

---

## **SUNDAY SERMON**

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**

**Willow, Alaska**

**Date: June 17, 2018**

**Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 28:1-26**

**Text: Ezekiel 28:1-26**

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – Rebuke of the King of Tyre**

In the preceding chapter 27, we considered the record of the lamentation for the destruction of great and beautiful Tyre. Now we come to the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter to consider the LORD's rebuke of the king of Tyre.

In this chapter, we have three sections – plus a sub-section of the first which makes four points in all for the chapter.

1. Verses 1-19 record the rebuke of the king of Tyre (Tyrus).
2. Verses 12-19 of this section give us a picture of "the anointed cherub and covereth – Satan."
3. Section 2 is verses 19-24 concerning the LORD's judgment of Zidon (Sidon).
4. The final section, verses 25-26 speaks of the re-gathering of the house of Israel to their land where they shall be set apart in the sight of the heathen (nations).

### **Part 1 – Rebuke of the King of Tyre (Verses 1-11).**

***1 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God,***

***I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:***

[Albert Barnes on the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter] Throughout the east the majesty and glory of a people were collected in the person of their monarch, who in some nations was worshipped as a god. The prince is here the embodiment of the community. Their glory is his glory, their pride his pride. The doom of Tyre could not be complete without denunciation of the prince of Tyre. Idolatrous nations and idolatrous kings were, in the eyes of the prophet, antagonists to the true God. In them was embodied the principle of evil opposing itself to the divine government of the world. Hence, some of the fathers saw upon the throne, not simply a hostile monarch, but "the Prince of this world, spiritual wickedness (or wicked spirits) in high places."

A wise man once said that power corrupts – and absolute power corrupts absolutely. There is a bible principle which we all need to remember concerning our position and the responsibilities associated with it. When we have more – we are responsible for more. Here is the scripture. Our Lord is speaking about his second coming and our preparing for that. Notice the principle:

**Luke 12:47-48 (KJV)** And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not *himself*, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. **For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom**

**men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.**

The heart of the king of Tyrus was lifted up - he was full of pride about himself. Because his heart was lifted up, he considered himself a God and said "I am a God, I sit in the seat of God." What a pompous person! How greatly was this person steeped in the "condemnation of the Devil" which is pride.

The LORD speaks against him though – in the midst of his pride to bring him down saying: "Yet thou are a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:" What a stout rebuke of this prideful king of great Tyre!

***3 Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee:***

***Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee:*** -- This preacher thinks this to be the thoughts of the king of Tyre. Daniel was, at this same time, the chief counsellor to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon and was famous throughout the lands. Daniel was well-known as having the Spirit of God in him and was enabled to interpret dreams and understand visions. Not that that power resided in him, but the God of heaven used him greatly in that regard. From the language of this 3<sup>rd</sup> verse, it seems evident that this was the thinking of the king of Tyre. In his own mind, he was greater and wiser than Daniel. Nothing, in his mind, could be hidden from him! He is a type of the final Antichrist, the man of sin. Behind the wicked prince and king, there is seen another power, and that power was and, is Satan.

**4 With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures:**

His treasury has become greatly enriched by the policy of the king of Tyre in government, and by his skill in trading, for he speaks with great worldly wisdom. Remember, brethren that the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. Thanks be to God that we are not placed here to compete with those of this world to whom God has given to "heap up!"

**Luke 16:8 (KJV)** *[In the parable of the unjust steward] And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.*

**Ecclesiastes 2:26 (KJV)** *For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.*

**5 By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches:**

**By thy great wisdom and by thy traffic,** -- Another way of saying this is - "by thy great wisdom in thy traffic (also translated as merchandise); through great skill in trade and

commerce. The world knows remarkably well how to merchandise!

**hast thou increased thy riches;** -- Riches were increased to a very great degree, an extraordinary amount. We shall see this again in the Revelation concerning commercial Babylon when the system traffics (merchandises) with all kinds of goods and even with the souls of men.

**and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches;** -- Riches definitely tend to “puff-up” and make men high-minded and swell them with vain opinions of themselves. The unrighteous mammon makes men haughty, insolent, and scornful, in their behavior and temperament to others. Consider that the great whore of Rome (Roman Catholicism) is overjoyed with worldly grandeur and riches, and is represented as proud, vain, and haughty.

**Revelation 18:7-8 (KJV)** *How much she [Babylon the great, the great whore, mother of harlots and abominations of the earth] 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.*

**6 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God;**

**Therefore thus saith the Lord God,** -- Now follows the punishment threatened, because of all this pride, haughtiness, and blasphemy.

**because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God;** -- seeking your own glory; setting up yourself above all others; claiming that for yourself which belongs to God; and making yourself equal to him and showing yourself as if you were God. This is precisely what the man of sin will do when he appears in the near future! Declare himself as God – requiring worship by all on earth.

