a famine weakens her and she is not able to defend herself against Assyria’s sword. The cloud of smoke from the horses’ hooves should frighten Ashdod and it does. However, Zion has no fear. Those Jews living in the surrounding areas of Jerusalem seek refuge in the city when Sargon marches through the land and they are safe within its walls.

Table 9: Scripture Fulfillment in Isaiah – Chapter 14:1-32

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 14:1-29a	<i>History/Present Day</i> Philistia rejoices over the death of Uzziah.	Fulfilled before the oracle was given to Isaiah during the reign of Uzziah
Isa. 14:29b-30	<i>Near Future</i> A root of Uzziah, Hezekiah, will strike Philistia.	Fulfilled within 5 years after the oracle is given to Isaiah
Isa. 14:31-32	<i>Near Future</i> Assyria will come from the North and overtake Philistia but Zion will be safe.	Fulfilled in 711 BC when Sargon II makes Philistia an Assyrian Province

All of Vision 8 is fulfilled in 711 BC

Moab’s First Oracle – Vision 9

Isaiah 15:1a The oracle concerning Moab.

The Moabites are descendants of Lot, Abraham’s nephew. When Lot and his family ran to the top of a mountain on the night the angel destroyed Sodom and the other sinful towns, his two daughters who fled with him thought that they were the only people left on earth. Over the next two nights, the daughters serve Lot wine until he is drunk and then conceive children with him. They name their sons Moab and Ammon. Lot and his daughters raise the boys and their descendants on the east side of the Dead Sea that was created in the destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah and the other cities, the land Lot chose when he took his large family and separated from Abraham. Later, the families of Moab and Ammon separate into two nations and form their own boundary lines. When the Israelites take over the Promised Land, they will include much of the Moabite and Ammonite areas for the tribes of Reuben and Gad. However, by the time of this vision, Moab and Ammon have regained control of much of their original land while the Northern Kingdom still controls a small portion between them as seen in Map 13. Vision 9 warns of Moab’s impending devastation which will occur with the fall of the Northern Kingdom.



Map 13: The Land of Moab and Ammon in 740 BC

Isaiah 15:1b Surely in a night Ar of Moab is devastated *and* ruined; Surely in a night Kir of Moab is devastated *and* ruined. ^{2a} They have gone up to the temple and to Dibon, *even* to the high places to weep.

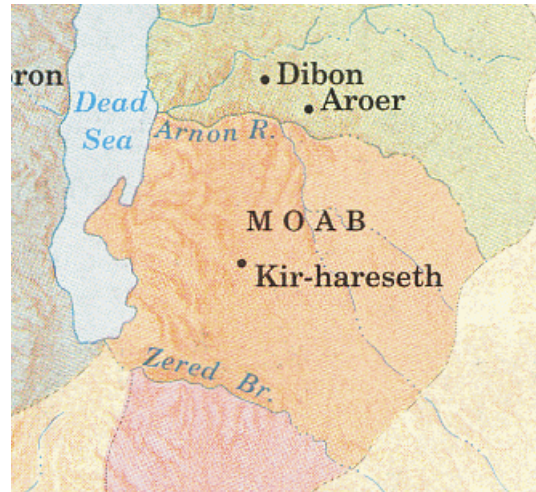
At the time of the vision, Ar is a chief city of Moab and Kir is its capital. For them to be attacked at night is a strange prophecy. Armies of that day rarely engaged in war activities during the night. Therefore, a look at the Hebrew sheds light on the text. Here, בליל *beleil*, means in one night. The true reading may be, כליל *keleil*, or dark as the night. In many of the old manuscripts it is hard to distinguish the ב *beth*, from the כ *cap*, which changes the meaning of the word picture. When the destruction comes on Ar and Kir, they will be as dark as the night with no life or light to be seen within them.

Hebrew Names and Meanings

Names	Meanings
Ar (Aroer)	Awakening; uncovering
Dibon	Pining; wasting
Kir-hareseth	Fortress, a city and fortress of Moab

Figure 28: Hebrew Names

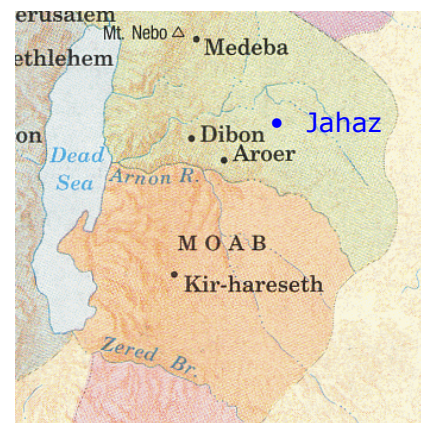
The main temple of Moab resides in Dibon with the god Chemosh housed in its tower. In the tall tower the Moabites weep and cry to Chemosh to save them, but because he does not exist, there can be no answer.



