

# Jeremiah 48:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From the cry of Heshbon even unto Elealeh, and even unto Jahaz, have they uttered their voice, from Zoar even unto Horonaim, as an heifer of three years old: for the waters also of Nimrim shall be desolate.

## Analysis

**From the cry of Heshbon even unto Elealeh, and even unto Jahaz, have they uttered their voice**—Three Moabite cities (Heshbon, Elealeh, Jahaz) form a geographical span across Moab's territory, indicating that lamentation will be nationwide. The Hebrew nathan qol (נָתַן קוֹל) means to give voice, to cry out—loud, public mourning heard across the land.

**From Zoar even unto Horonaim, as an heifer of three years old** (מִצְעָר עַד־חֲרֹנִים עֹגֶלֶת שְׁלִישִׁיָּה). Zoar and Horonaim span Moab's southern region. The simile 'as an heifer of three years old' (eglat shelishiyah, עֹגֶלֶת שְׁלִישִׁיָּה) refers to a young, strong cow suddenly yoked for the first time—bellowing in distress and shock at unfamiliar suffering. Moab, previously free and prosperous, will cry out like a heifer first experiencing the yoke of oppression.

**For the waters also of Nimrim shall be desolate** (כִּי גַם־מֵי נְמָרִים מְשַׁמּוֹת יִהְיוּ). Nimrim's springs, providing life-sustaining water, will become meshammot (מְשַׁמּוֹת)—desolations, wastes. Water sources drying up represents total devastation—not just military defeat but ecological catastrophe.

## Historical Context

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These cities represent Moab's full territory from north (Heshbon, Elealeh, Jahaz) to south (Zoar, Horonaim). Heshbon and Jahaz were contested border cities; Zoar was the city Lot fled to (Genesis 19:22-23). Nimrim (perhaps Wadi Numeirah near the Dead Sea) was known for springs. The prophecy's fulfillment involved comprehensive devastation—Babylon didn't merely conquer cities but destroyed infrastructure, including irrigation systems, creating long-term desolation. The heifer imagery emphasizes shock—Moab had never experienced such subjugation.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does the nationwide scope of mourning (from north to south) illustrate that sin's consequences affect entire communities?
2. What does the heifer imagery teach about how prosperity can leave us unprepared for suffering?
3. In what ways do even natural resources (like Nimrim's waters) become subject to God's judgment on rebellious nations?

## Interlinear Text

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מִזֶּעֶק ת	חֶשְׁבֹּן וִן	עַד	אֶלְעָלָה ה	עַד	יַהֲזַח
From the cry	of Heshbon	H5704	even unto Elealeh	H5704	and even unto Jahaz
H2201	H2809		H500		H3096
נָתַן ו	קוֹלָם	מִצֹּר	עַד	חֹרֵן יִם	עֵגֶל ת
have they uttered	their voice	from Zoar	H5704	even unto Horonaim	as an heifer
H5414	H6963	H6820		H2773	H5697
שְׁלֹשִׁי ה	כִּי	גַם	יְי	נִמְרִים	לְמַשְׁמֹת
of three years old	H3588	H1571	for the waters	also of Nimrim	shall be desolate
H7992			H4325	H5249	H4923
יְהִי:					
H1961					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 32:3** (Parallel theme): Ataroth, and Dibon, and Jazer, and Nimrah, and Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Shebam, and Nebo, and Beon,

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