

Ezekiel 26 - Judgment Against Tyre; Tyre Destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, Scraped by Alexander the Great

II. Imminent judgment upon surrounding nations (Ezek 25:1—32:32)

(3) Nations to the north of Judah (26:1—28:26)

(A) Tyre (26:1—28:19)

(a) Tyre's downfall (26:1-21)

Tyre

Located along the Phoenician coast between the mountains of Lebanon and the sea, Tyre is one of the oldest cities in the world, a fact that is confirmed in Scripture by Is 23:7. The exact date of the city's establishment is unknown. Archaeological evidence, however, points to the region's inhabitation as early as the third millennium BC. Semitic languages interpret the city's name as "rock," a reference to the rocky formation that served as the town's initial foundation.

Tyre emerged as a formidable maritime power and prospered as a trading center, particularly renowned for its production of purple dye. Originally, the city consisted of two parts: an island approximately two thousand feet offshore and a settlement on the adjacent mainland. In 332 BC, Alexander the Great built a causeway to connect the two parts. Over the centuries, this isthmus has increased greatly in width.

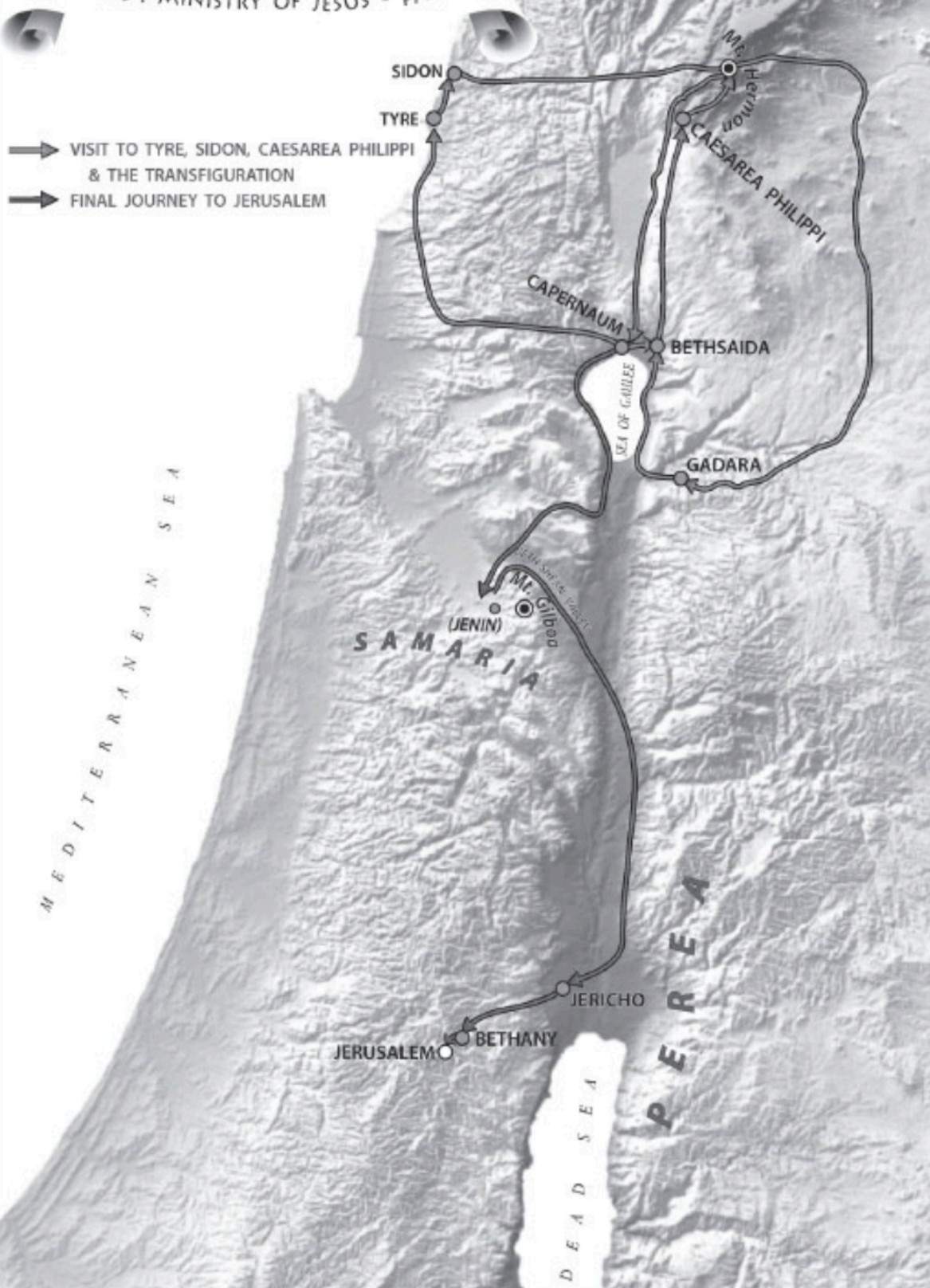
Tyre is first mentioned in the Scriptures as bordering on the territory that was allotted to the tribe of Asher (Joshua 19:24-31). Despite Joshua's attempts to conquer it, Tyre maintained its independence. The city-state played a crucial role during the period of the united monarchy, supplying materials and artisans for the construction of David's palace and Solomon's Temple. However, this alliance with Israel also introduced pagan influences to Jewish society, notably through King Ahab's marriage to Jezebel, a Phoenician princess. The prophets of Israel foretold the city's eventual downfall (Is 23:1; Jer 25:22; Ezek 28:1-19; Joel 3:4; Amos 1:9-10; Zech 9:2-4).

