

The Moabites

A relationship with Israel explained through Infographics

Time of the Patriarchs

Moab is born

Moab is born to Lot and his eldest daughter
Genesis 19:30-38

Moab becomes a nation

Leaving Egypt and the time of Wandering

Israel travels through Moab

Travelling along the border and through parts of Moab, Israel journeys toward the promised land.
Numbers 21-22

Balak Hires Balaam

The Moabite people see the great multitude of Israel and are terrified. Their King Balak, hires the seer Balaam to curse them as a result. The LORD intervenes directly with Balaam and instead he blesses them three times.
Numbers 22

Moab Seduces Israel

Failing to curse Israel, Moab instead try to sabotage Israel by a different method. The Moabite women invite the Israelite men to sacrifice to their gods, including engaging in sexual activity.
Numbers 25

The LORD tells Israel to leave Moab alone

Before entering the promised land, Moses repeats the promises and conditions of living in the promised land to Israel, along with the fact that they are not to fight with Moab as God has not given them any of the Moabites land.
Deuteronomy 2:9

The LORD declares no Moabite can enter his assembly

Because the Moabites did not greet Israel with bread and water when they left Egypt, and hired Balaam to curse them.
Deuteronomy 23:2-4

Moses dies in Moab

Moses dies and is buried in Moab, without entering the promised land.
Deuteronomy 34:5

The time of the Judges

Eglon King of Moab, defeats Israel

Israel sins in the sight of God, so he gives them into the hands of Eglon. Moab rules over them for 18 years.
Judges 3:12-14

Ehud rescues Israel from Moab

Left-handed Ehud assassinates Eglon and escapes. He then summons an army who strike down 10,000 Moabites, bringing Moab into submission. Israel then rules Moab for 80 years.
Judges 3:12-28

Israelites Elimelek and Naomi move to Moab

During a time of famine Elimelek and Naomi move to Moab with their two sons, Mahlon and Kilion. Those two sons marry Moabite women Orpah and Ruth.
Ruth 1:1-5

Israelite Naomi and Moabite Ruth, move back to Israel

After her husband and both sons die, Ruth moves back to Israel. Of her two daughters-in-law Orpah opts to stay in Moab, while her second Ruth joins her in Israel.
Ruth 1:3-18

Moabite Ruth marries Israelite Boaz

Ruth meets Boaz in his field while gleaning. Naomi encourages her to pursue him because he is a guardian-redeemer of the family. After offering the land and Naomi to near relative Elimelek, but he refuses. Boaz marries Ruth and they have a son, Obed.
Ruth 1:3-18

The time of the Kings

King Saul fights the enemies of Israel including the Moabites

After Saul assumes rule over Israel, he fights against their enemies on every side: Moab, the Ammonites, the Edomites, the kings of Zobah, and the Philistines.
1 Samuel 14:47

David stays with the Moabites

While fleeing Saul, stays with the King of Moab in Mizpah.
1 Samuel 14:47

King David defeats the Moabites

As he begins to subdue the enemies of Israel David defeats the Moabites. When subdued he makes them lie down on the ground and measures them off with a length of cord. Every two lengths of them are put to death, and the third length is allowed to live. So the Moabites become subject to David and bring him tribute. The spoils of war David devotes to the Lord.
1 Samuel 14:47, 14:11-12

King Solomon takes a Moabite wives, builds an altar to their god

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1 Kings 11:1, 7

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As a result God pronounces judgement on the house of David, promising to tear the kingdom out of his hands.
1 Kings 11:1, 7, 29-33

The Moabites form an alliance with the Ammonites and Meunites to wage war against Judah. They are defeated by the LORD

King Jehoshaphat of Judah sees the army rising against him and consults the LORD. As Judah goes out to meet the opposing army, the LORD throws it into disarray and the allies end up fighting and killing each other.
2 Chronicles 20:1-30

The Moabites rebel against Israel

In the wake of Israelite King Ahab's death, Moabite King Mesha rebels against Israel. Causing Israel to join with Judah to attempt to put down the rebellion.
2 Kings 3:4-5

The LORD gives Moab into Israel's & Judah's hands

The kings of Judah and Israel consult with Elisha, who declares the LORD will give Moab into their hands. He fills the land with water which the Moabite army thinks is the blood of their enemies. As a result they walk to the Israelite camp thinking they can plunder the dead, only to be attacked and overcome by Israel and Judah's forces.
2 Kings 3:4-27

The LORD sends raiders from Moab and other nations to destroy Judah

Judah is conquered by Babylon. King Jehoiakim acts as a vassal for Nebuchadnezzar, until he rebels, at which point the LORD uses a variety of Israel's enemies to destroy Jehoiakim as a result of his sin.
2 Kings 24:1-5

The time of Exile & the Return

The LORD declares judgement against Moab and other nations

Through the prophets the LORD declares judgement against Moab for their sins against him and his people Israel.
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Zephaniah,

Times met in battle

6

Total years ruling over Israel



Gods worshipped

1

 • Chemosh

Notable Moabites

Ruth
Married Israelite Boaz, gave birth to Obed, the grandfather of King David.

Balak
Hired Balaam the seer to curse Israel.

Eglon
Conquered Israel and ruled for 18 years. Assassinated by the Israelite judge Ehud.

Mentions outside of the Bible

Mesha Stele/ Moabite Stone
Describes how King Mesha of Moab rescued the Moabites from Israelite rule.