

# Isaiah 23 - A Burden about Tyre

## I. Prophecies of condemnation (Is 1:1—35:10)

### (2) Condemnation of the nations (Is 13:1—23:18)

#### (L) Tyre (23:1-18)

##### (a) Lamentation to all (23:1-7)

##### (b) Destruction (23:8-14)

##### (c) Physical restoration of Tyre and God takes Tyre's wealth (23:15-18)

## Isaiah 23

### (L) Tyre (23:1-18)

#### (a) Lamentation to all (23:1-7)

**1** The pronouncement concerning Tyre: Wail, you ships of Tarshish, For *Tyre* is destroyed, without house or harbor; It is reported to them from the land of Cyprus.

**1** The oracle concerning Tyre. Wail, O ships of Tarshish, For *Tyre* is destroyed, without house or harbor; It is reported to them from the land of Cyprus.

**1** A message concerning Tyre. "Wail, you ships of Tarshish, for Tyre is destroyed and is without house or harbor! From the land of Cyprus it was revealed to them.

**1** The burden of Tyre. Howl, ye ships of Tarshish; for it is laid waste, so that there is no house, no entering in: from the land of Chittim it is revealed to them.

## The Destruction

**2** Be silent, you inhabitants of the coastland, You merchants of Sidon; Your messengers crossed the sea

**2** Be silent, you inhabitants of the coastland, You merchants of Sidon; Your messengers crossed the sea

**2** "Be silent, you inhabitants of the coast, you merchants of Sidon, whose messengers crossed over the sea,

**2** Be still, ye inhabitants of the isle; thou whom the merchants of Zidon, that pass over the sea, have replenished.

- Sidon is 30 miles up the coast; a "sister" city state with Tyre

**3** And *were* on many waters. The grain of the Nile, the harvest of the River was her revenue; And she was the market of nations.

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3 and were on mighty waters. Her revenue was the grain of Shihor, the harvest of the Nile; and she became the marketplace of nations.

3 And by great waters the seed of Sihor, the harvest of the river, is her revenue; and she is a mart of nations.

4 Be ashamed, Sidon, For the sea speaks, the stronghold of the sea, saying, "I have neither been in labor nor given birth, I have neither brought up young men *nor* raised virgins."

4 Be ashamed, O Sidon; For the sea speaks, the stronghold of the sea, saying, "I have neither travailed nor given birth, I have neither brought up young men *nor* reared virgins."

4 Be ashamed, Sidon, because the sea has spoken, the fortress of the sea: I have neither been in labor nor given birth, I have neither reared young men nor brought up young women."

4 Be thou ashamed, O Zidon: for the sea hath spoken, even the strength of the sea, saying, I travail not, nor bring forth children, neither do I nourish up young men, nor bring up virgins.

5 When the report *reaches* Egypt, They will be in anguish over the report of Tyre.

5 When the report *reaches* Egypt, They will be in anguish at the report of Tyre.

5 When the news reaches Egypt, they will be in anguish at the report about Tyre.

5 As at the report concerning Egypt, so shall they be sorely pained at the report of Tyre.

6 Pass over to Tarshish; Wail, you inhabitants of the coastland.

6 Pass over to Tarshish; Wail, O inhabitants of the coastland.

6 "You who are crossing over to Tarshish— Wail, you inhabitants of the coast!

6 Pass ye over to Tarshish; howl, ye inhabitants of the isle.

7 Is this your jubilant *city*, Whose origin is from antiquity, Whose feet used to bring her to colonize distant places?

7 Is this your jubilant *city*, Whose origin is from antiquity, Whose feet used to carry her to colonize distant places?

7 Is this your exciting city, that was founded long ago, whose feet carried her to settle in far-off lands?

7 Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days? her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn.

(b) Destruction (23:8-14)

8 Who has planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, Whose merchants were princes, whose traders were the honored of the earth?

8 Who has planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, Whose merchants were princes, whose traders were the honored of the earth?

8 Who has planned this against Tyre, that bestower of crowns, whose merchants were princes, whose traders were the most renowned on earth?

8 Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honourable of the earth?

9 **The LORD of armies** has planned it, to defile the pride of all beauty, To despise all the honored of the earth.

9 The LORD of hosts has planned it, to defile the pride of all beauty, To despise all the honored of the earth.

9 The LORD of the Heavenly Armies has planned it— to neutralize all the hubris of grandeur, to discredit all the renowned men of earth.

9 The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth.

- "The LORD of armies" - it was the Lord of hosts who had determined the destruction of Tyre. He offers no apologies for making the arrangement.

10 Overflow your land like the Nile, you **daughter of Tarshish**, There is no more restraint.

10 Overflow your land like the Nile, O daughter of Tarshish, There is no more restraint.

10 "Cultivate your land like the Nile, you daughter of Tarshish; for there is no longer a harbor.

