

2. Moab and Ammon (Zeph. 2:8-11)

a. Location of Moab and Ammon

Moab and Ammon are located east of Judah and Jerusalem.

b. Origin of Moab and Ammon

Moab and Ammon descended from Lot. After the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot's two children conceived the idea of having children by their father. The oldest daughter committed incest with him first, and as a result, Moab was born. The younger daughter committed incest with him next, and as a result, Benammi was born. From Moab descended the Moabites and from Ben-Ammi descended the Ammonites (cf. Gen. 19:30-38).

c/ Judgment upon Moab and Ammon (Zeph. 2:8-11a)

(1) Description of the Judgment (Zeph. 2:9,11a)

(a) Moab and Ammon will be utterly exterminated (Zeph.2:9)

Moab and Ammon will be like Sodom and Gomorrah. This simile was a very natural one because Moab and Ammon were situated in the neighborhood of the Dead Sea. This simile affirms the utter destruction of Moab and Ammon as the next part of the description of the judgment makes clear.

(b) Moab and Ammon will become a place where nettles grow (Zeph. 2:9c), a place of salt pits - like the southern coast of the Dead Sea which abounds in rock-salt (Zeph. 2:9d), and a desert forever (Zeph. 2:9e).

(c) The Moabites and Ammonites themselves will become slaves of the Israelites (Zeph. 2:9f).

(d) The gods of the Moabites and Ammonites will be destroyed (Zeph. 2:11a,b).

Note: Since all the gods of the earth will be destroyed, the gods of the Moabites and Ammonites will be destroyed. This is the way God will show Himself to be terrible to the Moabites and Ammonites.

(2) Source of the judgment (Zeph. 2:9a,11a)

The judgment will come from the Lord.

(3) Certainty of the judgment (Zeph. 2:9a)

The judgment is irrevocable because the Lord confirmed it with an oath.

Note: The Lord is called "the LORD of hosts" because He is able to fulfill His threats and He is called "the God of Israel"