

## Edomites Study Notes

Gen 19:30 Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters.

Gen 19:31 And the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth.

Gen 19:32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father."

Gen 19:33 So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father. He did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

Gen 19:34 The next day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also. Then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father."

Gen 19:35 So they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

Gen 19:36 Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father.

Gen 19:37 The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day.

Gen 19:38 The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.

- The spiritual darkness of Sodom is further personified by the darkness of the cave. Lot is removed from Sodom but the shadow of Sodom remains.
- Lot's daughters give birth to nations that become bitter antagonists against Israel.

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

2Pe 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

2Pe 2:8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

2Pe 2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

2Pe 2:10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,

2Pe 2:11 whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord.

## 1. Shared Family Origin

The Moabites and Israelites are actually **relatives**.

- The Moabites descended from **Moab**, the son of **Lot** (Genesis 19:37).
- The Israelites descended from **Abraham** through Isaac and Jacob.

This makes them **cousin nations**, which explains why their interactions are often emotionally charged.

## 2. Early Interaction: Caution, Not Conquest

When Israel came out of Egypt:

- God **forbade Israel from attacking Moab** (Deuteronomy 2:9).
- Moab was given its land by God, just as Israel would receive Canaan.

So initially, there was a **boundary of respect**, despite no alliance.

## 3. Hostility and Spiritual Conflict

Tension quickly develops:

### Balak and Balaam (Numbers 22–24)

- **Balak** hires **Balaam** to curse Israel.

- God prevents the curse and turns it into blessing.

Moab feared Israel and sought **spiritual opposition** rather than military battle.

### **Seduction into Idolatry (Numbers 25)**

- Moabite women led Israel into worship of **Baal of Peor**.
- This resulted in severe judgment on Israel.

This becomes a defining theme: **Moab as a source of spiritual compromise**.

### **4. Period of the Judges: Oppression**

- **Eglon** oppresses Israel for 18 years (Judges 3).
- Israel is delivered by Ehud.

The relationship here is clearly **enemy domination**.

### **5. A Surprising Note of Grace: Ruth**

One of the most beautiful reversals:

- **Ruth**, a Moabite, shows loyalty to Israel and to God.
- She becomes the great-grandmother of **David**.

This shows:

- Moabites were **not excluded from God's mercy individually**
- Faith, not ethnicity, was decisive

### **6. Monarchy Period: Continued Conflict**

Relations remain strained:

- Moab becomes a **tributary and later a rebel** against Israel (2 Kings 3).
- King **David** both:
  - Entrusts his parents to Moab (1 Samuel 22:3–4)
  - Later fights against Moab (2 Samuel 8:2)

The relationship is **politically unstable and often hostile**.

### **7. Prophetic Judgment**

The prophets consistently pronounce judgment on Moab:

- Isaiah 15–16

- Jeremiah 48
- Amos 2:1–3

Reasons include:

- Pride
- Violence
- Rejoicing over Israel's suffering

Moab becomes a symbol of **arrogance and opposition to God's people**.

## 8. Big Picture Summary

The relationship can be summed up in four tensions:

1. **Kinship** → They are related through Lot
2. **Separation** → God set boundaries between them
3. **Conflict** → Repeated political and spiritual opposition
4. **Redemption** → Individuals like Ruth show inclusion is possible

Rth 4:9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon.

Rth 4:10 Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."

Rth 4:11 Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem,

Rth 4:12 and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman."

Rth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

- We also see a beautiful picture of Old Testament redemption involving Ruth, a Moabite widow, and Boaz, her kinsman redeemer.
- The Jews were not to marry outside of their own nation, however, in this case, Mahlon (a relative of Boaz) was the one who originally forsook this law. His death provided a means for Boaz to redeem Ruth and still remain faithful to the law (in actuality, he fulfilled the law and went above and beyond to provide for his family in this act).
- Also note, Ruth is no longer referenced as a Moabite after her redemption.

1Sa 22:1 David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.

1Sa 22:2 And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.

1Sa 22:3 And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me."

1Sa 22:4 And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

- David would eventually entrust his parents' safety to the Moabite king (although later he would defeat them in battle).
- This victory fulfilled the prophecy of Numbers 24:17 where a "star would come out of Jacob, a scepter would rise from Israel and crush the forehead of Moab" (this prophecy was given after Balaam's encounter with the Moabites and king Balak's request that Balaam curse Israel).