

# Jeremiah 48:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou daughter that dost inhabit Dibon, come down from thy glory, and sit in thirst; for the spoiler of Moab shall come upon thee, and he shall destroy thy strong holds.

## Analysis

**Thou daughter that dost inhabit Dibon, come down from thy glory** (יִשְׁבֶּת בַּת־) —Dibon, Moab's capital where the Mesha Stele was discovered, must descend (redi) from kavod (glory/honor). **And sit in thirst** (וּשְׁבִי בַצְמָא) —The besieged city will lack water, a devastating reversal for the well-watered plateau. **For the spoiler of Moab shall come upon thee, and he shall destroy thy strong holds** (כִּי־שֹׁדֵד מוֹאֵב עָלֶה בָּךְ שֹׁחַת מִבְצָרֶיךָ).

The command to 'sit in thirst' reverses Psalm 23's 'green pastures' and 'still waters'—those who reject the Shepherd experience desolation. Dibon's fortifications (mivtsarayikh, strongholds) prove worthless. This foreshadows Jesus's warning about building on sand versus rock (Matthew 7:24-27): human defenses collapse without divine foundation.

## Historical Context

Dibon (modern Dhiban, Jordan) was Moab's administrative capital, strategically located on the King's Highway. The Mesha Stele (c. 840 BC), found there in 1868, boasts of Moabite building projects and victories. Archaeological excavations show massive fortifications and a thriving Iron Age city—exactly the 'glory' and 'strongholds' Jeremiah addresses. Nebuchadnezzar's forces devastated the site around 582 BC.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What 'strongholds' (wealth, reputation, education, relationships) provide false security that God might require you to abandon?
2. How does the image of descending from glory to sit in thirst illustrate the consequences of pride and self-sufficiency?
3. In what ways does Jesus offer 'living water' (John 4:10) that makes earthly securities and glories pale by comparison?

## Interlinear Text

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רֵד י	מִכְבוֹד	יֹשֶׁבֶת	בְּצֶמָא	יֹשֶׁבֶת	בֵּת	דִּיבּוֹן
come down	from thy glory	and sit	in thirst	and sit	Thou daughter	Dibon
H3381	H3519	H3427	H6772	H3427	H1323	H1769

כִּי	שׂוֹד ד	מוֹאָב	עֲלֶיהָ	בִּי	שִׁחַ ת
H3588	for the spoiler	of Moab	shall come	H0	upon thee and he shall destroy
	H7703	H4124	H5927		H7843

מִבְצָרֶיהָ:  
thy strong holds  
H4013

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 47:1** (Parallel theme): Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate.

**Numbers 21:30** (Parallel theme): We have shot at them; Heshbon is perished even unto Dibon, and we have laid them waste even unto Nophah, which reacheth unto Medeba.

**Isaiah 15:2** (Parallel theme): He is gone up to Bajith, and to Dibon, the high places, to weep: Moab shall howl over Nebo, and over Medeba: on all their heads shall be baldness, and every beard cut off.

**Jeremiah 48:22** (Parallel theme): And upon Dibon, and upon Nebo, and upon Beth-diblathaim,

**Joshua 13:17** (Parallel theme): Heshbon, and all her cities that are in the plain; Dibon, and Bamoth-baal, and Beth-baal-meon,