Map 14: Ar (Aroer), Dibon, Kir of Moab

Isaiah 15:2b Moab wails over Nebo and Medeba; Everyone's head is bald *and* every beard is cut off. ³In their streets they have girded themselves with sackcloth; On their housetops and in their squares everyone is wailing, dissolved in tears.

In this passage, "Moab wails over Nebo and Medeba," located in the top portion of Map 15. The sacred site where Moses had looked into the Promised Land will offer no security when the destruction comes and neither will the well-fortified city of Medeba. The area of Moab to the south will see the destruction to the north. The people will shave their heads and beards, put on sackcloth, and wail to their gods from the roof tops, all common expressions of mourning.



Map 15: Nebo and Medeba

Isaiah 15:4 Heshbon and Elealeh also cry out, Their voice is heard all the way to Jahaz; Therefore the armed men of Moab cry aloud; His soul trembles within him.

Moving further north from Medeba, the Lord identifies the trouble that will come upon Heshbon and Elealeh and the sound of its roar will be heard all the way down to Jahaz. These cities are in Rueben's land in the Northern Kingdom which was once part of the old Moab territory. It is an indication of the fear that will grip Moab when the Northern Kingdom is taken by the Assyrians. Jahaz is the most courageous town of Moab, but its courage will not help them when the Assyrians attack.

Isaiah 15:5 My heart cries out for Moab; His fugitives are as far as Zoar *and* Eglath-shelishiyah, For they go up the ascent of Luhith weeping; Surely on the road to Horonaim they raise a cry of distress over *their* ruin.

The Lord directs the vision to the southernmost part of the Moabite territory and the city of Zoar where the Moab people will attempt to run and climb to the plateau of Luhith, hoping to escape the destruction.

Isaiah 15:6 For the waters of Nimrim are desolate. Surely the grass is withered, the tender grass died out, there is no green thing. ⁷ Therefore the abundance *which* they have acquired and stored up they carry off over the brook of Arabim.

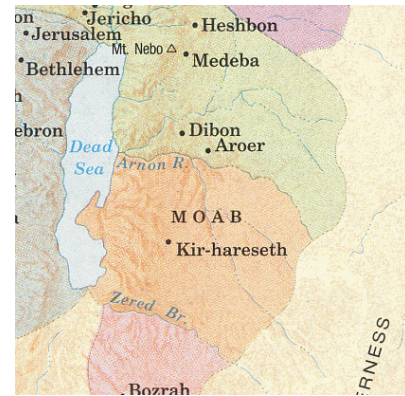
Moab relied on the waters of Nimrim for its agricultural productivity. Because of the Nimrim, famines rarely affected Moab as they did other portions of the land. For that reason, Naomi and her husband left Bethlehem and journeyed to Moab at the onset of a famine. Moab is well known for its storage of essential food sources, but when the Nimrim River is diverted by the Assyrians, the supplies quickly dwindle and those supplies that the Assyrians find will be carried back north across the Arabim River to supply the troops.

Isaiah 15:8 For the cry of distress has gone around the territory of Moab, Its wail goes as far as Eglaim and its wailing even to Beer-elim.

Eglaim stood outside the southern border of Moab, near Zoar at the southern point of the Dead Sea. Its other name was Beer-elim because of the well of Elim in that location. The march of the Assyrians will not stop in Moab; it will continue past Moab's southern border.

Isaiah 15:9 For the waters of Dimon are full of blood; Surely I will bring added woes upon Dimon, a lion upon the fugitives of Moab and upon the remnant of the land.

The location of the river Dimon is not known, yet the key to this part of the prophecy is the word lion. It was known that the lion was the mascot of the Assyrian Empire and no doubt the Lord's reference to it in this passage tells the Moabites that their destruction will come at the hands of the Assyrians. But more than that, Assyria also used lions in war to attack their enemies.³⁴ Assyria is not the only empire that will attack Moab over the next two centuries. She will greatly cripple Moab but Nebuchadnezzar will wipe the land clean more than one hundred years later.



