

Isaiah 23 Economic Prostitution

Textual Summary: The Lord destroyed the economic engine of the Mediterranean world (Tyre) to humble those who stood defiantly in pride upon the wealth of nations.

Message: The Lord calls you to humble trust in Him instead of the deceitfulness of riches.

Two caveats: 1) Material wealth is not inherently evil (1 Tim. 6:10). 2) Materially wealthy people and nations are not necessarily unjust in the use of their wealth (Matt. 25:34-40).

1. Warning: Idolatrous hearts are prone to trust material wealth.
 - a. Temptation to look to wealth for:
 - i. identity (vv. 1-3, 5-8): disappointed (vv. 15-16)
 - ii. security (vv. 4, 11-12): disappointed (vv. 4, 11-14)
 - iii. influence (vv. 8): disappointed (vv. 9-10)
 - b. This ungodly pride will be disappointed by the judgment of God.
2. Promise: The Lord will abundantly supply your needs according to His good purpose.
 - a. God is sovereign over the wealth of nations.
 - i. "Who has purposed this against Tyre? . . . The LORD of hosts has purposed it" (vv. 9, 11).
 - ii. God can take the unrighteous yield of the heathen to benefit His people (vv. 17-18).
 - b. God takes care of those who trust in Him (v. 18).
3. Call: Trust the Lord instead of the deceitfulness of riches.
 - a. Instructions to the wealthy: 1 Timothy 6:17-19
 - i. Beware of pride and false hope (see above).
 - ii. Place your hope in God as your provider.
 - iii. Labor to be generous to others.
 - iv. Invest in the true life that endures forever.
 - b. Instructions to the not-so-wealthy: Proverbs 30:7-9; Exod. 20:17
 - i. Beware of pride and theft.
 - ii. Beware of coveting.
 - iii. Place your hope in God as your provider and worship only Him (Col. 3:5).
 - c. "Come out of her, My people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).—Don't allow this idolatrous culture define your needs.
 - d. "And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).