

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Book of Ezekiel*  
*Message 56*

*October 2, 2016*



*Ancient Tyre Artist Unknown*

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# Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel

Message Fifty-Six

THE LORD JUDGES TYRE PART II

October 2, 2016

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 26:19- 27:11

*<sup>19</sup>For thus saith the Lord Jehovah: 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 the great waters shall cover thee; <sup>20</sup>then will I bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, to the people of old time, and will make thee to dwell in the nether parts of the earth, in the places that are desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I will set glory in the land of the living: <sup>21</sup>I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt no more have any being; though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord Jehovah.*

*<sup>1</sup> The word of Jehovah came again unto me, saying, <sup>2</sup>And thou, son of man, take up a lamentation over Tyre; <sup>3</sup>and say unto Tyre, O thou that dwellest at the entry of the sea, that art the merchant of the peoples unto many isles, thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Thou, O Tyre, hast said, I am perfect in beauty. <sup>4</sup>Thy borders are in the heart of the seas; thy builders have perfected thy beauty. <sup>5</sup>They have made all thy planks of fir-trees from Senir; they have taken a cedar from Lebanon to make a mast for thee. <sup>6</sup>Of the oaks of Bashan have they made thine oars; they have made thy benches of ivory inlaid in boxwood, from the isles of Kittim. <sup>7</sup>Of fine linen with brodered work from Egypt was thy sail, that it might be to thee for an ensign; blue and purple from the isles of Elishah was thine awning. <sup>8</sup>The inhabitants of Sidon and Arvad were thy rowers: thy wise men, O Tyre, were in thee, they were thy pilots. <sup>9</sup>The old men of Gebal and the wise men thereof were in thee thy calkers: all the ships of the sea with their mariners were in thee to deal in thy merchandise. <sup>10</sup>Persia and Lud and Put were in thine army, thy men of war: they hanged the shield and helmet in thee; they set forth thy comeliness. <sup>11</sup>The men of Arvad with thine army were upon thy walls round about, and valorous men were in thy towers; they hanged their shields upon thy walls round about; they have perfected thy beauty (ASV, 1901).*

TYRE WILL BE DESTROYED

Ezekiel 26:19

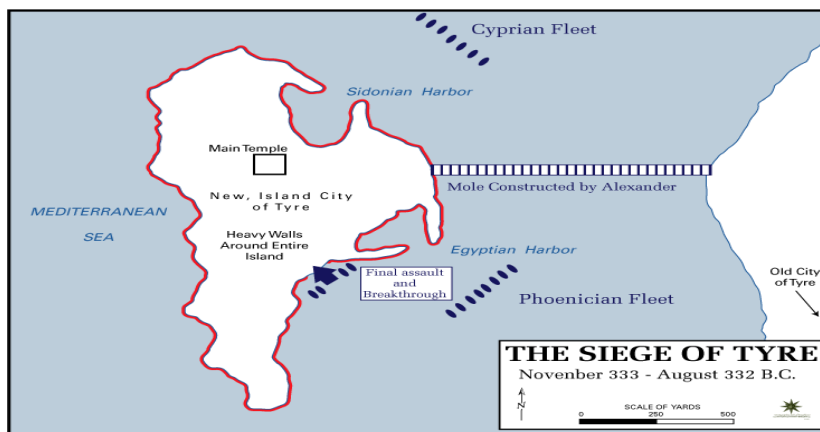
*<sup>19</sup>For thus saith the Lord Jehovah: When I shall make thee a desolate city, like the cities that are not inhabited; when I shall bring up the deep upon thee, and the great waters shall cover thee (ASV, 1901).*

Tyre was a godless , materialistic civilization that exemplified the Babylonian model of high secularism. As a result God said that he will completely destroy them, *like the cities that are not inhabited*. The Lord also made known His plan to destroy Tyre and Sidon as well through the prophet Zechariah.

*Zechariah 9:2b-4*

*“<sup>2</sup>...Tyre and Sidon, because they are very wise, <sup>3</sup>And Tyre did build herself a stronghold, and heaped up silver as the dust, and fine gold as the mire of the streets. <sup>4</sup>Behold, the Lord will dispossess her, and he will smite her power in the sea; and she shall be devoured with fire.” (ASV, 1901)*

