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## **SUNDAY SERMON**

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**

**Willow, Alaska**

**Date: March 04, 2018**

**Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 26:1-21**

**Text: Ezekiel 26:1-21**

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – Desolation of Tyre**

Two great principles are to be considered with this passage concerning the desolation of Tyre. First, let us consider God's promise to Abram when he called him from his home in Ur of the Chaldees:

**Genesis 12:1-3** *Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: **And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee:** and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

We have already see judgment pronounced of the LORD on the perpetual enemies of Israel in the preceding chapter – chapter 25. Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistia had all spoken against Judah and Israel and were, therefore, judged of the LORD. Now we come to consider Tyre in chapter 26. Tyre was a an ancient, beautiful and rich Phoenician city on the Mediterranean coast which was situated partly on the mainland and partly on an island very near the mainland so that the city was somewhat in two parts. It lay about 20 miles from Mt. Carmel. It is thought that Tyre was built shortly after the great flood of Noah after the people were scattered abroad on the face of the

earth. Tyre was a major Phoenician seaport from about 2000 BC through the Roman period. Today it is the fourth largest city in Lebanon after Beirut, Tripoli and Sidon. and houses one of the nation's major ports. We recall that our Lord visited the borders of Tyre and Sidon during his personal ministry – it was here that he healed the daughter of the Syrophenician Woman by casting out the unclean spirit in her. (Mark 7).

We have seen, through the centuries, the rise and fall of nations who have cursed and persecuted the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham. Secondly, we need to consider that Tyre was a very rich, pompous and proud city.

Someone has rightly said, "Pride is a five letter with "I" in the middle!"

**Proverbs 11:2** *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

**Proverbs 16:18** *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

**Proverbs 18:12** *Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.*

**Proverbs 29:23** *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

**Isaiah 2:11-12** *The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:*

**Matthew 23:12** *And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*

**1 Corinthians 10:12** *Wherefore let him that thinketh he*

*standeth take heed lest he fall.*

**1 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste:**

**Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, aha,** -- Like the Ammonites, the Moabites, and the Edomites, Tyre rejoiced at the destruction of Jerusalem. Tyre insulted the inhabitants over the destruction. What a barbarous and inhuman action! Moreover, the LORD resented it and because of it, brought judgment on Tyre. In the Proverbs, we see the mind of the Lord over such rejoicing at calamities.

**Proverbs 24:17** *Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:*

**Proverbs 17:5** *Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.*

**she is broken that was the gates of the people;** -- through Jerusalem's gates the people went in and out in great numbers. As we have seen in our study, Jerusalem was held in high esteem by the people of Israel – especially, those of Judah. But now the city was broken up, as Tyre said it was, by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar and its gates and walls were broken down, and the whole city lay in a very ruined condition.

**3 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up.**

**Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus,** -- What a horrible indictment to think of a land or city when the face of the LORD is against it! How can it withstand?

**Psalm 33:12** *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.*

**and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up.** – God would cause the nations to come up against Tyrus! He is the first cause of all things. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without the heavenly father, how much more does he deal in the affairs of men! God would move an army against Tyre and that army would come on them as a flood in the same way that the sea causes his waves to come up against the city to overwhelm it.

**4 And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.**

And what would be the result of God's sending those nations against Tyre? **And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers:** -- We can see from this that Tyre had erected walls around the city and towers upon which

the watchmen could stand in defense of the city. But, Nebuchadnezzar's army would break down both the walls and the towers.

***I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.*** – This speaks of the totality of the destruction of Tyre. The buildings and structures would be torn away with the walls and towers so that all was left was the smooth top of a rock with nothing on it.

***5 It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD: and it shall become a spoil to the nations.***

***It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea:*** -- these words give us an account of how this poverty and barrenness should come upon this rich city. The nations, under command of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, shall spoil her with a long, long siege. They would interrupt the trade and their quick living – and they would finally surrender. Like the little islets in the midst of the sea, it would be a place fit for spreading of nets only.

