

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Oracle against Tyre (September 18, 587 BC)

Ezekiel 26:1–28:19

The Announcement of Tyre's Demise

26:1 In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

2 "Son of man, because Tyre has said about Jerusalem, 'Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has swung open to me. I will become rich, now that she has been destroyed,'

3 therefore this is what the sovereign LORD says: Look, I am against you, O Tyre! I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves.

4 They will destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers. I will scrape her soil from her and make her a bare rock.

5 She will be a place where fishing nets are spread, surrounded by the sea. For I have spoken, declares the sovereign LORD. She will become plunder for the nations,

6 and her daughters who are in the field will be slaughtered by the sword. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

The Agent of God's Judgment

7 "For this is what the sovereign LORD says: Take note that I am about to bring King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north, with horses, chariots, and horsemen, an army and hordes of people.

8 He will kill your daughters in the field with the sword. He will build a siege wall against you, erect a siege ramp against you, and raise a great shield against you.

9 He will direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and tear down your towers with his weapons.

10 He will cover you with the dust kicked up by his many horses. Your walls will shake from the noise of the horsemen, wheels, and chariots when he enters your gates like those who invade through a city's broken walls.

11 With his horses' hoofs he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people with the sword, and your strong pillars will tumble down to the ground.

12 They will steal your wealth and loot your merchandise. They will tear down your walls and destroy your luxurious homes. Your stones, your trees, and your soil he will throw into the water.

13 I will silence the noise of your songs; the sound of your harps will be heard no more.

14 I will make you a bare rock; you will be a place where fishing nets are spread. You will never be built again, for I, the LORD, have spoken, declares the sovereign LORD.

The International Impact of Tyre's Demise

15 "This is what the sovereign LORD says to Tyre: Oh, how the coastlands will shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, at the massive slaughter in your midst!

16 All the princes of the sea will vacate their thrones. They will remove their robes and strip off their embroidered clothes; they will clothe themselves with trembling. They will sit on the ground; they will tremble continually and be shocked at what has happened to you.

17 They will sing this lament over you:

"How you have perished—you have vanished from the seas,
O renowned city, once mighty in the sea,
she and her inhabitants, who spread their terror!

18 Now the coastlands will tremble on the day of your fall;
the coastlands by the sea will be terrified by your passing.'

The Role of Yahweh in Tyre's Demise

19 "For this is what the sovereign LORD says: When I make you desolate like the uninhabited cities, when I bring up the deep over you and the surging waters overwhelm you,

20 then I will bring you down to bygone people, to be with those who descend to the pit. I will make you live in the lower parts of the earth, among the primeval ruins, with those who descend to the pit, so that you will not be inhabited or stand in the land of the living.

21 I will bring terrors on you, and you will be no more! Though you are sought after, you will never be found again, declares the sovereign LORD."

Lament over the Shipwreck of Tyre

27:1 The word of the LORD came to me:

2 "You, son of man, sing a lament for Tyre.

3 Say to Tyre, who sits at the entrance of the sea, merchant to the peoples on many coasts, 'This is what the sovereign LORD says:

"O Tyre, you have said, "I am perfectly beautiful."

- 4 Your borders are in the heart of the seas;
your builders have perfected your beauty.
- 5 They crafted all your planks out of fir trees from Senir;
they took a cedar from Lebanon to make your mast.
- 6 They made your oars from oaks of Bashan;
they made your deck with cypresses from the Kittean isles.
- 7 Fine linen from Egypt, woven with patterns, was used for your sail
to serve as your banner;
blue and purple from the coastlands of Elishah was used for your deck's awning.
- 8 The leaders of Sidon and Arvad were your rowers;
your skilled men, O Tyre, were your captains.
- 9 The elders of Gebal and her skilled men were within you, mending cracks;
all the ships of the sea and their mariners were within you to trade for your merchandise.
- 10 Men of Persia, Lud, and Put were in your army, men of war.
They hung shield and helmet on you; they gave you your splendor.
- 11 The Arvadites joined your army on your walls all around,
and the Gammadites were in your towers.
They hung their quivers on your walls all around;
they perfected your beauty.
- 12 "Tarshish was your trade partner because of your abundant wealth; they exchanged silver, iron, tin, and lead for your products.
13 Javan, Tubal, and Meshech were your clients; they exchanged slaves and bronze items for your merchandise.
14 Beth Togarmah exchanged horses, chargers, and mules for your products.
15 The Dedanites were your clients. Many coastlands were your customers; they paid you with ivory tusks and ebony.
16 Edom was your trade partner because of the abundance of your goods; they exchanged turquoise, purple, embroidered work,
fine linen, coral, and rubies for your products.
17 Judah and the land of Israel were your clients; they traded wheat from Minnith, millet, honey, olive oil, and balm for your
merchandise.
18 Damascus was your trade partner because of the abundance of your goods and of all your wealth: wine from Helbon, white wool
from Zahar,
19 and casks of wine from Izal they exchanged for your products. Wrought iron, cassia, and sweet cane were among your
merchandise.
20 Dedan was your client in saddlecloths for riding.
21 Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your trade partners; for lambs, rams, and goats they traded with you.
22 The merchants of Sheba and Raamah engaged in trade with you; they traded the best kinds of spices along with precious stones
and gold for your products.
23 Haran, Kanneh, Eden, merchants from Sheba, Asshur, and Kilmad were your clients.
24 They traded with you choice garments, purple clothes and embroidered work, and multicolored carpets, bound and reinforced
with cords; these were among your merchandise.
25 The ships of Tarshish were the transports for your merchandise.
- "So you were filled and weighed down in the heart of the seas.
- 26 Your rowers have brought you into surging waters.
The east wind has wrecked you in the heart of the seas.
- 27 Your wealth, products, and merchandise, your sailors and captains,
your ship's carpenters, your merchants,
and all your fighting men within you,
along with all your crew who are in you,
will fall into the heart of the seas on the day of your downfall.
- 28 At the sound of your captains' cry the waves will surge;
29 They will descend from their ships—all who handle the oar,
the sailors and all the sea captains—they will stand on the land.
- 30 They will lament loudly over you and cry bitterly.
They will throw dust on their heads and roll in the ashes;
- 31 they will tear out their hair because of you and put on sackcloth,
and they will weep bitterly over you with intense mourning.
- 32 As they wail they will lament over you, chanting:
"Who was like Tyre, like a tower in the midst of the sea?"

