

Message #30**Ezekiel 27:1-36**

We are in one of the most amazing sections in Ezekiel. Tyre was the most magnificent merchant city of the world when Ezekiel was on earth. She was a prosperous city; she was a beautiful city and she was a loved city. She was proud and God says you are going down; in fact, you are nothing more than a “sinking ship.”

This is the truth about any nation, state, city or individual. If someone becomes proud and does not humble himself before God, God will eventually break it and sink it and destroy it. That is a key lesson to learn from Tyre.

NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL OR PROSPEROUS SOMETHING IS IN THIS WORLD, ONE WHO PROUDLY TRUSTS IN SELF AND NOT THE LORD WILL EVENTUALLY BE TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

Now there is great prophetic data in these chapters that not only pertains to Israel and nations, but as you will see, also Satan.

Notice **verse 1**, the Word of the LORD came to Ezekiel and according to **verses 2-3** revealed a lamentation that he was to say specifically to Tyre. **Tyre is a prophetic target that dominates three chapters in Ezekiel.** There is much more here than meets the eye.

Now Tyre was the biggest and best city in the world. It was the ultimate place of worldliness and satanic activity. In fact, **verse 3** says it was the “merchant of the peoples to many coastlands.” Tyre was the best the world had to offer. It was prosperous and proud. It did not trust in God; it trusted in self.

It was so proud that according to verse 3, it said, “I am perfect in beauty.” It boasted of being the ultimate of perfection. She was a city that was lifted up proud and tall and she bragged about it.

Of course we know that is not true. There is only one who is perfect and that is God. But these people told others how wonderful and beautiful they were. But it does not matter how impressive the nation, city or person thinks about himself or talks about himself. It doesn't matter how much one brags. **Any nation, any city, any state, any individual who proudly and arrogantly defies God will be sunk like a ship in the sea.** That is the lamentation God told Ezekiel to take up against Tyre.

There is a big difference between what one says about himself and what God says about him. There was a big difference between what Tyre said about itself and what God said about Tyre. Many people have a high opinion of themselves; but God's assessment is totally opposite. He says take up a lamentation against Tyre.

Now the lamentation is comprised of three parts:

LAMENTATION PART #1 – God gives a description of the successful city. **27:4-11**

The city of Tyre is compared to a ship. But this is not your normal ship. It is the most impressive ship in the world.

Reality #1 - Tyre had worldwide borders. **27:4a**

Her borders were the seas. In other words, she did business all over the world. Moshe Greenberg said, “Tyre serves as middleman for the world, transferring products to and from the most distant ports” (*Ezekiel 21-37*, p. 548).

There is no question that various places of the world depended on Tyre for their survival and success. **This is the problem, the nations of the world depended on Tyre and not God.**

Reality #2 - Tyre had perfect beauty. **27:4b-11**

Tyre said she was “perfect in beauty” (**v. 3**). Actually that was what was supposed to be said about Jerusalem. She was supposed to be the most beautiful and joyful city on earth (Ps. 50:2; Lamentations 2:15). One day when Jesus Christ is there, she will be. But Tyre was boasting that she was the most perfect place on earth. Tyre was described as being like an elegant ship.

(Fact #1) - They made planks of fir trees from Senir. **27:5a**

Mt. Senir was the name the Amorites called Mt. Hermon (Deut. 3:9).

(Fact #2) - They made masts from the cedars of Lebanon. **27:5b**

(Fact #3) - They made oars from the oaks of Bashan. **27:6a**

What we know is that things were made with the finest woods in the world. This was impressive.

(Fact #4) - They inlaid their decks with ivory from Cyprus. **27:6b**

It is interesting that the Hebrew word used for Ivory is “shen” which comes from a word that means “tooth of an elephant” (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 839).

So the deck planks were inlaid with ivory. This type of decking came from Cyprus, one of the Greek islands. Actually cypress trees are still plentiful on the island of Cyprus.

(Fact #5) - They made sails from fine linen from Egypt. **27:7a**

Egyptian linen was the finest linen in the world in ancient times. To have a sail made of woven fine linen was not only beautiful, but extremely expensive.

(Fact #6) - They made blue and purple awnings from Elishah. **27:7b**

The awnings were used to cover various people from the elements. They covered the captain's quarters and the passengers. These awnings were beautiful.

(Fact #7) - They had rowers from Sidon and Arvad. **27:8a**

Sidon was located about 25 miles north of Tyre and Arvad was about 110 miles north of Tyre. These cities were subservient to Tyre. They so dominated the area that they used people from these other cities to row the boats.

(Fact #8) - They had Tyre wise men as pilots. **27:8b**

The point is they did not have to import skilled navigators from other areas; they had their own captains and they were proud of that.

(Fact #9) - They had the elders of Gebal and wise men were used to repair seams. **27:9a**

They had other people doing jobs such as repairing leaks.

(Fact #10) - They had the support and help of all ships in the sea. **27:9b**

The language means that all the ships of the sea supported Tyre. The whole world was at her fingertips. Tyre was world class. All people of the world wanted to do business with Tyre.

(Fact #11) - They had the support of a coalition army. **27:10-11**

The people named here are those who were known to have lived in the "outermost limits of the known world" (*Ibid.*, p. 551).

