



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

Where Do You Run When Everything is Falling Apart?

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: *Isaiah 15:1-9; 30:15; Ps. 46:1; Prov. 18:10; Deut 34:6; Ruth 1:4; Zeph 2:10*

Every one of us runs somewhere when life shakes. We run to friends, we run to plans, we run to things we think will make us feel safe again. In *Isaiah 15*, God gives the prophet a heartbreaking vision—not just of Moab's downfall, but of the tragedy of trusting in anything or anyone other than Him. Moab wasn't a distant enemy. They were family—descendants of Lot, sometimes friends, sometimes rivals. There were shared memories, shared boundaries, shared help in times of trouble. But when judgment came, all that familiarity couldn't save them. Isaiah weeps because he sees a people on the run—people who had every opportunity to run to the Lord, yet ran everywhere else.

This chapter is more than a prophecy about Moab; it's a mirror for us. When things collapse, who—or what—do we run to? Because God's word has always said, "*In repentance and rest is your salvation.*" So let's walk through *Isaiah 15* and hear the Lord's heart for those who run, and His invitation to run to Him instead.

1. WHEN SECURITY SHATTERS OVERNIGHT (15:1)

Isaiah begins, "*For in the night that Ar is devastated, Moab is ruined; for in the night that Kir is devastated, Moab is ruined.*" (*Isaiah 15:1*) Twice he repeats it—because it happened suddenly. The night they felt safe became the night everything changed. Their cities fell so fast that people couldn't process what was happening. Isn't that how crisis feels? One day everything seems steady; the next, the foundation crumbles. And when that happens, we reveal what we've been trusting in all along. Moab's strength, alliances, and economy couldn't protect them when the Assyrians came. They had assumed their fortresses and friendships would hold—but in a single night, it all proved fragile.

God wasn't cruel in allowing that collapse. He was exposing false security so people could finally see their need for Him. That's mercy disguised as loss. When your "Ar" and your "Kir"—the strong places of your life—fall apart, that's not abandonment; that's invitation. It's God saying, "*Stop running to what can't save you. Come back to Me.*"

2. WHEN MOURNING COVERS THE LAND (15:2-4)

Verses 2–4 describe the grief spreading through Moab: "*Every head is bald, every beard is shaven... on their housetops, in their plazas, everyone wails, weeping profusely.*" The people go to their temples, to their gods, to their rituals—but nothing works. They're doing everything religion can do, yet the heavens stay silent.

The picture is haunting: leaders crying, soldiers fainting, cities echoing with wails. But notice—Isaiah doesn't gloat; he grieves. He says, "*My heart cries out for Moab.*" (v. 5) This is the heartbeat of God Himself. Even when judgment must fall, His heart breaks over His children's pain.

When we watch someone we love running the wrong direction—when they look for hope in things that can only disappoint—our response should echo Isaiah's. We don't

mock them; we mourn for them. And we pray they'll turn around before it's too late. Because every false refuge will eventually crumble, and when it does, God wants to be the first place—not the last place—they run.

3. WHEN REFUGEES KEEP RUNNING THE WRONG WAY (15:5-9)

The final verses (5–9) show the fugitives of Moab—running south, clutching possessions, desperate to save themselves. They head toward Zoar, toward the same region where Lot once fled from Sodom. History is repeating itself. They're running again, but still not toward God. Isaiah paints the picture of dried rivers, desolate springs, and people carrying their treasures across the "Wadi of Willows." They're still trying to save what can't be saved. And the Lord says, "*The waters of Dimon are full of blood; I will bring upon Dimon even more—a lion for those who escape.*" (v. 9) In other words, there's no escaping through human effort. The only real refuge is Him.

We do this too. We scramble to fix things, to control outcomes, to hold onto "our stuff"—our reputation, finances, relationships, plans. But God gently reminds us: none of that can outrun the lion of reality. There's only one place of safety—the presence of the Lord Himself. Stop running south when His refuge is north. Don't run to your friends. Don't run to your own strength. Run to the Lord.

CONCLUSION

Isaiah 15 ends heavy—but not hopeless. The heart of God is still open, even toward Moab. In chapter 16, we'll see the prophetic call for Moab's refugees to come to Zion, to the King whose throne is established in mercy. That's always God's goal—to draw every nation, every wanderer, every runaway back home.

Maybe today you realize you've been running. You've run to people, to plans, to pride—and it's left you weary and empty. The LORD is standing, NOT with folded arms, but with open arms; He's saying, "Come to Me." When everything falls apart, run into His arms. His presence is the only refuge that never collapses.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does Isaiah 15 reveal about the danger of misplaced trust?
2. Why do people often run to friends or familiar places instead of the Lord during crisis?
3. How can we carry God's heart of compassion—like Isaiah did—toward those experiencing judgment or loss?
4. What are some "false refuges" in modern life that compete with trusting in God?
5. How can believers today model what it looks like to "run to the Lord" instead of reacting in fear or self-reliance?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, our hearts are prone to run—to people, to plans, to anything that promises comfort. But You alone are our refuge and strength. Forgive us for trusting in what cannot save. Teach us to rest in You, to wait on You, and to trust Your timing even when everything feels unstable. We lift our friends, our families, and our own hearts to You. Help us not to run from You but to You, because in Your presence is safety, peace, and life. In Yeshua's mighty name we pray, Amen.