

Isaiah 16:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We have heard of the pride of Moab; he is very proud: even of his haughtiness, and his pride, and his wrath: but his lies shall not be so.

Analysis

"We have heard of the pride of Moab; he is very proud: even of his haughtiness, and his pride, and his wrath: but his lies shall not be so." The fivefold emphasis on pride hammers home Moab's fundamental sin. Not just proud, but "very proud," characterized by haughtiness, arrogance, and wrathful insolence. "His lies shall not be so" indicates Moab's boasts are empty—claims to power, security, self-sufficiency are false. Pride invariably precedes judgment (Proverbs 16:18). Reformed theology identifies pride as the root sin—humanity's rejection of God's sovereignty and grasping for autonomy.

Historical Context

The Mesha Stele (c. 840 BCE) discovered at Dibon perfectly illustrates Moabite pride. King Mesha boasts: "I am Mesha, king of Moab...Omri, king of Israel, humbled Moab many years...But I have triumphed over him and over his house, while Israel has perished forever!" This stone inscription intended to eternalize Moab's glory ironically survived to witness Moab's destruction—"his lies shall not be so" proven true.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Why is pride identified as Moab's fundamental sin, and how does pride function as root of all sin?
 2. How do Moab's empty boasts mirror modern forms of pride and self-sufficiency?
 3. How does the Mesha Stele ironically testify to this prophecy's truth?

Interlinear Text

נָאָתִים	מִאָדָם	בְּאַתְּ	מִזְאָב	וְגָאוֹגָ וְ	שָׁמְעָנוּ
We have heard	and his pride	of Moab	proud	he is very	even of his haughtiness
H8085	H1347	H4124	H1341	H3966	H1346
and his pride	and his wrath	H3808	H3651	but his lies	
H1347	H5678			H907	

Additional Cross-References

Amos 2:1 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime:

Jeremiah 48:26 (Parallel theme): Make ye him drunken: for he magnified himself against the LORD: Moab also shall wallow in his vomit, and he also shall be in derision.

Jeremiah 48:42 (Parallel theme): And Moab shall be destroyed from being a people, because he hath magnified himself against the LORD.