

Pentwater Bible Church

Book of Ezekiel

Message 57

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Ancient Tyre Artist Unknown

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel
Message Fifty-Seven

THE LORD JUDGES TYRE PART III

October 9, 2016

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 27:12-27

¹²Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kinds of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded for thy wares. ¹³Javan, Tubal, and Meshech, they were thy traffickers; they traded the persons of men and vessels of brass for thy merchandise. ¹⁴They of the house of Togarmah traded for thy wares with horses and war-horses and mules. ¹⁵The men of Dedan were thy traffickers; many isles were the mart of thy hand: they brought thee in exchange horns of ivory and ebony. ¹⁶Syria was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of thy handiworks: they traded for thy wares with emeralds, purple, and brodered work, and fine linen, and coral, and rubies. ¹⁷Judah, and the land of Israel, they were thy traffickers: they traded for thy merchandise wheat of Minnith, and pannag, and honey, and oil, and balm. ¹⁸Damascus was thy merchant for the multitude of thy handiworks, by reason of the multitude of all kinds of riches, with the wine of Helbon, and white wool. ¹⁹Vedan and Javan traded with yarn for thy wares: bright iron, cassia, and calamus, were among thy merchandise. ²⁰Dedan was thy trafficker in precious cloths for riding. ²¹Arabia, and all the princes of Kedar, they were the merchants of thy hand; in lambs, and rams, and goats, in these were they thy merchants. ²²The traffickers of Sheba and Raamah, they were thy traffickers; they traded for thy wares with the chief of all spices, and with all precious stones, and gold. ²³Haran and Canneh and Eden, the traffickers of Sheba, Asshur and Chilmad, were thy traffickers. ²⁴These were thy traffickers in choice wares, in wrappings of blue and brodered work, and in chests of rich apparel, bound with cords and made of cedar, among thy merchandise. ²⁵The ships of Tarshish were thy caravans for thy merchandise: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the heart of the seas, ²⁶Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the heart of the seas. ²⁷Thy riches, and thy wares, thy merchandise, thy mariners, and thy pilots, thy calkers, and the dealers in thy merchandise, and all thy men of war, that are in thee, with all thy company which is in the midst of thee, shall fall into the heart of the seas in the day of thy ruin (ASV, 1901).

TYRE'S TRADING PARTNERS AND COMMERCE

This section of Scripture describes in great detail the level of commercial glory that was of Tyre. The Lord gives Ezekiel a series of very descriptive and even artful expressions as He provides the imagery of products that were sought after in place of Him. This again is the entire issue that God is raising with Tyre in the three chapters that He devotes to them. They desired the material goods in abundance of this world instead of the Creator who brought them to the world. This has been one of the visible problems regarding a

departure from a God centered life since the Fall. Man wants something other than God and frequently money replaces Him. God continues the illustration of Tyre being represented as a ship. All the godless economic activity that the world lusted after will reach its culmination in the Tribulation.