***For I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD: and it shall become a spoil to the nations.*** – The invading armies would take whatever they wanted from the city – utterly spoiling it.

***6 And her daughters which are in the field shall be slain by the sword; and they shall know that I am the LORD.***

This speaks either of the lesser cities about Tyre or of their

physical daughters outside the city. These should be slain by the sword of the soldiers. They would do as an invading army should do to those with whom they make war – destroy them or bring them into servitude. These would know that Jehovah had brought this upon them – the almighty who sees all, knows all, and changes not.

Verses 7-12 is an embellishment of the particulars of the battle against Tyre. Who they would – what they would do – and how they would get it done.

***7 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people. 8 He shall slay with the sword thy daughters in the field: and he shall make a fort against thee, and cast a mount against thee, and lift up the buckler against thee. 9 And he shall set engines of war against thy walls, and with his axes he shall break down thy towers. 10 By reason of the abundance of his horses their dust shall cover thee: thy walls shall shake at the noise of the horsemen, and of the wheels, and of the chariots, when he shall enter into thy gates, as men enter into a city wherein is made a breach. 11 With the hoofs of his horses shall he tread down all thy streets: he shall slay thy people by the sword, and thy strong garrisons shall go down to the ground. 12 And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise: and they shall break down thy walls, and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water.***

How horrible when a people have been thus conquered and subdued. Doubtless, they sit in solitude when possible and contemplate – wondering what happened, why did it happen? What will I do now? What has become of my family? My house? My money? My cattle? My business? They would have a very heavy heart, would they not.

***13 And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard.***

Before the army of the Chaldeans came against Tyre, there were no doubt noisy parties and festivals going on in the city – men and women singing and joyfully dancing and frolicking – not knowing until the flood came and took them all away! Now they sat, those who were left – dismayed, conquered, in heaviness and sorrow in so short a time. The music had stopped. The bands had hushed. No more jolly tunes and soothing music. Truth is that their heavy hearts did not want to hear a song!

**Proverbs 25:20** *As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.*

This is exactly how it will be in the end time when mighty Babylon is destroyed in one hour! How the merchants of the earth shall mourn and wail! The music and joviality shall all come to an end.

**Isaiah 3:18-24** *In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, The chains,*

*and the bracelets, and the mufflers, The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, The rings, and nose jewels, The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.*

Tyre seems to be set forth as a type of the destruction of “end times Babylon” over which the merchants of the earth shall weep and wail.

**Revelation 18:1-19** *And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.** Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according*

*to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great*

*riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! For in one hour is she made desolate.*

***14 And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the LORD have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.***

Again, reiterating the desolation that would come to this rich, beautiful, proud city. It would become like the top of a rock – nothing but a place for fishers to spread their nets on.

The LORD hath spoken it! He says it shall be – and who can say that it shall not? Who can withstand the Almighty?

***15 Thus saith the Lord GOD to Tyrus; Shall not the isles shake at the sound of thy fall, when the wounded cry, when the slaughter is made in the midst of thee?***

The reports of your destruction will make the isles shake when you fall. Doubtless, they will hear the cries of the dying when the slaughter comes!

***16 Then all the princes of the sea shall come down from their thrones, and lay away their robes, and put off their broidered garments: they shall clothe themselves with trembling; they shall sit upon the ground, and shall tremble at every moment,***

***and be astonished at thee.***

***Then all the princes of the sea shall come down from their thrones,*** -- That is, the kings of the islands of the sea shall lay aside all their royal grandeur, and the emblems of their grandeur. They shall leave their thrones of state, and sit in an humble posture totally opposed to what they had been doing before this terrible destruction of Tyre.

**and lay away their robes, and put off their broidered garments;** -- Their royal robes and clothing of needlework curiously and elaborately embroidered, and richly made, such as princes wear. We saw this in the king of Nineveh as he humbled himself at the preaching of Jonah.