Tyre and Sidon are two cities in the kingdom of Phoenicia. Tyre was originally a colony of Sidon, but because of its growth rose to be the capital of all Phoenicia, and Sidon was regarded an annex of Tyre. Tyre was a great seafaring, naval, and financial power, the “Wall Street” of its time. Its core was on a highly fortified island, which made it practically impervious to attack and therefore Tyre becomes the dominant object of this prophecy. Tyre and Sidon demonstrated their worldly wisdom by amassing great material wealth. Verse three says, “*And Tyre built herself a stronghold, and heaped up silver as the dust, and fine gold as the mire of the street.*” Isaiah and Ezekiel give prophecies about Sidon, which is tightly connected to those concerning Tyre, and they both suffer the same fate (Isaiah 23:4, 12; Ezekiel 28:21). It is here though in Ezekiel that God spends the most text describing the Babylonian system of material prosperity without God as the provider. Ultimately, Alexander the Great completed the conquest of Tyre (332 B.C.) This conquest is written of extensively in history courses at the United States Military Academy. Sidon surrendered without making any resistance; but Tyre, after a feeble attempt at negotiation, strongly resisted. They were confident that their fortification would protect them, and so the Tyrians mocked and dared Alexander to destroy their city. Alexander the Great finished the conquest of Tyre by taking rubble from the ruins of the mainland construction and using it to build a ramp to the island so his armies could mount a sustained assault on the fortifications.



Title: The Siege of Tyre

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege\\_of\\_Tyre\\_\(332\\_BC\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Tyre_(332_BC))

Alexander conquered it in a short siege of seven months. Ten thousand of its brave defenders were either massacred or crucified, the rest were sold into slavery. The Sidonians hid the few who escaped. This prophecy of Zechariah has been fulfilled to the letter. It remains even to this day a monument to the execution of Divine wrath upon the proud, luxurious, and idolatrous city. God always gets His way.

The passage in Ezekiel says that the Lord *shall bring up the deep upon thee, and the great waters shall cover thee*. The Jewish commentators Abarbanel and Metzudos state that Alexander had many holed drilled in the bedrock of the island which caused the sea to inundate the surface washing away the topsoil and covering the surface with water.<sup>1</sup>

#### TERROR WILL COME TO TYRE

##### Ezekiel 26:20-21

*<sup>20</sup>then will I bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, to the people of old time, and will make thee to dwell in the nether parts of the earth, in the places that are desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I will set glory in the land of the living: <sup>21</sup>I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt no more have any being; though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

Tyre's demise is that they would descend to the nether world and never again rise. After the ocean covered the island city then the inhabitants would descend to *bor* which is another Hebrew word for Sheol or the place of the dead. It was greatly feared by most people groups of the Old Testament. Some referred to it as the pit or the grave. Tyre's descent to the grave or the pit would not be restful but it would lead to a horrible end. The absence of Tyre from the world's system of commerce desired more than God would cause much dismay and uncertainty among the family of nation in the Mediterranean and the Mid-East who enjoyed the fruits of the gross materialism engendered by Tyre's commercial prowess. Old Tyre with all its economic power and splendor would be gone. Her glory would be no more. There would still be a Tyre of sorts on the mainland but only ruins of what it once was and the island would be left under water.

The lessons from this destruction are important to realize. They are instinctively sensed as possibly pertaining to contemporary cultures and just as quickly dismissed from our thoughts. God's lessons are humiliating to mankind. These examples are quickly dismissed by most people as too offensive to ponder and irrelevant or for a previous time and not now. This earth is now like Ancient Tyre of old and God is preparing to take His children to meet Him in the air. After which he will destroy what remains until He sets up His Kingdom under the Messianic King Jesus.

#### LAMENTATION FOR TYRE

##### Ezekiel 27:1-2

*<sup>1</sup> The word of Jehovah came again unto me, saying, <sup>2</sup>And thou, son of man, take up a lamentation over Tyre; <sup>3</sup>and say unto Tyre, O thou that dwellest at the entry of the sea, that art the merchant of the peoples unto many isles, thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Thou, O Tyre, hast said, I am perfect in beauty (ASV, 1901).*

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<sup>1</sup> Zlotowith, Rabbi Meir; Scherman Rabbi Nosson Editors, *Ezekiel*, Artscroll, Mesorah Publications Ltd. Brooklyn NY, 11232 pg. 215

The Lord now sends a new message to Ezekiel in the form of a lamentation over the loss of the earthly splendor that was glorious Tyre. Reiterating the prominence of her trade on the Mediterranean the Lord tells Ezekiel to make *up a lamentation over Tyre*. That is, put in poetical form a dirge or funeral song of sorts to epitomize her selfish gain which also characterizes today's world. Tyre is described as the gateway to the sea and a merchant of many people groups on many coasts. The reason for Her downfall is her pride in herself and her wealth and beauty. This is always the source of sin and downfall.

Proverbs 16:18

<sup>18</sup> *Pride goeth before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall (ASV, 1901).*

This section is a beautiful Hebrew poetic expression of grief and sorrow over the loss of Tyre and its rippling effect on the nations she traded with whose ports were on the Mediterranean Sea. The Hebrew *kinnah* dwells on this trade and Tyre is characterized as a ship well outfitted and maintained but sent on a hazardous course at sea which eventually resulted in her shipwreck.