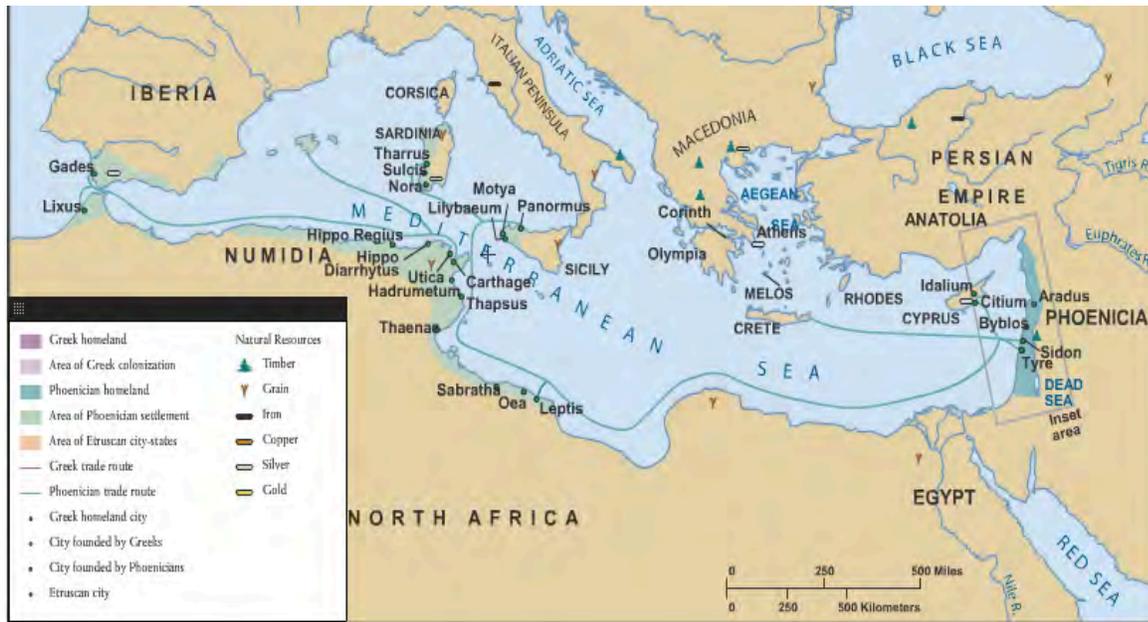
Revelation 18:1-20

¹After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ²And he cried with a mighty voice, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and is become a habitation of demons, and a hold of every unclean spirit, and a hold of every unclean and hateful bird. ³For by the wine of the wrath of her fornication all the nations are fallen; and the kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth waxed rich by the power of her wantonness.

⁴And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come forth, my people, out of her, that ye have no fellowship with her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues: ⁵for her sins have reached even unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. ⁶Render unto her even as she rendered, and double unto her the double according to her works: in the cup which she mingled, mingle unto her double. ⁷How much soever she glorified herself, and waxed wanton, so much give her of torment and mourning: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall in no wise see mourning. ⁸Therefore in one day shall her plagues come, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire; for strong is the Lord God who judged her. ⁹And the kings of the earth, who committed fornication and lived wantonly with her, shall weep and wail over her, when they look upon the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. ¹¹And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, for no man buyeth their merchandise any more; ¹²merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stone, and pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet; and all thyine wood, and every vessel of ivory, and every vessel made of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble; ¹³and cinnamon, and spice, and incense, and ointment, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and cattle, and sheep; and merchandise of horses and chariots and slaves; and souls of men. ¹⁴And the fruits which thy soul lusted after are gone from thee, and all things that were dainty and sumptuous are perished from thee, and men shall find them no more at all. ¹⁵The merchants of these things, who were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning; ¹⁶saying, Woe, woe, the great city, she that was arrayed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and decked with gold and precious stone and pearl! ¹⁷for in one hour so great riches is made desolate. And every shipmaster, and every one that saileth any whither, and mariners, and as many as gain their living by sea, stood afar off, ¹⁸and cried out as they looked upon the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like the great city? ¹⁹And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and mourning, saying, Woe, woe, the great city, wherein all that had their ships in the sea were made rich by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

²⁰*Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye saints, and ye apostles, and ye prophets; for God hath judged your judgment on her (ASV, 1901).*

Tyrian merchants were the first who ventured to navigate the Mediterranean waters, and they founded their colonies on the coasts and neighboring islands of the Aegean Sea, in Greece, on the northern coast of Africa, at Carthage and other places, in Sicily and Corsica, in Spain at Tarshish.



Trade Routes of Ancient Tyre/Phoenicia; From: <https://apworld2012.wikispaces.com/Phoenicia+and+the+Mediterranean+B6>

She grew wealthy from her far-reaching colonies and her industries of purple-dyed textiles. By 1200 BC the nomadic Canaanite communities shifted to a city-state way of life and government. Seaborne commerce, especially near the coasts of modern-day Syria and Lebanon, became the central economic source of wealth.

Tyre's rise to prominence was led by King Hiram (Cir. 1000 B.C.). This city-state gained influence through access to silver, food and trade routes to the East and South. Their entire economic system was centered on seaborne trade and commerce. They dominated the entire Mediterranean with a network of ports. The had could best be described as a network of a large commercial maritime monopoly.

