

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Ezekiel Chapter 27-28

2/24/16

Ezekiel Chapter 27

A Lament Over Tyre - Verses 1-11

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning Tyre. 3 Say to Tyre, situated at the gateway to the sea, merchant of peoples on many coasts, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: " 'You say, Tyre, "I am perfect in beauty." 4 Your domain was on the high seas; your builders brought your beauty to perfection. 5 They made all your timbers of juniper from Senir ; they took a cedar from Lebanon to make a mast for you. 6 Of oaks from Bashan they made your oars; of cypress wood from the coasts of Cyprus they made your deck, adorned with ivory. 7 Fine embroidered linen from Egypt was your sail and served as your banner; your awnings were of blue and purple from the coasts of Elishah. 8 Men of Sidon and Arvad were your oarsmen; your skilled men, Tyre, were aboard as your sailors. 9 Veteran craftsmen of Byblos were on board as shipwrights to caulk your seams. All the ships of the sea and their sailors came alongside to trade for your wares. 10 " 'Men of Persia, Lydia and Put served as soldiers in your army. They hung their shields and helmets on your walls, bringing you splendor. 11 Men of Arvad and Helek guarded your walls on every side; men of Gammad were in your towers. They hung their shields around your walls; they brought your beauty to perfection.

27:1 Chapter 27 is a funeral lament over Tyre's fall. It compares the city to a ship (27:1-9), mentions many of its trading partners (27:10-25), and then describes how the ship sank (27:26-36). Jesus spoke of Tyre in Matthew 11:22 as a city worthy of God's judgment.

27:3-4 The beauty of Tyre was the source of its pride, and Tyre's pride guaranteed its judgment. Unwarranted conceit or pride in our own accomplishments should be a danger signal to us (see James 4:13-17). God is not against our finding pleasure or satisfaction in what we do; he is against arrogant, inflated self-esteem that looks down on others. We must acknowledge God as the basis and source of our lives.

The trade of Tyre - Verses 12-24

12 " 'Tarshish did business with you because of your great wealth of goods; they exchanged silver, iron, tin and lead for your merchandise. 13 " 'Greece, Tubal and Meshek did business with you; they traded human beings and articles of bronze for your wares. 14 " 'Men of Beth Togarmah exchanged chariot horses, cavalry horses and mules for your merchandise. 15 " 'The men of Rhodes traded with you, and many coastlands were your customers; they paid you with ivory tusks and ebony. 16 " 'Aram did business with you because of your many products; they exchanged turquoise, purple fabric, embroidered work, fine linen, coral and rubies for your merchandise. 17 " 'Judah and Israel traded with you; they exchanged wheat from Minnith and confections, honey, olive oil and balm for your wares. 18 " 'Damascus did business with you because of your many products and great wealth of goods. They offered wine from Helbon, wool from Zahar 19 and casks of wine from Izal in exchange for your wares: wrought iron, cassia and calamus. 20 " 'Dedan traded in saddle blankets with you. 21 " 'Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your customers; they did business with you in lambs, rams and goats. 22 " 'The merchants of Sheba and Raamah traded with you; for your merchandise they exchanged the finest of all kinds of spices and precious stones, and gold. 23 " 'Harran, Kanneh and Eden and

merchants of Sheba, Ashur and Kilmad traded with you. 24 In your marketplace they traded with you beautiful garments, blue fabric, embroidered work and multicolored rugs with cords twisted and tightly knotted.

27:12-24 These verses contain a list of the peoples that traded with Tyre. They also show the wide range of goods that passed through Tyre. People travelled hundreds of miles to trade in Tyre. They brought all their best goods to sell there. But all this trade would end when Tyre's enemies destroyed the city.

Tyre's end is like a ship that sinks - Verses 25-36

25 " 'The ships of Tarshish serve as carriers for your wares. You are filled with heavy cargo as you sail the sea. 26 Your oarsmen take you out to the high seas. But the east wind will break you to pieces far out at sea. 27 Your wealth, merchandise and wares, your mariners, sailors and shipwrights, your merchants and all your soldiers, and everyone else on board will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck. 28 The shore lands will quake when your sailors cry out. 29 All who handle the oars will abandon their ships; the mariners and all the sailors will stand on the shore. 30 They will raise their voice and cry bitterly over you; they will sprinkle dust on their heads and roll in ashes. 31 They will shave their heads because of you and will put on sackcloth. They will weep over you with anguish of soul and with bitter mourning. 32 As they wail and mourn over you, they will take up a lament concerning you: "Who was ever silenced like Tyre, surrounded by the sea?" 33 When your merchandise went out on the seas, you satisfied many nations; with your great wealth and your wares you enriched the kings of the earth. 34 Now you are shattered by the sea in the depths of the waters; your wares and all your company have gone down with you. 35 All who live in the coastlands are appalled at you; their kings shudder with horror and their faces are distorted with fear. 36 The merchants among the nations scoff at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.' "

27:25-27 The song continues to show how Tyre will end. Tyre was like a ship at sea. It was heavy and it was full of goods. The ship was away from the shelter of the shore. The east wind blew upon the ship. The ship broke up and it began to sink. All its goods and all its crew went down with the ship. In the song, the east wind means Babylon. The *Babylonians will come from the east and they will destroy Tyre.