The Persians were located east of Babylon, the Ludanians were located on the west coast of Asia Minor and the Puteans, probably modern day Libya. Both Lydia and Put supplied mercenary soldiers for the Egyptian army (Jer. 46:8-9).

These were fierce fighters. They supported Tyre. The toughest military in the world esteemed Tyre and protected her. According to **verse 11**, the "sons of Arvad" and the "Gammadim." These were Gentile mercenaries watching over and protecting the city. It was like no one could stop her or defeat her. **That is no one except God.**

LAMENTATION PART #2 – God gives a description of the prosperous trade commerce.
27:12-25

Trade wise and economically Tyre was in a league all its own. She negotiated trade deals with people all over the world. Here is an impressive list of trade partners:

Fact #1 - Tyre traded with Tarshish. **27:12**

Tarshish is Spain and Tyre made trade deals with silver, iron, tin and lead.

Fact #2 - Tyre traded with Turkey. **27:13-14**

Javan is in Turkey. Tubal is in eastern Turkey. Meshech is in central Turkey. Tyre traded for slaves and bronze implements. Beth-togarmah is in eastern Turkey and they traded for work horses, war horses and mules.

Fact #3 - Tyre traded with Dedan (Rhodes). **27:15**

Tyre traded with Dedan, a Greek island for ivory tusks and ebony.

Fact #4 - Tyre traded with Syria. **27:16**

Aram is in modern day Syria. Tyre traded with emeralds, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral and rubies.

Fact #5 - Tyre traded with Judah. **27:17a** - southern Israel

Tyre traded for wheat, cakes, honey, oil and balm.

Fact #6 - Tyre traded with Israel. **27:17b** - northern Israel.

Tyre traded for wheat, cakes, honey, oil and balm.

Fact #7 - Tyre traded with Damascus. **27:18** - in Syria.

Tyre traded for wine and white wool.

Fact #8 - Tyre traded with Vedan. **27:19a** - probably located on the Persian Gulf.

Tyre traded for wrought iron, cassia and sweet cane.

Fact #9 - Tyre traded with Javan and Uzal. **27:19b** - probably Greece.

Fact #10 - Tyre traded with Dedan. **27:20** - Modern Arabia.

Tyre traded for saddle blankets, which were like saddles.

Fact #11 - Tyre traded with Arabia. **27:21a** - Arabia

Tyre traded for lambs, rams and goats.

Fact #12 - Tyre traded with Kedar. **27:21b** - Arabia

Again Tyre traded for lambs, rams and goats.

Fact #13 - Tyre traded with Sheba and Raamah. **27:22** - southern Arabia

Tyre traded for spices, precious stones and gold.

Fact #14 - Tyre traded with Mesopotamia. **27:23-24** - modern day Iraq and Iran

Haran, Canneh, Eden, Sheba, Asshur and Chilmad are all in Mesopotamia. Tyre traded for garments and clothing and carpets.

Tyre was doing business worldwide. She had control of the world. The world loved her and did business with her. It was the biggest and best and most successful city in the world.

LAMENTATION PART #3 – God gives a description of the judgment catastrophe. **27:26-36**

Now God gets at the heart of what He will do to this impressive and proud world power. He will make Tyre a total and complete shipwreck. He will totally destroy her and cause her to cease to exist.

Reality #1 - God will cause their rowers to bring them into deep, destructive waters. **27:26**

Tyre is viewed as a beautiful ship that is successful worldwide. God says I am about to bring a northeast storm on you that will drop you in the high seas. God says I will wreck you and destroy you. It is interesting that the first major wave to come came from the northeast and it was Babylon.

Reality #2 - God will cause all wealth and sailors and warriors to fall. **27:27**

Tyre was about to lose all of her wealth and her people. All of her exports and imports could not save her.

Reality #3 - God will cause your leaders to cry out totally helpless to do anything. **27:28-30**

The surrounding world powers would cry and mourn over the loss of Tyre. They would not be able to help. The land will shake; the sailors will end up on the land. They will abandon their ships and go to shore. All they will do is watch and cry. They were all trusting in Tyre for their success, not God.

Reality #4 - God will cause all connected to you to be totally humiliated and weep. **27:31-33**

The world powers would put dust on their heads and roll in ashes and shave their heads and put on sackcloth and then stand around and weep and cry.

Reality #5 - God will cause all inhabitants to be appalled by you. **27:34-36**

There is a very close parallel between what is described here and what is described in Revelation 17-18. This Tyre is a foreshadowing of what God will do to Babylon, which is modern day Iraq.

We are living in an age of materialism and you can buy anything you want in many major cities that could care less about God. There are big time cities that are run by arrogant leaders who will not humble themselves to God and His Word. In this nation we have many God-mocking cities who are proud and arrogant. We have New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and major cities that do business all over the world. They are big time and they don't think they need God and His Word.

In Revelation 16:19 God says in the Tribulation, I will drop every world-class city and bring it to rubble. God says I will do to every arrogant city just what I did to Tyre.

Now there is nothing wrong with being affluent; but if you trust in the affluence and not God, there is something wrong in a major way.

J. Vernon McGee said, "As I walked through the ruins of Tyre I heard no music or laughter. I could not see the buildings or the gold and silver. All I saw were broken pieces of pottery and the wreck and ruin of what had once been a great city. And the God of heaven says, 'I judged you'" (*Ezekiel*, p. 490).