Within a hundred years the Phoenicians established colonies on Cyprus. By 800 B.C. Tyre took control of Sidon which, this point the Phoenicians dominated Mediterranean trade. They were clearly driven by the occult during the reign of the Israeli king Ahab (Cir 890-850 B.C.) as he married the occultic Jezebel the daughter of Ithobal I of Sidon. By 500 B.C. the religious practice of sacrificing of children was common in the general population. Nebuchadnezzar conquered the mainland component of Tyre and Alexander of Macedon completely destroyed the island Tyre in 332 B.C. as prophecied. The level of trade and all twenty three of Tyre's trading partners are described in great detail in this section of Scripture. This is where these names appear in scripture describing them as family names as well as countries.

Tarshish, Genesis 10:4; Jeremiah 10:9; Ezekiel 38:13; Jonah 1:3
Javan (Greece), Genesis 10:2; Isaiah 66:19
Tubal, Genesis 10:2; Isaiah 66:19; Ezekiel 32:26; 38:2–3; 39:1
Meshech, Genesis 10:2; Ezekiel 32:26; 38:2–3; 39:1
Beth-togarmah, Genesis 10:3; Ezekiel 38:6
Rhodes, Acts 21:1
Edom (Aram?), Genesis 32:3; Ezekiel 25:12–14; Amos 1:11–12
Judah, Ezekiel 4:6; 8:1, 17; 9:9; 21:20; 25:3, 8, 12; 37:16
Damascus, II Kings 8:7–15; Jer. 49:23–27; Amos 1:3–5
Helbon (village near Damascus)
Uzal, Genesis 10:27
Dedan, Genesis 10:7; Jeremiah 49:8; Ezekiel 25:13; 38:13
Arabia, I Kings 10:15; Isaiah 21:13–17; Galatians 1:17; 4:25
Kedar, Genesis 25:13; Psalms 120:5; Isaiah 60:7; Jeremiah 49:28–30
Sheba, Psalms 72:10, 15; Isaiah 60:6; Jeremiah. 6:20; I Kings 10:1–2
Raamah, Genesis 10:7
Haran, Genesis 11:26–32; Isaiah 37:12
Canneh (on south coast of Arabia)
Eden, Isaiah 51:3; Ezekiel 28:13; 31:9–18
Asshur/Assyria, Genesis 2:14; 10:11, 22; II Kings 18:7–19:36; Isaiah 7:17
Chilmad (obscure)

TARSHISH TYRE’S MERCHANT

Ezekiel 27:12

¹²Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kinds of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded for thy wares (ASV, 1901).

Tarshish is thought to be on southwest coast of Spain near the mouth of the Guadala River. It was a coastal city with seafaring people who also traded. Interestingly God describes them as *thy merchant*. He means that even though they were a great seafaring power in their own right next to Tyre they were weak and essentially dominated by Tyre economically. In the Hebrew the word for merchant is *schar*. In its feminine form used in this chapter is denotes weakness. Others are defined as mere traffickers denoting a lesser participant in the Mediterranean economy.

THE TRADING PARTNERS AND MERCHANDISE

Ezekiel 27:13-24

Each nation is described along with the particular commodity they traded with Tyre.

No.	Name	Location	Merchandise
1	Tarshish	Spain (?)	Silver, iron, tin, lead
2	Greece	Greece	Slaves, bronze tools
3	Tubal	E. Turkey	Salves, bronze tools
4	Meshech	Mid Turkey	Slaves, bronze tools

