

## Message #31

Ezekiel 28:1-26

**In Ezekiel 27, a lamentation was given against the city of Tyre. In Ezekiel 28, the great part of the chapter has to do with a lamentation given against the King of Tyre.**

Now there is some disagreement about the identity of the leader here. Some have said that this is a reference to the king of Tyre who was Ithobaal. This leader is called “leader” in **verse 2** and “king” in **verse 12**. But when we read this text carefully, this is not your typical arrogant leader. This leader had actually been in Eden, the garden of God (**28:13**). There is no question that this “sinister” leader not only has to do with the King of Tyre, but it also prefigures the Antichrist, and it most definitely has to do with Satan himself.

The King was a puffed up, arrogant, power-crazed maniac who became very delusional about himself. It was this arrogance that would cause God to destroy him. **There is no question that when a political leader begins to arrogantly exalt himself, he is satanic.** Satan was behind this political leader’s arrogance because it was a satanic arrogance that ultimately will get Satan destroyed. The key point of this chapter is this:

**GOD WILL EVENTUALLY DESTROY ARROGANT POLITICAL LEADERS WHO MOCKED HIM AND HIS WORD AND HE WILL DESTROY SATAN WHO WAS CONTROLLING THESE POLITICAL LEADERS AND IN THE END, HE WILL BLESS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.**

Notice **verse 1** begins with the “word of the Lord” coming to Ezekiel. **Verse 2** aims it straight at the political leader. Ezekiel was to take this message and present it to the king of Tyre.

**JUDGMENT TARGET #1** – The message against the King of Tyre. **28:1-10**

The King of Tyre hated Israel and wanted to annihilate her (Ps. 83:3-4, 7). The word “prince” refers to a ruler who is leading the city. Josephus says that the prince of Tyre who ruled during the days of Ezekiel was Ithobalus, who was called Ithobaal III. He had a pride at an “awful level.” There are eight messages God tells Ezekiel to give to the king of Tyre.

**Message #1** - Your heart is lifted up. **28:2a**

He had a very proud heart.

**Message #2** - You actually say you are a god. **28:2b**

He actually claimed he was divine. He actually saw himself as a god sitting on the throne of god. **God makes it clear you are nothing but a man.** It doesn’t matter how successful one is; it doesn’t matter how exalted one is; it doesn’t matter how rich one is; he is nothing but a man.

**Message #3** - You think you are wiser than Daniel. **28:3a**

Daniel was an extremely wise man, but his wisdom did not lead to arrogance, it lead to humility (Dan. 2:30). Daniel saw himself as just another man.

**Message #4** - You think you can unravel all secrets. **28:3b**

This one saw himself as being so wise that he could interpret anything. Daniel was given a very unusual ability to unravel many mysteries of God, but he always gave the glory to God and never tried to exalt himself.

**Message #5** - You believe you have acquired riches by your great wisdom and understanding.  
**28:4-5**

He believed it was his great skill and education and wisdom that led to all of the wealth he had accumulated. He felt he had made the right moves at the right times and hit the jackpot.

**Message #6** - God says because of your arrogance, I will bring ruthless nations against you to destroy you and kill you. **28:6-8**

The Hebrew indicates he made his own heart godlike. God says He will bring ruthless nations against her. **Verse 8** says they will bring you to hell right in the heart of the seas, the very place where you are so proud of your achievements. We know God brought the Babylonians; then He brought Greece; then Rome and then the Arabs.

**Message #7** - You will not be calling yourself a god then. **28:9**

When it comes time for you to die, you won't be calling yourself a god. You will tremble in fear. I believe this has great application to when Jesus Christ returns and literally throws the Antichrist into hell (Revelation 19:20). Jesus Christ will be the "slayer" of the Antichrist.

**Message #8** - Your demise has been decreed by God. **28:10**

Now this first section can be applied to any arrogant political leader and ultimately it can be applied to the Antichrist who will be the ultimate arrogant political leader.

**JUDGMENT TARGET #2** – The message against Satan, the one motivating the king of Tyre.  
**28:11-19**

God is so fed up with this arrogant leader that He again tells Ezekiel to present a message against this king of Tyre. But there is data here that goes far beyond the King. **It is clear here that there was some supernatural ruler of Tyre.** Behind the arrogant king of Tyre was a supernatural power.

This one was not just some human being because the description given here is one that goes far beyond a human. Satan was the dominating power of the king of Tyre and he is the dominating power of this world. He is called “the god of this age.”

**What most arrogant political leaders don’t realize is that they are puppets in the hand of Satan and Satan is leading them to destruction.** They would be wise to humble themselves before God and fear Him. But few will. The description given here is an eye-opening description given concerning Satan. There are 20 descriptions given here about Satan.

**Description #1** - Satan had the seal of perfection. **28:12a**

Satan was the sum total of the creative genius of God. He was the prototype of perfection. H. A. Ironside said many people used to ask why God created the Devil. The answer is He didn’t. He created a beautiful spirit being that was the sum total of the perfection of God.

**Description #2** - Satan was full of wisdom. **28:12b**

God gave Satan the perfect intellect filled with knowledge and wisdom. He certainly was created with a mental ability to not only discern right from wrong, but the best from the good. God gave him mental skill in every area.

**Description #3** - Satan was perfect in beauty. **28:12c**

God made him a beautiful being. He was a being who would shine bright with splendor and beauty. He was perfect on the inside and outside.

**Description #4** - Satan was in Eden. **28:13a**

God let Satan live in the most beautiful of all places that He created on this earth. He was in the most wonderful, majestic place that was designed by God.