Map 16: Hesbon and Jahaz of Old Moab

Hebrew Names and Meaning

Name	Meaning
Eglath-shelishiyah	
Heshbon	Intelligence
Jahaz	Trodden down
Luhith	Made of boards, a Moabitish place between Zoar and Horonaim
Nebo	Proclaimer; prophet
Nimrim	The stream of the leopards, a stream in Moab
Zoar	Small, a town on the east or south-east of the Dead Sea, to which Lot and his daughters fled from Sodom



Map 17: Eglaim or Beer-elim

³⁴ 2 Kings 17:25; Jeremiah 50:17

Isaiah 16:1 Send the *tribute* lamb to the ruler of the land, from Sela by way of the wilderness to the mountain of the daughter of Zion. ² Then, like fleeing birds or scattered nestlings, the daughters of Moab will be at the fords of the Arnon.

The Lord gives Moab advice. He wants her to send an offering from one of its major cities to Zion and then the Lord wants all of the Moabites to gather at the fords of the Arnon River.



Map 18: Arnon River

Isaiah 16:3 "Give *us* advice, make a decision; cast your shadow like night at high noon; hide the outcasts, do not betray the fugitive. ⁴ "Let the outcasts of Moab stay with you; Be a hiding place to them from the destroyer."

The Lord gives the Southern Kingdom advice and He expects her to follow it. He tells her to let the outcast and fugitives of Moab hide within the borders of the Southern Kingdom until the destroyer is gone. Perhaps the Lord wants them to hide within the walls of Zion where they have sent a tribute.

Isaiah 16:For the extortioner has come to an end, destruction has ceased, oppressors have completely *disappeared* from the land.

Soon the extortioner will be overthrown and the fugitives will be able to return to their own land. All of this comes true within the next two decades. When the Assyrian king cannot take Jerusalem, he will return to his capital and the great power of his empire will begin to diminish.

Isaiah 16:5 A throne will even be established in loving-kindness, and a judge will sit on it in faithfulness in the tent of David; moreover, he will seek justice and be prompt in righteousness.

Soon a new king will sit on the throne of David in the Southern Kingdom. It "will ... be established in loving-kindness ... faithfulness and he will seek justice and be prompt in righteousness." His name is Hezekiah.

Isaiah 16:6 We have heard of the pride of Moab, an excessive pride; *even* of his arrogance, pride, and fury; his idle boasts are false. ⁷ Therefore Moab shall wail; everyone of Moab shall wail. You shall moan for the raisin cakes of Kir-hareseth as those who are utterly stricken.

Unless Moab changes and rids herself of her pride, she will wail and wish she could return to the glory days of her capital city of Kir-hareseth and the smell of the bakers' raisin cakes.

Isaiah 16:8 For the fields of Heshbon have withered, the vines of Sibmah *as well*; the lords of the nations have trampled down its choice clusters which reached as far as Jazer *and* wandered to the deserts; Its tendrils spread themselves out *and* passed over the sea. ⁹ Therefore I will weep bitterly for Jazer, for the vine of Sibmah; I will drench you with my tears, O Heshbon and Elealeh; for the shouting over your summer fruits and your harvest has fallen away. ¹⁰ And gladness and joy are taken

away from the fruitful field; In the vineyards also there will be no cries of joy or jubilant shouting, no treader treads out wine in the presses, *for* I have made the shouting to cease. ¹¹ Therefore my heart intones like a harp for Moab, And my inward feelings for Kir-hareseth. ¹² So it will come about when Moab presents himself, when he wearies himself upon *his* high place, and comes to his sanctuary to pray, that he will not prevail. ¹³ This is the word which the LORD spoke earlier concerning Moab.

From the major city in Rueben's land to the bottom of Moab, the fields and vineyards will be trampled by the Assyrian army. Why? Moab will not turn to the true God of Abraham whom his father Lot knew. Rather, Moab will seek the counsel of its gods in its high places like the tower at Didon and therefore, he will not prevail against the Assyrians. When will these events occur? The Lord gives Isaiah another vision to set those time parameters.

Moab's Second Oracle – Vision 10

Isaiah 16:14 But now the LORD speaks, saying, "Within three years, as a hired man would count them, the glory of Moab will be degraded along with all *his* great population, and *his* remnant will be very small *and* impotent."

Separate from the previous vision concerning Moab, the Lord imparts to Isaiah the shortest vision in the book of prophecies. It is the 10th Vision and it tells Isaiah to tell the people that Assyria will attack Moab within three years and the remnants from the onslaught will be few, perhaps only those who meet at the fords of the Arnon River to take a tribute to Mount Zion and seek refuge within its walls. In 722 BC, with the fall of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria, Moab is also overtaken. The Assyrian King cannot take Southern Kingdom; therefore, the fugitives who take the Lord's counsel and seek refuge within the walls of Jerusalem are safe until the Assyrian King returns home, never to attack again. Then, the Moabites will return to establish their presence on their land.