
GOD AND THE HOUSE OF DAVID

In 1868, a stone was uncovered in the biblical city of Dibon, on which was recorded victories over the Israelites by Mesha, king of Moab.



MESHA STONE

Battles between Israel and this same Mesha are also recorded in the Bible. It is uncertain whether the victories on the stone were recorded before or after the kings of Israel and Judah fought against king Mesha, around 850 B.C., as recorded in 2 Kings 3:4-26, in which Israel, with God's help, was victorious.

The following is a translation of the text taken from the Mesha stone:

- 1) I **Mesha**, son of Chemosh, Mesha's king, the
- 2) Dibonite. My father **governed Moab** for 30 years, then I reigned
- 3) after my father. I made a high place for Chemosh in Qarhoh,
- 4) for he protected me from all the kings and caused me to triumph over all my enemies.

5) As for Omri king of Israel, he oppressed Moab for many years, for Chemosh was furious with his

6) country. And his son followed in his footsteps, and he also said: "I will cast down Moab." In my days, he spoke,

7) but I triumphed over his house. And Israel has passed away forever. Omri occupied Medeba's land.

8) And he lived in it during his time and in the days of his sons; 40 years; yet Chemosh

9) reinstated it in my days. And I built Baal-meon, and I made a water supply in it; and I built

10) Qaryaten. And the men of Gad dwelt in the land of Atarot from of old, and Israel's king built

11) Atarot for them; but I fought against that city and I slew all the people of

12) the city as revenge for Chemosh and Moab. And I brought the altar-hearth of his beloved, and I carted

13) it before Chemosh in Kerioth. And I established the men of Sharon and the men of Maharith in it.

14) And Chemosh said to me: "Go! Bring Nebo against Israel."

15) So I went by night and fought from sunrise until noon.

16) taking it and slaying all 7,000 men, boys, women, girls,

17) and maidservants, because I dedicated them to Ashtar-Chemosh. And I took from there the altar-

18) hearths of YHWH, dragging them before Chemosh. And Israel's king built

19) Jahaz, and settled there while he did battle with me; but Chemosh drove him out before my eyes.

20) I took with me two hundred men from Moab, all chief warriors, and sent them to Jahaz; and I

21) added it to Dibon. I constructed Qarhoh with the wall of the forest and the wall

22) of the acropolis; along with its gates and towers.

- 23)** I built the house of the king; and its water reservoirs for inside
- 24)** the city; for there was no water inside the town of Qarhoh, so I said to the residents: "Make for yourself
- 25)** a cistern in every house"; I cut trees for use in Qarhoh with the prisoners
- 26)** of Israel. **I built Aroer** and a roadway through the Arnon.
- 27)** I built Beth-bamoth, for it was in ruins; and I built **Bezer**, for it was desolate.
- 28)** And the men of Dibon were loyal to my rule. And I reigned
- 29)** over hundreds of villages which I added to my country. **I built**
- 30)** **the temple of Medeba and the temple of Diblaten and the temple of Baal-meon; and I introduced there**
- 31)** [. . .] **sheep of the land.** While the **house of David inhabited Horonaim.**
- 32)** [. . .] and Chemosh said to me: "Go down! Attack Horonaim." So I advanced against it, and
- 33)** Chemosh reestablished it in my days.

A) LINES 1-3 mentions king **Mesha**, a **Dibonite** who ruled over Moab. He also worshiped a Moabite god called **Chemosh**, whom he attributes his victories to.

The Bible in 2 Kings 3:4 verifies **Mesha was the king of Moab** during their revolt against Israel. The Bible also states in Numbers 21:29-30; that **Dibon** was a city in the land of Moab and mentions their god, **Chemosh**.

B) LINES 5-6 of the Mesha stone state that Omri was king of Israel and that he was succeeded by his son.

THE BIBLE confirms this in 1 Kings 16:23 & 28: "**In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel . . . Then**

Ahab his son reigned in his place."

C) LINES 7 & 9 say that King Omri of Israel took possession of the land of **Medeba** and that Mesha took it back. Mesha then built **Baal-meon**.

THE BIBLE states that this land belonged to the tribe of Reuben who along with the tribe of Gad and half tribe of Manassah did not cross over into the promised land, but settled on the eastern side of the Jordan river as recorded in Numbers chapter 32. This territory (Moab) is described in Joshua 13:15-17:

"And Moses had given to the tribe of the children of Reuben an inheritance according to their families. Their territory was from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and the city that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain by **Medeba**; Heshbon and all its cities that are in the plain: **Dibon**, Bamoth Baal, **Beth Baal Meon** . . .

D) LINE 8 says that **Omri and his sons (blood line relatives) ruled for 40 years**. **The BIBLE** says the same thing starting in 1 Kings 16:23:

"In the thirty first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel.