10 Pass through thy land as a river, O daughter of Tarshish: there is no more strength.

- "...daughter of Tarshish" - possibly reference to Britain (the source for tin)

— Other colonies: Tartessus in Spain; Cartagena; Carthage; Cittim (Cyprus)...

11 He has stretched His hand out over the sea, He has made the kingdoms tremble; The LORD has given a command concerning Canaan to demolish its strongholds.

11 He has stretched His hand out over the sea, He has made the kingdoms tremble; The LORD has given a command concerning Canaan to demolish its strongholds.

11 He has stretched out his hand over the sea; he has made kingdoms tremble. The LORD has issued orders concerning Canaan to destroy its strongholds.

11 He stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook the kingdoms: the LORD hath given a commandment against the merchant city, to destroy the strong holds thereof.

12 He has said, "You shall not be jubilant anymore, you crushed virgin daughter of Sidon. Arise, pass over to Cyprus; even there you will find no rest."

12 He has said, "You shall exult no more, O crushed virgin daughter of Sidon. Arise, pass over to Cyprus; even there you will find no rest."

12 And he said: 'You will revel no longer, you virgin daughter of Sidon, now crushed. Get up, cross over to Cyprus— but even there you will find no rest.'

12 And he said, Thou shalt no more rejoice, O thou oppressed virgin, daughter of Zidon: arise, pass over to Chittim; there also shalt thou have no rest.

### **The Means of Destruction is Babylon**

13 Behold, the land of the Chaldeans—this is the people *that* did not exist; Assyria allocated it for desert creatures—they erected their siege towers, they stripped its palaces, they made it a ruin.

13 Behold, the land of the Chaldeans—this is the people *which* was not; Assyria appointed it for desert creatures—they erected their siege towers, they stripped its palaces, they made it a ruin.

13 "Look at the land of the Chaldeans! This is a people that no longer exist; Assyria destined her for desert creatures. They raised up her siege towers, they stripped her fortresses bare and turned her into a ruin.

13 Behold the land of the Chaldeans; this people was not, till the Assyrian founded it for them that dwell in the wilderness: they set up the towers thereof, they raised up the palaces thereof; and he brought it to ruin.

14 Wail, you ships of Tarshish, For your stronghold is destroyed.

14 Wail, O ships of Tarshish, For your stronghold is destroyed.

14 Wail, you ships of Tarshish, because your stronghold is destroyed!"

14 Howl, ye ships of Tarshish: for your strength is laid waste.

### **(c) Physical restoration of Tyre and God takes Tyre's wealth (23:15-18)**

15 Now on that day Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years like the days of one king. At the end of seventy years it will happen to Tyre as *in* the song of the prostitute:

15 Now in that day Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years like the days of one king. At the end of seventy years it will happen to Tyre as *in* the song of the harlot:

15 It will happen at that time that Tyre will be forgotten for 70 years, the span of a king's life. Then, at the end of those 70 years, it will turn out for Tyre as in the prostitute's song:

15 And it shall come to pass in that day, that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king: after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot.

16 Take *your* harp, wander around the city, You forgotten prostitute; Pluck the strings skillfully, sing many songs, That you may be remembered.

16 Take *your* harp, walk about the city, O forgotten harlot; Pluck the strings skillfully, sing many songs, That you may be remembered.

16 "Take a harp; walk around the city, you forgotten whore! Make sweet melody; sing many songs, and perhaps you'll be remembered."

16 Take an harp, go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten; make sweet melody, sing many songs, that thou mayest be remembered.

17 It will come about at the end of seventy years that the LORD will visit Tyre. Then she will go back to her prostitute's wages and commit prostitution with all the kingdoms on the face of the earth.

17 It will come about at the end of seventy years that the LORD will visit Tyre. Then she will go back to her harlot's wages and will play the harlot with all the kingdoms on the face of the earth.

17 At the end of 70 years, the LORD will deal with Tyre, at which time she'll return to her courtesan's trade, and prostitute herself with the kingdoms of the world on the surface of the earth.

**17** And it shall come to pass after the end of seventy years, that the LORD will visit Tyre, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.

- Here and in Ps 45:12; new city raised on ruins of Tyre

18 Her profit and her prostitute's wages will be sacred to the LORD; it will not be stored up or hoarded, but her profit will become sufficient food and magnificent attire for those who dwell in the presence of the LORD.

18 Her gain and her harlot's wages will be set apart to the Lord; it will not be stored up or hoarded, but her gain will become sufficient food and choice attire for those who dwell in the presence of the Lord.

18 Nevertheless, her profits and her earnings will be dedicated to the LORD; they will not be stored up or hoarded—but her profits will go to those who live in the LORD's presence, for abundant food and choice clothing.

18 And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the LORD: it shall not be treasured nor laid up; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing.

- This now shifts to the Millennium (Cf. Ps 45:12)

See [Arab States in Prophecy](#) for an overview of the final disposition of Arab nations.