**Description #5** - Satan was beautiful. **28:13b**

The exact identity of each gemstone is not clear; but Satan was dazzling. There is a comparative list given in Exodus 28:17-20 in regard to the nation Israel. There is another list given in Revelation 21:18-20 that describes the New Jerusalem. We may assume that Satan originally had priestly and heavenly beauty at the highest level. He had royalty and beauty.

**Description #6** - Satan was created. **28:13c**

Satan is not God and he is not the creator. He is a created being. He had been created by God and he owed God his thanks for being created as such a marvelous being.

**Description #7** - Satan was musical. **28:13d**

The Hebrew words “settings and sockets” are literally “tambourines and timbrels.” The word “setting” refers to a merriment musical instrument. The Arabic word means drum (Brown-Driver-Briggs, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 1074). The Hebrew refers to a hollowed out instrument that could contain beautiful stones. These words imply that God originally created Satan with a musical acumen second to none. Satan was created with a capability of using his musical skills at a very unusual level to praise God. **Satan has great musical ability and talent and he did not lose that ability after he fell; he changed its emphasis.** Satan uses his musical ability to oppose God and His Word.

**Description #8** - Satan was the anointed cherub placed in this position by God. **28:14a**

God made Satan the highest ranked angel in His creation.

**Description #9** - Satan was on the holy mountain of God. **28:14b**

Satan was permitted access to the throne of the living God. This was the government center of God. Think of it, Satan had exposure to the very place where God governed.

**Description #10** - Satan walked in the midst of the stones of fire. **28:14c**

Satan literally walked in purity in the most sacred of places. He walked in the presence of God.

**Description #11** - Satan was blameless in his ways from the day he was created. **28:15a**

Satan was created without any blemish. He had no flaws in any way or in any area. What this means is that Satan’s sin was “self-generated.”

**Description #12** - Satan was blameless until unrighteousness was found in him. **28:15b**

Outwardly it did not look like Satan had any flaws, but inwardly he was filled with pride. He was not content with what God made him. He wanted to be God. God uncovered his sin. Satan did not admit it or go to God and confess it; God uncovered it.

**Description #13** - Satan was abundant in trade and violence and he sinned. **28:16a**

Notice Satan was involved in “abundance of your trade.” This definitely indicates that Satan is involved in world wealth and involved in all violent things connected to it. Satan was filled with violence and hatred against God.

**Description #14** - Satan was cast out as profane from the mountain of God. **28:16b**

God banished Satan from His mountain. His initial judgment was that God expelled him from His presence at His holy throne.

**Description #15** - Satan has been destroyed by God from being a cherub. **28:16c**

No longer does God permit Satan to be seen as His anointed cherub.

**Description #16** - Satan was lifted up because of his beauty. **28:17a**

There is a satanic arrogance to beauty and success.

**Description #17** - Satan was corrupted by his wisdom. **28:17b**

There is a satanic arrogance to education. Education that tries to remove the God of the Bible is satanic.

**Description #18** - Satan will be cast down to the ground for all kings to see. **28:17c**

This will be the ultimate moment of his humiliation. All will see him as nothing.

**Description #19** - Satan will be burned for all iniquity, unrighteousness and religious profanity. **28:18**

Satan is ultimately going to be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10). God will permit all to see him cast into the “Everlasting Lake of Fire.”

**Description #20** - Satan will be appalling to all people who knew him and he will be terrified and will cease to exist forever. **28:19**

Satan will be seen for what he is and he will come to a horrible end and he, himself, will be terrified.

**JUDGMENT TARGET #3** – The message against Sidon. **28:20-24**

Sidon was located about 25 miles north of Tyre and 25 miles south of Beirut. Like Tyre, she was a Mediterranean coastal city that sat offshore on island rocks. She was proud of Tyre and proud of herself. Truth is for many years Sidon was far more prosperous than Tyre.

According to **verses 20-21**, Ezekiel was to prophesy against Sidon and present to them the Word of the Lord.

**Message #1** - God is against Sidon. **28:22a**

**Message #2** - God will be glorified by executing judgments against Sidon. **28:22b**

**This is what most people do not know about God. When God pours out His judgments against arrogant, evil sin, it displays His holiness and it glorifies Him.**

People fall apart and are terrified at the judgments of God, but God is glorified by His judgments.

**Message #3** - God will send pestilence and destruction against Sidon. **28:23**

**Message #4** - Sidon will never again be a thorn to Israel. **28:24**

Sidon is in Lebanon and is mostly controlled today by Arabs. But not forever. One day it will be Israel's land and she will not be a problem for Israel ever again. Nations need to look carefully at this verse—**God does keep track of how one relates to Israel.**

**JUDGMENT TARGET #4** – The message for Israel. **28:25-26**

Now as Ezekiel was giving these judgment messages against Tyre and Satan and Sidon, he had a message for Israel, which is quite different. God is going to completely destroy Israel's enemies and Satan who was behind those enemies.

**Message #1** - God will regather Israel. **28:25a**

**Message #2** - God will give Israel her land. **28:25b**

The specific boundaries of this land are specifically given to Abraham by God in Genesis 15:18-21.

**Message #3** - God will cause Israel to live securely and blessed in her land. **28:26a**

**Message #4** - God will execute judgments against "all" who mock Israel. **28:26b**

**Verse 26** ends by saying when God does this all will know that God is the LORD God of Israel.

Certainly a key lesson to see here is those who arrogantly refuse to submit to God and His Word will be humiliated and judged.

It does not matter whether it is an angel, a king, a nation or an individual. It is as Jesus said, "those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Matt. 23:12).