THE ECONOMIC SPLENDOR CONTRIBUTED TO TYRE

Ezekiel 27:4-11

<sup>4</sup>*Thy borders are in the heart of the seas; thy builders have perfected thy beauty.* <sup>5</sup>*They have made all thy planks of fir-trees from Senir; they have taken a cedar from Lebanon to make a mast for thee.* <sup>6</sup>*Of the oaks of Bashan have they made thine oars; they have made thy benches of ivory inlaid in boxwood, from the isles of Kittim.* <sup>7</sup>*Of fine linen with brodered work from Egypt was thy sail, that it might be to thee for an ensign; blue and purple from the isles of Elishah was thine awning.* <sup>8</sup>*The inhabitants of Sidon and Arvad were thy rowers: thy wise men, O Tyre, were in thee, they were thy pilots.* <sup>9</sup>*The old men of Gebal and the wise men thereof were in thee thy calkers: all the ships of the sea with their mariners were in thee to deal in thy merchandise.* <sup>10</sup>*Persia and Lud and Put were in thine army, thy men of war: they hanged the shield and helmet in thee; they set forth thy comeliness.* <sup>11</sup>*The men of Arvad with thine army were upon thy walls round about, and valorous men were in thy towers; they hanged their shields upon thy walls round about; they have perfected thy beauty (ASV, 1901).*

The description “*Thy borders are in the heart of the seas*” describe the extent of the market and the prowess of city of Tyre. The comparison to a ship, goes on to describe its construction which were the finest materials available from the nations she traded with on the Mediterranean. As a ship, it must surely be built of wood. The shipbuilders selected the finest kinds of wood for the construction; cypresses of Antilibanus and double planks, which formed the sides of the vessel, and cedar of Lebanon for the mast. *Senir*, was the Amoritish name of *Hermon* or *Antilibanus*, whereas the Sidonians called it *Sirion* (Deuteronomy 3:9; I Chronicles 5:23; Song of Solomon 4:8). The naming of the places from which the materials were obtained for outfitting the ship, serve to strengthen the imagery of its the glory of its construction and give a deeper realization of the glory of Tyre. Cypress-wood was frequently used by the ancients for buildings and because it was resistant from the attacks of insects and rot made it almost imperishable, and yet very light

weight. It has always been expensive. In order to provide for extra seaworthiness double-planks were used for the two side-walls of the ship. For oars they chose oaks of Bashan and the rowing benches (or deck) were ivory inlaid. This was also used for the boards or planks of the Tabernacle giving us the sense of its splendor and value (Exodus 26:15). The ivory also carries a connotation as possessing splendor and decorative excess. Bashan was a fertile area in what is modern day Jordan which at the time of Ezekiel the oak trees were famous for their size and strength.

Woven linen from Egypt *with brodered work* was used for the sail that also served as a flag or banner. Egypt was known for its fine linen cloth (Genesis 41:42; Proverbs 7:16). The deck awning was blue and purple which represent colors of regalia. They came from Elishah is mentioned in Genesis 10:4 as a son of Javan, who founded the maritime nations. The location is not known now but certainly on the Mediterranean and possibly Cyprus.

The ship's oarsmen were men of Sidon and Arvad. Arvad was a city near Sidon renown for its seamen. It would have been in Northern Lebanon today. The pilots were skilled men of Tyre. Skilled craftsmen from Gebal, which was Byblos, were on the ships, and shipwrights were on board for repairing cracks in the seams. Ships came alongside the magnificent vessel to trade and sell cargo. The wise men were the leaders such as the captain and those who skillfully pulled the ropes of the sails. They also trained the other mariners how to maneuver the ship in all kinds of weather to keep it on course.

Also on board were the skillful builders who were able to make repairs to the ship that they built. They filled the crevasses with caulk to keep the ship weather tight. This was a difficult task because the water leaking in between the boards was barely perceptible to only the trained and experienced who could locate the source. These were also known as the elders of Gebal. Gebal was the Greek Byblos or modern Jubayl on the Persian Gulf off the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia. The Lord is giving us a picture of Tyre through this imagery of a splendid ship of a strong seaworthy country with the best materials filled with pride. It was so attractive that other sailors would come alongside to trade with her.

Tyre was protected with the best mercenary army that could be assembled. The most professional and capable men of war for hire. The soldiers came from Persia, Lydia, and Put. They were joined by local men from Arvad, Helech and Gammad. Next God will show us exactly who Tyre traded with and what the merchandise was. This can't be missed as relevant to today's level of wealth in the Western nations. It is very prominent in the people's desire for money, goods, and services which surpasses all nations in antiquity. It is no wonder the Lord says that we must come out of Babylon (Revelation 18:4-5). The people of Tyre did not come out of Babylon and we will not either.

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