- 33 When your products went out from the seas,
you satisfied many peoples;
with the abundance of your wealth and merchandise
you enriched the kings of the earth.
- 34 Now you are wrecked by the seas, in the depths of the waters;
your merchandise and all your company have sunk along with you.
- 35 All the inhabitants of the coastlands are shocked at you,
and their kings are horribly afraid—their faces are troubled.
- 36 The traders among the peoples hiss at you;
you have become a horror, and will be no more.”

Doom for the Prince of Tyre

28:1 The word of the LORD came to me:

2 “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says:

- “Your heart is proud and you said, ‘I am a god;
I sit in the seat of gods, in the heart of the seas’—
yet you are a man and not a god,
though you think you are godlike.
- 3 Look, you are wiser than Daniel;
no secret is hidden from you.
- 4 By your wisdom and understanding you have gained wealth for yourself;
you have amassed gold and silver in your treasuries.
- 5 By your great skill in trade you have increased your wealth,
and your heart is proud because of your wealth.
- 6 “Therefore this is what the sovereign LORD says:
Because you think you are godlike,
- 7 I am about to bring foreigners against you, the most terrifying of nations.
They will draw their swords against the grandeur made by your wisdom,
and they will defile your splendor.
- 8 They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die violently in the heart of the seas.
- 9 Will you still say, ‘I am a god,’ before the one who kills you—
though you are a man and not a god—
when you are in the power of those who wound you?
- 10 You will die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners;
for I have spoken, declares the sovereign LORD.”

Lament for the King of Tyre (a type of Satan)

11 The word of the LORD came to me:

12 “Son of man, sing a lament for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says:

- “You were the sealer of perfection,
full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.
- 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God.
Every precious stone was your covering,
the ruby, topaz, and emerald,
the chrysolite, onyx, and jasper,
the sapphire, turquoise, and beryl;
your settings and mounts were made of gold.
On the day you were created they were prepared.
- 14 I placed you there with an anointed guardian cherub;
you were on the holy mountain of God;
you walked about amidst fiery stones.
- 15 You were blameless in your behavior from the day you were created,
until sin was discovered in you.
- 16 In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned;
so I defiled you and banished you from the mountain of God—
the guardian cherub expelled you from the midst of the stones of fire.

- 17 Your heart was proud because of your beauty;
you corrupted your wisdom on account of your splendor.
I threw you down to the ground;
I placed you before kings, that they might see you.
- 18 By the multitude of your iniquities, through the sinfulness of your trade,
you desecrated your sanctuaries.
So I drew fire out from within you;
it consumed you,
and I turned you to ashes on the earth
before the eyes of all who saw you.
- 19 All who know you among the peoples are shocked at you;
you have become terrified and will be no more.”

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Oracle against Sidon (September 18, 587 BC)

Ezekiel 28:20–26

- 20 The word of the LORD came to me:
21 “Son of man, turn toward Sidon and prophesy against it.
22 Say, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says:
- “Look, I am against you, Sidon,
and I will magnify myself in your midst.
Then they will know that I am the LORD
when I execute judgments on her
and reveal my sovereign power in her.
- 23 I will send a plague into the city and bloodshed into its streets;
the slain will fall within it, by the sword that attacks it from every side.
Then they will know that I am the LORD.
- 24 “No longer will Israel suffer from the sharp briars or painful thorns of all who surround and scorn them. Then they will know that I am the sovereign LORD.
25 “This is what the sovereign LORD says: When I regather the house of Israel from the peoples where they are dispersed, I will reveal my sovereign power over them in the sight of the nations, and they will live in their land that I gave to my servant Jacob.
26 They will live securely in it; they will build houses and plant vineyards. They will live securely when I execute my judgments on all those who scorn them and surround them. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God.”

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