

# Jeremiah 48:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee.

## Analysis

**There shall be no more praise of Moab** (אֵין-עוֹד תְּהִלַּת מוֹאָב)—the Hebrew *tehillat* (praise/glory) is the same root used in Psalms. Moab's renown will cease entirely. In **Heshbon** (הֶשְׁבּוֹן), ironically meaning 'stronghold' or 'device,' enemies **devise evil** (הִשְׁבוּ רָעָה)—a wordplay showing that the city of 'devising' becomes the place where its own destruction is devised.

**Cut it off from being a nation** (נִכְרִיתְנָה מִגּוֹי) *nakritennah miggoi*) uses the covenant curse language of *karat* (to cut off, destroy). The command to **Madmen** (מַדְמֵן)—possibly a wordplay on *damam* (to be silent/destroyed)—declares: **thou shalt be cut down** (תִּדְדָּמְךָ *tiddommi*, 'you shall be silenced'). The **sword shall pursue** (חֶרֶב תִּלְךָ אַחֲרָיִךְ)—relentless, inescapable judgment.

## Historical Context

Heshbon, originally Amorite, had been contested between Israel and Moab for centuries (Numbers 21:26). Its strategic location on the King's Highway made it economically vital. This prophecy reverses Moab's historical boasting over territorial gains, fulfilling the curse pattern established in Deuteronomy 28.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the wordplay in Hebrew (Heshbon devising its own destruction) illustrate the principle that sin contains its own judgment?
2. What national or personal 'praise' must end when it contradicts God's purposes?
3. How does the pursuing sword image warn against thinking we can outrun consequences of rebellion?

## Interlinear Text

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אֵין H369	עוֹד H5750	תִּהְיֶה ת H8416		מוֹאָב H4124	בְּחֶשֶׁב וֹן H2809
There shall be no more praise		of Moab		in Heshbon	
חֶשֶׁב וּ H2803	חֶשֶׁב וּ H5921	רָעָה H7451	לָכֵן H1980	וְנִכְרִיתָנָה H3772	
they have devised		evil		and let us cut it off	
מִגּוֹי H1471	גַּם H1571	מַדְמִים H4086	תִּדְּמִי H1826		אֶתְּ H310
from being a nation		O Madmen		Also thou shalt be cut down thee	
תִּלָּךְ H1980	חֶרֶב: H2719				
	the sword				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 16:14** (Parallel theme): But now the LORD hath spoken, saying, Within three years, as the years of an hireling, and the glory of Moab shall be contemned, with all that great multitude; and the remnant shall be very small and feeble.

**Jeremiah 31:36** (Parallel theme): If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.

**Numbers 32:37** (Parallel theme): And the children of Reuben built Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Kirjathaim,

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