

September 2 Answers

- 1) Instead of being sad at the devastation the Babylonians had wreaked on Jerusalem, the Tyrians chortled with **glee** (Ezek 26:2). At the time, Tyre controlled the **sea** trade routes, while Judah controlled the **land** trade routes. Controlling trade routes enabled a nation to impose **tolls** and obtain **revenue**. Now that Jerusalem was destroyed, the Tyrians could seize control of this important income. God's reaction shows us that it's *not* a smart idea to **laugh** at the judgment He brings on His own people! (cf. Prov 24:17–18; Obad 1:12). God said to Tyre: "Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its **waves**" (Ezek 26:3–5). The first wave of judgment brought **Nebuchadnezzar** and the Babylonians (Ezek 26:7–11). He besieged Tyre for 13 years, and when he was done, the mainland city lay in ruins. The second wave of judgment brought the **Persians**, who subjugated the Tyrians around 525 BC. The third wave of judgment brought the mighty king of **Greece**, Alexander the Great (Ezek 26:12–14). He marched against Tyre in 332 BC, some **255** years after Ezekiel's prophecy. Alexander destroyed the mainland city and used the debris to construct a **causeway** across the water to the island stronghold. This fulfilled God's word that Tyre's enemies would "throw your stones and your timbers and your debris into the **water**" (Ezek 26:12). The description of Tyre's demise is one of the most detailed in Scripture, and its fulfillment is **evidence** for the truth of God's word. Today the island stronghold of Tyre is still a pile of rubble, a testament to God's judgment on sin!