



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

Pride Ensures a Fall

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: *Isaiah 16:6-14; Jeremiah 2:113; Isaiah 14:12-15; Isaiah 40:6-8*

Running to the Wrong Refuge. Moab was running—but in the wrong direction. Instead of turning toward Zion, the place God had established as a refuge, they ran toward the rocks of Edom, toward Petra—a man-made fortress. The Lord was calling them to humility, saying, *“Send a lamb to the ruler of the land... to the mountain of the daughter of Zion.”* (Isaiah 16:1). In other words, “Come in surrender. Come to the place where I dwell.” But pride always drives us to the wrong refuge. It convinces us we can fix it, build it, or climb out of it on our own.

Even in their distress, Moab was offered grace—a way back, a way under the shadow of mercy. Yet pride said, “We’ll figure it out.” That’s the heartbeat of rebellion from Eden to today. We run to our own rocks instead of to the Rock of Ages. And when pride is full-grown, it guarantees collapse. Pride always ensures a fall.

1. PRIDE PROJECTS STRENGTH BUT REVEALS WEAKNESS (16:6)

The Lord says, *“We have heard of the pride of Moab—very proud is he—his haughtiness, his arrogance, his insolence, his idle boasting.”* Moab’s pride was so loud it became its identity. They weren’t just proud; they were proud of being proud. It’s the ultimate deception—when the very thing that is destroying us becomes the thing we defend the most. Pride makes weakness look like power. It blinds us to how fragile we really are.

Isaiah lists four expressions of pride—haughtiness, arrogance, insolence, and boasting—each one rooted in self-exaltation. It’s the same spirit we saw in Babylon: *“I will ascend... I will exalt my throne... I will make myself like Elyon.”* (Isaiah 14:13–14, TLV). Pride doesn’t have to shout those words; it simply acts them out in self-reliance, self-promotion, and self-preservation.

Moab’s pride wasn’t just personal—it was cultural. Their security, wealth, and vineyards made them feel untouchable. But God was saying, “You’ve built your identity on what I can strip away in a moment.” Pride always demands to be the author of its own story. But when we refuse to let God write the script, the ending is already written: collapse.

2. GOD WEEPS OVER THE JUDGMENT BECAUSE HE LOVES THE PEOPLE (16:7-11)

In verses 7–11, Moab is pictured as a once-luxurious vine—fruitful, widespread, prosperous. But now it’s trampled and withered. What’s striking is God’s response: *“Therefore I will weep bitterly for Jazer, for the vine of Sibmah... I will drench you with my tears.”* (Is 16:9). This isn’t the cold wrath of an indifferent deity. It’s the heartbreak of a Father whose child refuses to come home. God is not watching Moab’s downfall with satisfaction; He’s weeping over it. He feels the weight of justice because His heart is mercy. Like a parent who must finally allow consequences to bring awakening, He moans with grief, saying, *“My heart moans for Moab like a lyre.”* (Isaiah 16:11). Even His judgment is soaked in love.

Pride breaks God's heart because it separates His children from Him. It insists on our way—even to ruin. When we refuse to humble ourselves, we don't just resist His authority; we reject His embrace. His tears reveal that He wanted better for Moab—and He wants better for us too.

3. PRIDE WEARS ITSELF OUT CHASING EMPTY GODS (16:12-14)

Verse 12 says, *"When Moab is weary upon the high place and comes to his sanctuary to pray, it will do him no good."* Pride exhausts itself chasing false hope. Moab wore itself out in religious effort—crying out to Chemosh, performing rituals, seeking help from idols—but nothing could save them. The problem wasn't their zeal; it was their direction. They were running hard but not running home. In the end, God sets a timer: *"Within three years... the glory of Moab will be disgraced."* (Isaiah 16:14, TLV). Pride has an expiration date. Its walls will crumble, its noise will fade, and its false confidence will be exposed. Everything built on self will fall, but the word of our God stands forever (Isaiah 40:8).

That's why trust—not talent, not wealth, not numbers—is our only safe ground. Pride says, "I've got this." Faith says, "He's got me." The proud build their refuge in rock they can see; the humble hide in the Rock who sees them.

CONCLUSION

The story of Moab reminds us that pride is not just an attitude—it's a direction. It always runs the wrong way. But even in judgment, God's heart was calling, *"Run to Zion. Run to the throne established in mercy and truth."* (Isaiah 16:5, TLV). Pride ensures a fall, but humility finds the hand that lifts.

If you've been running to your own rocks—your achievements, your control, your plans—God is still saying, "Come to Me. Send the lamb. Come in surrender." The same King who wept over Moab wept over Jerusalem and went to the cross so we could be restored. The Lamb has already been sent from the Rock to the mountain of the Lord. Run to Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think pride so easily masquerades as strength?
2. How does Isaiah 16 reveal God's heart, even in judgment?
3. In what ways can pride hinder trust in your own walk with God?
4. What does it mean to "run to the Rock" instead of "to the rocks of Edom"?
5. How can believers reflect God's heart of mercy toward those still trapped in pride?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, Thank You for Your mercy that still calls us even when our pride runs far. Forgive us for trusting in ourselves, for building walls You never asked us to build. Tear down our self-reliance and teach us to trust You fully. Thank You for Your tears that show how deeply You care. Establish our hearts in Your love, Your truth, Your righteousness, and Your justice. Help us to live humbly, to reflect Your mercy, and to run only to You, our true Rock and Refuge.
In Yeshua's name, amen.

In Yeshua's mighty name we pray, Amen.