

ISAIAH 23 vs 1

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Isaiah was instructed of the LORD to address all the major actors, even those who made **a covenant with death and lies, and hell...** people so evil they would murder their own children... even till the time of the end of the Gentile nations. Now in focus is the leftovers of a faithless commonwealth led by royal Ephraim; when Messiah comes in power and great glory to set things right... with a cataclysmic event the whole world will know He is on the way.

Check His calendar... Moses fully told us about it: 7 specific workdays for the LORD; 4 days, **shadows of things to come** are done leaving 3 specific days – **the last days** at the time of the Harvest yet to be fulfilled.



An Oracle Concerning Tyre and Sidon; and Tarshish, too!

¹ The Oracle of Tyre.

Wail / groan, O ships of Tarshish for it is destroyed so that there is no haven, no entering in from the land of Chittim / whose ships are these? Some analysts insist this verse is merely talking about ships of Tyre that traded commodities with Tarshish; not ships belonging to Tarshish. I disagree. They were and still are the merchants of the world; descendants of **Joseph's 2 sons ½ Egyptian brothers; Ephraim leader of the commonwealth of Israel.** Tarshish is identified with Gibraltar; destruction came to Tyre; **foreshadowing the final commercial destruction** | without house or harbor; often identified with Cypress. The ancient Syriac Bible identifies them; **from the land of China it is reported to them.**

² **Be still, O residents of the isle; you whom the merchants of Sidon, that cross the sea, have replenished** / have filled up; and who is this island? Most bible commentators assume it is the coastal region of Lebanon, but again I disagree. Remember the first to wail and moan are the ships of Tarshish.

Later in this book, Isaiah will talk about **Israel** in the **islands**; world merchants who associated with the Phoenicians of Tyre; who traded with Carthage of North Africa and regions beyond... evidence showing all the way to the indigenous peoples of modern day Michigan in north America.

³ **And on many waters, the grain of Sihor - harvest of the Nile River delta, is your revenue; and you were the market of nations** / Tyre was the epicenter for the merchants of the world.

⁴ **O Sidon** / most ancient, mother-city north of **Tyre**, be ashamed; for the sea has spoken / and is that the sea of humanity speaking? even the stronghold of the sea saying,

I have **not** been in labor, I have **not** given birth, I have **not** raised young men, or brought up young women / Tyre herself, she who once was so fruitful among her colonies; sending her armies of merchants and suppliers and agents to far flung places of the earth, now she declares she is childless; she is barren and desolate; she only cared about herself.

⁵ When news of **Tyre** reaches Egypt, they will be in great agony.

⁶ **Cross over to Tarshish; Wail / groan, O residents of the isle.**

⁷ Is this your joyous city, whose origin was from ancient days? whose feet took her to live far off.

⁸ Who decided this against **Tyre**, the crowning city, whose merchants are rulers whose traffickers are the honored of the **earth**? / rulers – likely criminals; drug traffickers? human traffickers? child traffickers? sounds like those in our time, doesn't it?

⁹ **The LORD of hosts planned it**, to defile the pride of all boasting, and to dishonor / to make despicable, all the honored of the **earth**.

¹⁰ Overflow your land like the Nile, **O daughter of Tarshish**: nothing restrains you.

¹¹ **He stretched out His hand over the sea of humanity**, He shook the realms: the LORD has given a command concerning Canaan to demolish its strongholds.

¹² **And He said, You will not celebrate any longer**, O crushed virgin daughter of Sidon: Arise, pass over to **China**; there also you will find **no** rest / there is no rest for those criminals who do evil; the Lord will chase them down and find them.

¹³ **Look, the land of the Chaldeans** – now, a trivial people / with their own hands they built the foundation and walls and towers and palaces of Babylon; yet the Assyrians brought it to ruin; so likewise, Tyre will be ruined – Matthew Henry;

Assyria destined it for wild beasts; they set up its siege towers, they stripped its palaces; and brought it to ruin / Assyria destroyed it, they made it a place for all the desert creatures, every slimy reptile, every lizard and snake:

¹⁴ **Wail, O ships of Tarshish: for your stronghold is laid waste** / your fabled city, your greatest business partner is destroyed.

¹⁵ **And on that day, it will happen, that Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years, like the days of one king** / the span of a good king's life.

At the end of seventy years, Tyre will be like what the song says of a whore; / her memory will be like some popular ballad or country western ode:

¹⁶ **Take a guitar, stroll about the city, O ignored whore! Make sweet melody, sing many songs, so you are remembered.**

¹⁷ **At the end of seventy years, the LORD will restore Tyre; then she will return to hire herself out prostituting with all the realms of the world on the surface of the earth** / she will return to her very lucrative practice, doing what whores do best.

¹⁸ **Her proceeds and wages will be wholly to the LORD; they will not be stored, or hoarded but her proceeds will provide sufficient food and fine clothing for those who dwell in the presence of the LORD.** / the merchants were not to fill their own coffers, but to expend their wealth wisely and faithfully; to be applied to assist the relief of teachers of the word, the foreigner among us, the widow, the fatherless and the poor among the people of God, and other similar purposes;