

# Jeremiah 48:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For was not Israel a derision unto thee? was he found among thieves? for since thou spakest of him, thou skippedst for joy.

## Analysis

**For was not Israel a derision unto thee?**—(כלוא פשחק כי לְבָבָךְ)—God charges Moab with mocking Israel. The word sechoq (שְׁחֹק) means laughter, scorn, derision—the contemptuous mockery one enemy levels at another's downfall. **Was he found among thieves?** This rhetorical question implies Israel did nothing to deserve Moab's scorn—they weren't caught in criminal activity justifying such treatment. Yet Moab rejoiced at Israel's exile and suffering (Ezekiel 25:8).

**For since thou spakest of him, thou skippedst for joy** (פִּימְנִי זְבַרְתָּ בָּזְבָּדָה). The Hebrew nud (נוֹד) means to shake oneself, to dance or leap—depicting Moab's gleeful celebration whenever Israel was mentioned. This reveals the deep-seated enmity between these nations descended from Abraham's family (Moab through Lot, Genesis 19:37). God's principle holds: those who curse Abraham's seed will themselves be cursed (Genesis 12:3). Moab's mockery of afflicted Israel brought divine judgment.

## Historical Context

Moab and Israel shared ancestry through Abraham but became bitter enemies. Moab refused Israel passage during the exodus (Numbers 22-24) and later oppressed them (Judges 3:12-14). By Jeremiah's time (circa 605-585 BC), Moab apparently gloated over Judah's Babylonian exile. This violated God's covenant with Abraham—blessing his descendants brings blessing, cursing them brings

cursing. The prophets consistently condemned nations that rejoiced at Israel's calamity (Ezekiel 25:8, Amos 1:13-15, Obadiah 1:12).

## Related Passages

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

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's judgment on Moab for mocking Israel demonstrate His faithfulness to covenant promises even when Israel is under discipline?
2. What warning does this verse give about rejoicing in others' misfortune, even when they are experiencing deserved consequences?
3. How should Christians respond when those hostile to the church experience hardship—does this passage inform our posture?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּגְדָּבָבָּם	אֲםָם	וְשָׁרָאָל	לְבָבָךְ	לְבָבָה	בְּנֵי הָבָשָׂתָךְ	לְבָבָיְךְ	וְאַתָּא אַתָּה	מִן־אֶת־
H518	H3808	a derision	H1961	H0	For was not Israel	H518	among thieves	H1590
	H7814				H3478			
נִמְצָא אַתָּה	בְּ	דִּבְרָךְ יְהִי	מִתְנַדֵּד:					
unto thee was he found	H3588	for since	thou spakest	H0	of him thou skippest	H4672	H1767	H1697
								H5110

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 2:26** (References Israel): As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets,

**Ezekiel 25:8** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Moab and Seir do say, Behold, the house of Judah is like unto all the heathen;

**Zephaniah 2:8** (Parallel theme): I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified themselves against their border.

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