

EZEKIEL 27 vs 1

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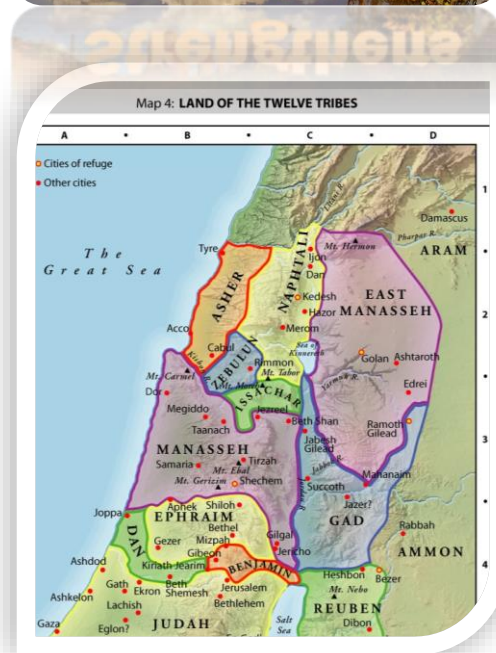
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Matthew Henry wrote: we are still attending the funeral of Tyre, and the lamentations made for the fall of that renown city. In this chapter we have, a large account of the dignity, wealth, and splendor of Tyre, while it was in its strength; the vast trade it drove, and the interest it had among the nations, which is designed to make its lamentation more lamentable;

we have a prediction of its sudden fall and ruin, and the confusion which all its neighbors will thereby be put into, staining the pride of all worldly glory, setting one against the other, to see the uncertainty of riches, honors, and desires.

An outline of Ezekiel: **Chapters 1 – 24:** The Lord's prophecies against **Israel** and **Judah**; **Chapter 25:** prophecies against 4 neighbors: Ammon, Moab, Edom – east of Jordan, Philistia – the western coastline; **Chapter 26 – 28:** judgment on Tyre in Lebanon, its overthrow; a funeral song; its leader's downfall, and a funeral song for its real king, lastly judgment on Sidon.

Chapter 29 – 32: judgment on Egypt; description of judgment; comparison to Assyria; a funeral song over Egypt. **Chapter 33:** appointing watchmen on the wall; **Chapter 34:** firing all the shepherds / the hired pastors; the LORD will do the job. **Chapter 35 - 36:** judgment begins at the household of God; but extends to the irksome neighbors; God always looks for love freely given. Much of this record – but not all was local history 2500 years ago.



A Lament for Tyre (Tyrus)

¹ The word of the LORD came again to me saying,

² Now you, son of man, take up a lamentation for Tyre / and what is a lamentation? the lyrics won't be: Happy days are here again. It's the song sung at a funeral; so expect a lot of tears to be shed;

³ and say to Tyre, who dwells at the entrance to the sea, you are the merchants of the nations for many islands / for the most distant regions on earth,

Thus says the LORD God: O Tyre, you have said, I am perfect in beauty.

⁴ Your borders are in the heart of the seas your builders have perfected your beauty.

/ the city was situated on a manmade island that was separated ½ a mile from the coastline by a strait;

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⁵ **They have made all your ship boards of fir trees from Senir / the planks for their vessels...**
from Mount Herman:

your masts are made from the cedars of Lebanon / most suited due to their height and durability.

⁶ **and your oars are made from the oaks of Bashan;**

the crew of Ashurites made your benches of ivory / the most skillful workers came from Assyria,
brought from the isles of Chittim / some say ivory was from Cypress, the Syriac says: **China.**

⁷ **Your sails were fine embroidered linen from Egypt /** priciest sails and banners of those days;
blue and purple from the isles of Elishah / awnings from a Greek island **was what covered you.**

⁸ **The inhabitants of Zidon and Arvad /** the superior local rowers... **were your mariners:**
your wise men, O Tyre, who were in you were your pilots.

⁹ **The ancients of Gebal /** the skilled workers between Beirut and Tripolis.... **and its wise men in you were your caulkers /** the stoppers of the chinks in the vessels:

all the ships of the sea with their mariners were in you to exchange your merchandise.

¹⁰ **Persia and Lud and Put were in your army, as your men of war. They hung the shield and helmet in you; they set forth your splendor /** they set forth the attractiveness of Tyre.