5	Beth Toga	E. Turkey	Work Horses, war horses, mules
6	Rhodes	Rhodes	Ivory tusks, ebony
7	Aram	Syria	Turquoise, purple fabric, embroidered work, fine linen, coral rubies
8	Judah	Israel	Wheat, olive oil, balm, confections, honey
9	Israel	N Israel	Wheat, olive oil, balm, confections, honey
10	Damascus	Syria	Wine, wool
11	Danites	Aden (?)	Wrought Iron, cassia (perfume source), calamus herb
12	Greeks Uzal	Yemen	Wrought iron, cassia, calamus
13	Dedan	Arabia	Saddle blankets
14	Arabia	Arabia	Lambs, rams, goats
15	Kedar	Arabia	Lambs, rams, goats
16	Sheba	S Arabia	Spices, jewels, gold
17	Raamah	S. Arabia	Spices, jewels, gold
18	Haran	Mesopotamia	Blue fabric, embroidered work, multicolored rugs
19	Canneh	Mesopotamia	Blue fabric, embroidered work, multicolored rugs
20	Eden	Mesopotamia	Blue fabric, embroidered work, multicolored rugs
21	Sheba	Mesopotamia	Blue fabric, embroidered work, multicolored rugs
22	Asshur	Mesopotamia	Blue fabric, embroidered work, multicolored rugs
23	Kilmad	Mesopotamia	Blue fabric, embroidered work, multicolored rugs

THE SHIPS OF TARSHISH

Ezekiel 27:25

²⁵The ships of Tarshish were thy caravans for thy merchandise: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the heart of the seas (ASV, 1901).

The best traders of Tarshish were used for the transportation of the goods that Tyre bought and sold to many on the Mediterranean. Another way to explain this would be to state that the ships of Tarshish beat a path to the port of Tyre. It is clear that Tyre traded with about two dozen nations and cities. It demonstrates the vast influence and commercial expertise she had. Tyre's trading was very active so that the ships of Tarshish were needed to be carriers for Tyre's commercial products. "Ships of Tarshish" probably referred to large vessels carrying cargo on the open sea. This was the same kind of ship Hiram and Solomon built to bring cargo to Israel (II Chronicles 9:21; 20:36-37; Isaiah 2:16).

THE IMAGERY OF TYRE AS A SHIP SINKS

Ezekiel 26:26-27

²⁶Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the heart of the seas. ²⁷Thy riches, and thy wares, thy merchandise, thy mariners, and thy pilots, thy calkers, and the dealers in thy merchandise, and all thy men of war, that are in thee, with all thy company which is in the midst of thee, shall fall into the heart of the seas in the day of thy ruin (ASV, 1901).

God started chapter twenty seven of this section of Scripture describing Tyre as a beautifully constructed ship. It was very successful in all its commerce but now He says that it is sinking. Tyre's destruction came in the open sea with a east wind that broke the ship to pieces. When storms hit like this one from the east the prudent mariners would stay safely close to shore to avoid the rough storms. But Tyre's ship which represents in image form an arrogant, proud, self assured entity that would never be destroyed. However while venturing to conduct her commercialism on "the high seas," was caught in a violent storm. During the fall and winter, weather on the Mediterranean becomes unpredictable and travel is hazardous (Acts 27:9–26). A storm that emerged from the east or northeast would blow a ship out into the ocean if it was not safely traveling close to shore. From there was little chance of its survival. Like a ship broken in pieces by the storm, Tyre with all its glory sinks into the depths of the sea. All of the wealth and all the possessions of Tyre, which fall with the ship sink into the heart of the sea. Therefore so goes the demise of their wealth and glory.

They who manned the ship also perish with the cargo,—“the seamen,” i.e., sailors, rowers, repairers of leaks (calkers). So too would the merchants on board, and the mercenary army who defended the ship as well as its goods against pirates. All would sink into the heart of the sea.

The description of Tyrus as a ship as given in the first part of this chapter. Here it is now shipwrecked. The east wind is Nebuchadnezzar, who came against the proud city to accomplish part of her ruin on the mainland portion. Alexander the Great, completed the work in 332 B.C. when the central island fell. Comparing this with Revelation chapter 18 does bring out the striking lesson. When finally Babylon (the commercial godless system) the great falls, that coming religious-commercial world-system, her fall and desolation, will surely be greater than the fall of Tyrus. God will bring the wickedness of this world's love for commerce instead of Him to a close.

NEXT MESSAGE: THE PROPHECY AGAINST THE ARAB NATIONS CONTINUED –TYRE PART IV
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