***7 Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness.***

Here is God's pronouncement of judgment on this prideful king of Tyre. Because your heart is lifted up with pride – because you have exalted yourself, now, I, the God of the heavens, shall abase you! I will bring strangers upon you – even the terrible of the nations. Your worst nightmare shall come! They shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and they shall defile your brightness and bring you low. My servant, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon shall bring you down!

***8 They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas.***

This great, powerful, force shall bring you down to the pit (to the grave). And you will die the deaths of them that are slain in the

midst of the seas – like those who die in a sea fight, whose carcasses are thrown overboard and devoured by the fishes.

**9 Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee.**

It is as if God is saying: "Let me ask you a question! Will you say before this great army of slayers, "I am God?" No, you will not! Because you are but a man – and definitely no God, when you are in the hands of those which slay you and take your life from you!

**10 Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.**

You shall die the deaths of the uncircumcised (the wicked) by the hand of strangers (for the Chaldeans under my servant Nebuchadnezzar) shall take you and kill you like the wicked man you are! For I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. And we say with the prophet Daniel:

**Daniel 4:35** (KJV) *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*

**Job 40:8-14** (KJV) *[God speaks to Job] Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous? Hast thou an arm like God? or canst*

*thou thunder with a voice like him? Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty. Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him. **Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low;** and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret. Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee.*

**Part 2 – Lamentation upon the king of Tyrus & reference to the anointed cherub that covereth (verses 11-19)**

**11 ¶ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.**

***Son of man, take up a lamentation*** (a funeral dirge) ***upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him:***

***Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom perfect in beauty.*** The word "sum" is also translated in the OT as "pattern." Here it is sealed as a pattern of everything that is excellent; you, O king, art in all things, totally so, so that nothing could be added. These thoughts were undoubtedly from his own thinking.

***full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty;*** -- a most accomplished man in his own conceit.

***13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.***

***Thou has been in Eden the garden of God;*** -- This speaks of the dynamic that moved the king of Tyre. Satan was in Eden as we all know very well. Satan was the power behind the throne of the king of Tyre. Satan is still the god of this age, who controls the kingdoms of the world, for that is given to him until that old serpent experiences his sudden destruction. Tyre is a type of the commercial glory of the world, its wealth and pride, which foreshadows the final great world-city or world-system, Babylon. The ruler of Tyrus, spoken of as prince, foreshadows the Antichrist who shall be a man possessed totally by Satan. As the king of Tyre, Satan himself is the driving force in the man. Let's consider Satan and the experience in Eden.

Satan is the malignant spirit which drove the king of Tyre and who drives every wicked person in high authority. As that evil one, he is called the "god of this world," "the prince and power of the air."

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (KJV)** *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom **the god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

**Ephesians 2:1-2 (KJV)** *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

**1 John 2:15-16 (KJV)** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

**Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)** *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

The descriptions given of Satan as an unfallen being show that he was originally a marvelous being, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

**Genesis 3:1 (KJV)** *Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

During the temptation of Eve, the serpent was a very subtil, and no doubt was attractive or pleasant to look upon. The description that follows gives us the very same idea. He must have stood upright, for God cursed him,

after the temptation and deception of Eve, to go on his belly and eat dust.

**Genesis 3:14 (KJV)** *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

***14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.***

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: -- From this, I believe Lucifer was given a special place over the physical realm. "that covereth?" What does this mean? In the OT scriptures, the Hebrew word which is translated here as covereth (a participle – ongoing) is also translated as: cover, covering, defence, defendest, hedge in, join together, set, and shut up. This shows that his initial purpose was that of a defender or protector – the anointed cherub that covereth – defends or protects. God has set him to this. So, there he was after being created upon the holy mountain of God.

He walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Everything shows that this majestic creature possessed a place of great dignity, being "upon the holy mountain of God," walking up and down in the midst of the stones of fire, he was ever present and moving about in the fiery glory of a holy and righteous God.

Satan was in Eden, the garden of God, and every precious stone was his covering - the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold. Nine precious stones in all – plus the gold. He must have been the most exceeding beautiful creature ever created! Nine is the number for the gifts of the Spirit – The same God who bestows gifts on His people gave unspeakable gifts to this creature!

***15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.***

The anointed cherub that covereth is Satan – he was, in my view, formerly Lucifer. He was a created being – for this verse tells us precisely that. Let us compare this passage with Isaiah 14 to get a full picture of the iniquity of Lucifer. Evidently, his fall from his former place took place some time before his using the serpent to tempt Eve in the garden of Eden. Amazing it is to me that God created such a magnificent creature, then to see him become the arch enemy of all that is good. Yet, we know this was all a part of God’s wise decree so that God would be glorified in it all.