Omri ruled for twelve years, six of those years he co-reined with Tibni, and for **6** years he ruled as king of Israel from 880-874 B.C., his son Ahab took over and ruled **22** years from 874-853 B.C.(1 Kings 16:29), then Ahab's son Ahaziah ruled **2** years from 853-852 B.C.(1 Kings 22:51), Ahab's last son Joram ruled **10** years from 852-841 B.C., **a total of 40 years**. Joram was killed by Jehu in his eleventh year as king. (2 Kings 9:14-29) Jehu ruled from 841-814 B.C., and was not related to Omri.

E) LINE 9 says that after Omri and his sons were in the land **40 years**, the territory was restored to him. It is interesting to note that during the reign of the following king of Israel, Jehu, **THE BIBLE** says in 2 Kings 10:32-33:

"In those days the LORD began to cut off parts of Israel; and Hazael conquered them in all the territory of **Israel from the Jordan eastward**: all the land of Gilead; **Gad**, Reuben, and Manasseh; **from Aroer, which is by the River Arnon**, including Gilead and Bashan." **LINE 26** mentions **Aroer** as a city in the hands of Mesha. Thus it is very possible that the events mentioned on the Mesha stone may have occurred during Jehu's rule as King.

F) LINE 10 mentions one of the twelve tribes of Israel, **Gad**, and says that they dwelt in the land of **Atarot (Ataroth) from of old**. **THE BIBLE** says:
"So Moses gave to the children of Gad . . . the cities of the surrounding country. And the children of **Gad built Dibon and Ataroth . . .**" Numbers 32:33

G) LINE 13 refers to the men of **Sharon**. This land is mentioned in 1Chronicles 5:16:
"And the **Gadites** dwelt in Gilead, in Bashan and in its villages, and in all the common-lands of **Sharon** within their borders.

H) LINE 14 mentions the city of **Nebo**. **THE BIBLE** mentions **Nebo** in Numbers 32:38 as territory Moses gave to the tribe of Reuben & Gad. Jeremiah the prophet also mentions Nebo as a town of Moab, Jeremiah 48:20-22.

I) LINE 17 speaks of another Moabite god, **Ashtar-Kamosh**. **THE BIBLE** says:
"Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the **Ashtoreths**, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the **gods of Moab . . .**" Judges 10:6

J) LINE 18 makes a reference to the altar hearths of **YHWH**. "**YHWH**" is the Hebrew word for God (Yahweh), spelled just as it is in the Hebrew Bible.

Psalms 68:4 says "Sing to God, sing praises to His name; Extol Him who rides on the clouds, By His name **YHWH** (YAHH), And rejoice before Him.

K) LINE 19 mentions the city of **Yahaz**. **THE BIBLE** mentions this Moabite city in Isaiah 15:4: "Heshbon and Elealeh will cry out, Their voice shall be heard as far as **Jahaz**; Therefore, the armed soldiers of **Moab** will cry out"

L) LINE 21 mentions the city of Dibon. **THE BIBLE** says: "**Gad built Dibon** .Numbers 32:33-34

M) LINE 26 says "**I built Aroer** and a roadway through the Arnon." **THE BIBLE** says: "And the children of **Gad** built Dibon and Ataroth and **Aroer**." Numbers 32:34

"And this land, which we possessed at that time, from **Aroer**, which is by the **River Arnon**, . . . , I gave to the **Reubenites and the Gadites**.

Deuteronomy 3:12

N) LINE 27 mentions the town of **Bezer**. Originally this town was controlled by the tribe of Reuben according to **The Bible**, which says:

". . . the tribe of Reuben, **Bezer** with its common-land, **Jahaz** with its common-land, . . .

Joshua 21:36

O) LINE 30 speaks of the **temples of Medeba, Diblaten**, and Baal-meon, which were built by this Moabite king. **The PROPHET ISAIAH** forecast the destruction of these pagan temples:

"He has gone up to the **temple and Dibon**, to the high places to weep. **Moab will wail over Nebo and over Medeba**; On all their heads will be baldness, And every beard cut off."

Isaiah 15:2

P) LINE 30 & 31 says that **Mesha introduced there . . . sheep of the land.** **THE BIBLE** confirms that Mesha raised sheep: "**Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and he regularly paid the king of Israel one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams.**"

2 Kings 3:4



Q) LINE 31 says: "And the **House of David inhabited Horonaim.**" Here is found one of the first references outside the Bible to King David and his descendants, who were from the tribe of Judah.

Mesha also makes a distinction between the men of Israel and the House of David. This is exactly how the Bible states Israel was divided as a kingdom during this time. Jehosophat was king of Judah from the house of David, while Joram was the king of Israel (from 848 B.C.to 852 B.C.), according to 2Kings chapter 3.

The town of **Horonaim** is also mentioned in Jeremiah 48:3-7: "A voice of crying shall be from **Horonaim**: 'Plundering and great destruction! "**Moab** is destroyed; . . . And **Chemosh** shall go forth into captivity, His priests and his princes together."

Conclusion: Once again the Bible has been proven to be 100% reliable.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS GIVEN BY YHWH

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."
Deuteronomy 6: 4-5

"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."
Leviticus 19: 18

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' "This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22: 35-40

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