

# Jeremiah 48:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And upon Kiriathaim, and upon Beth-gamul, and upon Beth-meon,

## Analysis

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**And upon Kiriathaim, and upon Beth-gamul, and upon Beth-meon—** Kiriathaim (double city) was an ancient settlement conquered by Israel (Numbers 32:37). Beth-gamul (house of recompense) appears only here in Scripture. Beth-meon (house of habitation) is identified with Baal-meon (Numbers 32:38), showing the persistence of Baal worship in Moabite culture.

The names themselves are ironic: 'house of recompense' receives divine recompense; 'house of habitation' becomes uninhabitable. Biblical writers often note such ironies—Babel (confusion) becomes confused, Babylon (gate of god) falls to divine judgment. Names meant to celebrate human achievement or invoke pagan deities become monuments to God's sovereign justice.

## Historical Context

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These cities formed part of Moab's northern territory, originally Israelite settlements in the tribal allotment of Reuben (Numbers 32) but later absorbed by Moab. The Mesha Stele mentions Baal-meon (Beth-meon) among Moabite building projects. Archaeological surveys suggest these were substantial towns with defensive walls and administrative functions during the Iron Age.

## Related Passages

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

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do the ironic meanings of city names (house of recompense receives judgment) illustrate that God's justice often uses people's own choices against them?
2. What does the fall of formerly Israelite cities to Moab, and then both to Babylon, teach about the futility of territorial claims without covenant faithfulness?
3. In what ways do human names, titles, and labels (meant to convey permanence or power) become hollow when confronted with divine reality?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ יַתְּ וְעַלְּ קִרְיָתְ יָםְ וְעַלְּ בְּ יַתְּ וְעַלְּ גַּםְ וְלָ בְּ יַתְּ וְעַלְּ  
H5921 And upon Kiriathaim H7156 H5921 H0 and upon Bethgamul H1014 H5921 H0

מְעַזְזֵבָן:

and upon Bethmeon

H1010

## Additional Cross-References

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

**Jeremiah 48:1** (Parallel theme): Against Moab thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Woe unto Nebo! for it is spoiled: Kiriathaim is confounded and taken: Misgab is confounded and dismayed.