**Isaiah 14:12-20 (KJV)** *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, **I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the*

*sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet. Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.*

**16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.**

***By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned:*** -- The tenor of the language here goes back to the accomplishments of the king of Tyre. According to the multitude or greatness of thy trading or trafficking. The term “filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou has sinned:” suggests that the merchants used marketing skills, where that would work, and by violence where their marketing skills would not work. Crooked dealings! This injustice and violence grew as their trade did and filled the city with guilt as fast as that did with wealth.

***therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.*** – This certainly speaks of the destruction of the king of Tyre, but more than that the fall of Lucifer and his final and ultimate destruction. O, beloved, Satan's work was destroyed at the cross. He is a defeated foe both of God and the saints. While he is still free to accuse the brethren, the time will come when he no longer has the freedom to accuse the saints and shall be cast out with just a short space of time left.

**Revelation 12:10-12 (KJV)** *And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*

During this time of 3 ½ years – 42 months – 1260 days, Satan shall wear out the saints, for they shall be delivered into his hand. But Satan has an end in due time.

We know that the LORD shall bind him and cast him into the bottomless pit so that he deceives the nations no more until the thousand years reign of Christ on earth shall be finished (Rev.

20:1-3) – and then he shall be loosed for a little season. He shall then go forth and deceive the nations once again. Let's read it:

**Revelation 20:7-10 (KJV)** *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

**17** *Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.*

Your heart became proud because of your beauty! Your wisdom is corrupted because of your brightness! The LORD says, I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. God would humble this proud and arrogant king of Tyre before those in high places to show him but a man.

**18** *Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I*

***will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.***

You have defiled your sanctuaries (your supposed holy places) by the multitude of your iniquities – by the iniquity of your traffick or merchandising. This most certainly suggests that his practices have been both wicked and corrupt. Because of that, the LORD will bring the king of Tyre to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold him.

***19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.***

The people that know the king shall be astonished at his sudden demise! He shall become a terror in their sight as they see his sudden fall – and he shall never be any more. His end has come.

### **Part 3 – Prophecy against Zidon (Verses 20-24)**

***20 ¶ Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 21 Son of man, set thy face against Zidon, and prophesy against it,***

Zidon (or Sidon) as it is called in the New Testament was a city that lay in close proximity to Tyre. Sidon is mentioned together with Tyre in the scriptures. In fact, the term “Tyre and Sidon” is found ten times in the New Testament.

**Matthew 11:21-22 (KJV)** *Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were*

*done in you, had been done in **Tyre and Sidon**, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for **Tyre and Sidon** at the day of judgment, than for you.*

**22 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Zidon; and I will be glorified in the midst of thee: and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall have executed judgments in her, and shall be sanctified in her.**

Ezekiel as commissioned to tell Zidon that the Lord GOD was against her and that He would be glorified in the midst of her so that she would know that it was the LORD who executed judgments in her and would be set apart in that famous city.

**23 For I will send into her pestilence, and blood into her streets; and the wounded shall be judged in the midst of her by the sword upon her on every side; and they shall know that I am the LORD.**

What would be her judgment from the LORD? God would send upon her pestilence! He would send blood into her streets! He would judge the wounded in the middle of Zidon by the sword of Nebuchadnezzar who had destroyed Tyre. Zidon would know that the great I AM had done this!

**24 And there shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor any grieving thorn of all that are round about them, that despised them; and they shall know that I am the Lord GOD.**

This tells us why the Lord judged Zidon. Zidon had been a pricking brier unto the house of Israel. She had been a grieving thorn on all that were round about them, that despised Zidon. They would know that the Almighty had judged them! Zidon fell for the same reason that Tyre did – and for the same reason that the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Edomites, and the Philistines had been judged of the LORD. Why? Because they had spoken against and opposed God's chosen people, Israel!

#### **Part 4 – Re-gathering of the house of Israel (Verses 25 & 26).**

***25 Thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and shall be sanctified in them in the sight of the heathen, then shall they dwell in their land that I have given to my servant Jacob.***

So beautiful to see a bright light in the end of this chapter regarding the nation of Israel. Another prophecy of the re-gathering of Israel – and that God would be sanctified in them in the very sight of the heathen. O, yes, the heathen would see it. Israel would then dwell in their land which the LORD had given to his servant Jacob – **that same land** given to Abraham and Isaac. The land is a key to a correct understanding of Israel and the church. The church is the bride of Christ which shall reign with him during the Millennium whilst Israel is the chief nation. The eternal abode of the church is the New Jerusalem – but Israel shall dwell in their land.

***26 And they shall dwell safely therein, and shall build houses, and plant vineyards; yea, they shall dwell with confidence, when I have executed judgments upon all those that despise them round about them; and they shall know that I am the LORD their God.***

And in that land, they shall dwell safely. They shall build houses and plant vineyards. They shall dwell with confidence, when the LORD has executed judgments upon all those that despise Israel round about them. The nation will know that Jehovah is the LORD their God. Hallelujah!