

in relation to God. We are either with Him or we are against Him.

After this interesting passage, verse 6 proceeds to condemn the pride of Moab. This would seem to imply that the plea for help went unheeded.

Although it is nowhere stated that Moab turns a deaf ear to the plea for help, it is apparent that she has done so. The fate described in chapter 15 is to come to her, and the following verses contain further elaboration of this theme.

Verse 6 is the only verse in the two chapters that contains an actual condemnation of the character of the Moabites. The condemnation here is on the ground of pride -- one of the very worst types of sin. Pride is the basis of much failure in our Christian lives. No sin is more severely condemned in God's Word. In the New Testament it is the Pharisee -- proud of his piety and of his self-righteousness -- who receives the greatest condemnation from the Lord. A humble spirit before God is the finest fruit of righteousness. Every sin can proceed from the root sin of pride.

Verses 7-11, like 15:1-9, present a vivid picture of the troubles ahead for Moab. Prosperity is to be brought to an end. People are to flee in terror. The prophet himself sympathizes deeply with the suffering of the Moabites.

Verse 12 is an unusual and interesting statement. Moab "shall come to his sanctuary to pray; but he shall not prevail." The verse does not make clear whether Moab prays to his god Chemosh or whether Moab actually comes to the Lord in prayer. Whichever is in mind here the result is the same. Moab does not prevail. It really doesn't make a great deal of difference to the sense of the passage whether Moab is here praying to a false god, which of course cannot bring help, or whether Moab is praying to the Lord but is simply praying in order to get help and not because of any repentance or real desire to serve Him. We often hear that prayer changes things and that is true and yet the statement in that brief form is not a correct one. It is not just any prayer that changes things but it is the true prayer of a heart that is devoted to God's service that changes things. Prayer is never a magical way of getting results. Prayer is bringing the heart in tune with God and getting oneself into such a relationship