¹¹ **Men of Arvad and your army were on your walls all around, and the Gammadim /** literally: the men of daring... **were in your towers: they hung their shields on your walls all around /** they also advertised the attractiveness of Tyre;

¹² **Tarshish /** Gibraltar, the Iberian Peninsula... **was your customer by reason of the vast kinds of riches; with silver, iron, tin /** from Cornwall England, **and lead, they traded for your wares.**

¹³ **Javan, Tubal, and Meshech, they were your traders: with the lives of men and vessels of bronze they paid for your merchandise.**

¹⁴ **Those of Beth-togarmah traded horses and war horses and mules for your wares.**

¹⁵ **The men of Dedan were your traders; many isles were your markets: they brought ivory and ebony for payment.**

¹⁶ **Syria / Aram... was your customer by reason of the vast kinds of your goods: they paid for your wares with emeralds, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral, and rubies.**

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¹⁷ **Judah**, and the **land of Israel**, they were your traders: with the wheat of Minnith, cakes, honey, oil, and balm they paid for your merchandise.

¹⁸ Damascus was your customer in the vast kinds of your goods, for the abundance of all kinds of wealth; because of the wine of Helbon and white wool.

¹⁹ Vedan and Javan paid for your goods from Uzal: wrought iron, cassia, and sweet cane were in your market.

²⁰ Dedan traded with you in saddlecloths for riding.

²¹ Arabia and all the princes of Kedar, they were your customer for lambs, rams, and goats: for these they were your customers.

²² The traders of Sheba and Raamah, they traded with you: they paid for your goods with the best of all spices, and with all kinds of precious stones, and gold.

²³ Haran, Canneh, Eden, the traders of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad, were your traders.

²⁴ These traded with you in choice garments, in blue clothes and embroidered work, and in carpets of many colors, tightly wound cords, which were among your merchandise.

²⁵ The ships of Tarshish were carriers of your merchandise: and you were replenished, and very glorious in the heart of the seas.

²⁶ **Your rowers have brought you into great waters / into the high seas.**

The east wind has broken you in the heart of the seas / after this litany of mind-numbing successes coming from every direction, suddenly an east wind caused a shipwreck.

²⁷ **Your riches, your wares, your merchandise, your rowers and your pilots, your caulkers, your traders of merchandise, and all your men of war who are in you, with all your crew which is in your midst, will sink in the heart of the seas on the day of your ruin.**

²⁸ **The countryside will shake at the sound of the cry of your pilots.**

²⁹ **And down from their ships will come all who handle the oar, the rowers, and all the pilots of the sea, they will stand on the land;**

³⁰ **and cause their voice to be heard over you, and cry out bitterly. They cast dust on their heads and wallow in their ashes:**

³¹ **they make themselves bald for you, and put on sackcloth, and they weep in bitterness of heart, with bitter wailing.**

³² **In their wailing they raise a lamentation for you, and lament over you saying:**

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Who is like Tyre, like one destroyed in the midst of the sea?

³³ When your wares came from the seas, you satisfied many people; with your abundant wealth and merchandise, you enriched the kings of the earth.

³⁴ Now you are wrecked by the seas, in deep waters; your merchandise and all your crew in your midst have sunk with you.

³⁵ All the inhabitants of the isles are appalled at you, and their kings are horribly afraid; they are troubled in countenance.

³⁶ The merchants among the nations hiss at you; you have become terrified,

you will be no more, forever.

And again, history tells us that is what happened.

This chapter is so much like the fall of Mystery Babylon; leaving her merchants speechless – **Rev.18**. Remember, that in every nation, tribe and language, the people of the Lord have responded to Him through the ages. I am sure those who live in some of these places have a certain anxiety over these verses; our brothers and sisters in the Lord living in Lebanon must always remember 2 things:

1. that no matter where they live: in the world we will have tribulation, troubling times; but the people of God are not appointed **to wrath**, but to salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord – **1 Thessalonians 5**
2. 3 Days are still on the Lord's calendar; shadows of things to come... the **Day of Trumpets**; the **Day Afflicting of souls**; and the joyous **Day of Tabernacles** – **Zechariah 14**. Obviously, the Day of God's wrath is what we intend to avoid. And we will avoid it because we acknowledge that Jesus the Messiah came the first time, and substituted His life for ours. When we make Him our sacrifice for sin, and as we live to know Him better; He will see and be satisfied – **Isaiah 53**.

This is one of the rare chapters in the Book of Ezekiel, where the Lord does not say: **and they will know: I am the Lord**. This chapter, reminds me of those who will come and say: Lord, Lord, didn't we do thus and such... and He says, I never knew you. – **Matthew 7**. By the silence of the Lord in this chapter, doesn't it seem like lots of people still need to learn that simple lesson: The God of Israel and Judah... **He is the Lord**.