27:28-32a Those people who had traded with Tyre will hear what happened. They will tremble and they will be afraid. Those people who worked with Tyre will be sad. Ezekiel shows them as like people at a funeral. People behaved in such a manner after the death of someone whom they loved.

27:32b-36 The people had never seen the end of such a great city. It was so sudden and they had not expected it. By its trade, it had been great. Tyre had supplied the nations with its goods. Now nothing remained of its wealth. Tyre had gone. It had disappeared like a ship that sinks to the bottom of the sea. The nations were afraid that the same thing could happen to them.

Ezekiel Chapter 28

A Prophecy Against the King of Tyre - Verses 1-10

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 "Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: " 'In the pride of your heart you say, "I am a god; I sit on the throne of

a god in the heart of the seas." But you are a mere mortal and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god. 3 Are you wiser than Daniel? Is no secret hidden from you? 4 By your wisdom and understanding you have gained wealth for yourself and amassed gold and silver in your treasuries. 5 By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, and because of your wealth your heart has grown proud. 6 " 'Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: " 'Because you think you are wise, as wise as a god, 7 I am going to bring foreigners against you, the most ruthless of nations; they will draw their swords against your beauty and wisdom and pierce your shining splendor. 8 They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die a violent death in the heart of the seas. 9 Will you then say, "I am a god," in the presence of those who kill you? You will be but a mortal, not a god, in the hands of those who slay you. 10 You will die the death of the uncircumcised at the hands of foreigners. I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD.' "

28:1-26 Previously Ezekiel had prophesied against the city of Tyre (chapters 26-27). Here he focused his prophecy on Tyre's leader. The chief sin of Tyre's king was pride—believing himself to be a god. But Ezekiel also may have made a broader spiritual application, speaking about the spiritual king of Tyre, Satan, whom the people were really following.

28:2-3 Daniel, an important official in Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom (14:14), was already renowned for his wisdom. Daniel proclaimed that all his wisdom came from God (Daniel 2:20-23). By contrast, the king of Tyre thought that he himself was a god. As truly wise people get closer to God, they recognize their need to depend on him for guidance.

28:6-10 The foreign army that attacked Tyre was the Babylonian army under Nebuchadnezzar. This attack occurred in 573/572 B.C.

A funeral song for the king of Tyre - Verses 11-19

11 The word of the LORD came to me: 12 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: " 'You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. 14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. 16 Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. 18 By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. 19 All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.' "

28:12-19 Some of the phrases in this passage describing the human king of Tyre may describe Satan. Great care must be taken to interpret these verses with discernment. It is clear that, at times, Ezekiel describes this king in terms that could not apply to a mere human. This king had been in the Garden of Eden (28:13), had been "anointed as a guardian cherub" (28:14), and had access to the holy mountain of God (28:14), but was later expelled and banished from there (28:16-17). Ezekiel, therefore, may have been condemning not only the king of Tyre, but Satan, who had motivated the king to sin.

Prophecy against Sidon - Verses 20-26

20 The word of the LORD came to me: 21 "Son of man, set your face against Sidon; prophesy against her 22 and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: " 'I am against you, Sidon, and among you I will display my glory. You will know that I am the LORD, when I inflict punishment on you and within you am proved to be holy. 23 I will send a plague upon you and make blood flow in your streets. The slain will fall within you, with the sword against you on every side. Then you will know that I am the LORD. 24 " 'No longer will the people of Israel have malicious neighbors who are painful briars and sharp thorns. Then they will know that I am the Sovereign LORD. 25 " 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When I gather the people of Israel from the nations where they have been scattered, I will be proved holy through them in the sight of the nations. Then they will live in their own land, which I gave to my servant Jacob. 26 They will live there in safety and will build houses and plant vineyards; they will live in safety when I inflict punishment on all their neighbors who maligned them. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God.'

28:20-21 Sidon was another famous seaport, located about 25 miles north of Tyre. God charged this city with contempt for his people. Sidon's economy was bound to Tyre's, so when Tyre fell to Nebuchadnezzar, Sidon was doomed to follow.

28:24-26 This promise that God's people will live in complete safety has yet to be fulfilled. While many were allowed to return from exile under Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, and although the political nation is restored today, the inhabitants do not yet live in complete safety (28:26). Therefore, this promise will have its ultimate fulfillment when Christ sets up his eternal kingdom. Then all people who have been faithful to God will dwell together in