**they shall clothe themselves with trembling;** -- They shall tremble and shake from head to foot in every joint, as if they were covered with it, as with a garment.

**they shall sit upon the ground;** -- Strange things for princes and kings, yet they shall do as Job did, and his friends, with dust and ashes on their heads, as persons in distress often did.

**and shall tremble at every moment;** -- continually, every hour, minute, and moment of the day: fearing lest the same invasion should come upon them; doubtless, thinking in their hearts of the utter ruin and destruction on Tyre which they fear will be their case also.

**and be astonished at thee;** -- Astonished (bewildered) that a city so wealthy, so proud, and so mighty should be brought so

low. O, beloved, trust not in uncertain riches which get themselves wings! But trust in the living God who richly gives us all things to enjoy – and give us peace with him and with men.

***17 And they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and say to thee, How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of seafaring men, the renowned city, which wast strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants, which cause their terror to be on all that haunt it!***

***And they shall take up a lamentation for thee, --*** The princes and kings of these aisles would take up a lamentation for Tyre – an expression of great sorrow; a cry of grief; an act of bewailing – mourning loudly with weeping over such a loss.

***and say to thee, How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of seafaring men, the renowned city,***

***How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of seafaring men!*** – So the lamentation goes - Alas, is it so? Can it be true? How is it that thou art destroyed, who hadst so many friends, so much riches?

**The renowned city --** for thy strength, wealth, and wisdom.

***which wast strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants, which cause their terror to be on all that haunt it! –*** who would dare to set on thee, for your terror was on all who were on the sea – they dropped their sails so you could pass for fear of you.

**18 Now shall the isles tremble in the day of thy fall; yea, the isles that are in the sea shall be troubled at thy departure. 19 For thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall make thee a desolate city, like the cities that are not inhabited; when I shall bring up the deep upon thee, and great waters shall cover thee;**

A reiteration of their fall in the lamentation.

**20 When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low parts of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I shall set glory in the land of the living;**

**When I shall bring thee down;** -- destroy thee, slay thee, and bury thee, throw thee into the grave.

**With the people of old time;** -- who are long since dead, and gone to their long home either in the earth or in the sea.

**And shall set thee in the low parts of the earth; that thou be not inhabited.** -- another description of the grave or the pit as it was in the earlier part of the verse. The term pit and the Hebrew word associated with always means a pit, a grave, or a dungeon, etc., not the bottomless pit. Tyre would be robbed of her inhabitants for they would be taken to the grave.

**And I shall set my glory;** -- restore the beauty, strength, wealth of Israel, bring them back to Jerusalem, to worship in a rebuilt temple.

**In the land of the living;** -- the land of Judea, called land of the living, because a land where God will bless and give life by his word and his mercy toward his own people. How different shall Tyre's captivity and Jerusalem's be.

***21 I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord GOD.***

I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more: God would make them an intense fear, fright, and dread. The inhabitants would be no more among the living.

***though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord GOD.*** – Here the LORD speaks of the inhabitants of Tyre. The armies of Nebuchadnezzar would remove all of them from the city and they would be no more. Not that there was to be no more a Tyre, but she was no more to be *the* Tyre that once was: her glory and name were to be no more. As, to Old Tyre, the prophecy was literally fulfilled, not a vestige of it being left.

Let me urge upon you, my hearers! If you are proud and lifted up in your mind – remember and consider.

**Matthew 23:12** And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

**Luke 18:10-14** *Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and*

*prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: **for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.***

**Proverbs 16:5** *Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.*

**Proverbs 16:18** *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

O, dear one, listen! Humble yourself. Cast yourself at Jesus' feet and cry to him to have mercy on you. He will not turn a deaf ear to the one who humbles himself before him and seeks mercy for his sins. Look to Him and be saved. Hear me! If you continue in your pride and obstinance, you will surely perish!

**Isaiah 13:9-13** *Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; **and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.** I will make a man more precious*

*than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.  
Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove  
out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the  
day of his fierce anger.*