In the NT, Jesus used Tyre as an example of an unrepentant city (Matt 11:21-22; Luke 10:13). He also ministered in the Tyrian district (see map below), where He healed the demon-possessed daughter of a Phoenician woman (Mark 7:24-30). Following Stephen's martyrdom, believers from Jerusalem established a church in Tyre. Paul visited and spent time with the disciples there during his missionary journeys (Acts 11:19; 21:2-4).

One of Tyre's major transgressions may have been greed. Tyre, representing Phoenicia, which bordered Israel and once extended its territory as far as Kadesh in Galilee and Carmel, had always maintained friendly relations with Israel. Yet, Ezek 26:1—28:19 depicts Tyre's destruction with more severe and detailed imagery than any other nation. This portrayal was not driven by the prophet's desire for revenge. Rather, Tyre had lost its right to exist due to its excessive commercialism. Its insatiable lust for material wealth led to pride and arrogance, resulting in a complete disregard for human suffering.

The extended condemnation of Tyre is particularly striking given that, apart from one reference in Ps 83:8, there is no indication in Scripture that the city ever considered itself an enemy of Israel. In fact, the opposite seems to be true. So, how did Tyre sin, and what lesson could Judah draw from the city's fate? Several rabbinic commentators agree that Ezek 26:1—28:19 addresses these questions by peeling back the outward appearance of friendliness to expose Tyre's malicious delight. Tyre took great pleasure in the prospect of benefiting from the downfall of its competitor.

MAP 65: MINISTRY OF JESUS - PART III



Ezekiel 26

(3) Nations to the north of Judah (26:1—28:26)

(A) Tyre (26:1—28:19)

(a) Tyre's downfall (26:1-21)

1 Now in **the eleventh year**, on the **first of the month**, the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

1 Now in the eleventh year, on the first of the month, the word of the LORD came to me saying,

1 During the **eleventh year**, on the **first day of the month** of our captivity, **this message came to me from the LORD:**

1 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

- "...the eleventh year" - 11 years after the exile of Jehoiachin, which would have been 587/586 BC. This would coincide with Nebuchadnezzar's third siege of Jerusalem and its total destruction (Cf. 2 Kings 25:2-4,8-9; Jer 52:6,12).

- "...first day of the month" - the consensus date of this prophecy is around February 12, 586 BC. The omission of the month in Ezekiel's dating makes precise dating impossible.

- "...this message came to me from the LORD" - a new oracle/message from God to Ezekiel, this time regarding Tyre

2 "Son of man, because Tyre has said in regard to Jerusalem, 'Aha! The gateway of the peoples is broken; **it has opened to me**. I shall be filled, *now that* she is laid waste,'

2 "Son of man, because Tyre has said concerning Jerusalem, 'Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has opened to me. I shall be filled, *now that* she is laid waste,'

2 "Son of Man, because Tyre has been saying about Jerusalem, 'The international gateway is broken down! It's wide open to me! I will be replenished, now that it lies in ruins!'

2 Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste:

- God declared judgment on Tyre for its malicious response to Jerusalem's impending destruction. They rejoiced over Jerusalem's downfall, viewing it as an opportunity to enrich itself.

- Both Tyre and Jerusalem had vied for the lucrative trade routes between Egypt and the rest of the Middle East. Tyre dominated the sea routes, but Jerusalem controlled the caravan routes.

— Tyre responded to Jerusalem's fall like a greedy merchant gloating over a rival's catastrophe. Without Jerusalem being able to secure the overland caravan routes, more products would be shipped by sea, enriching Tyre even more.

- "...it has opened to me" - Tyre was confident that Jerusalem's loss of control of trade routes would serve her own commercial appetite

3 **therefore** this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Behold, I am against you, **Tyre**, and **I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves.**

3 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves.

3 "Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Watch out! I'm coming to get you, Tyre! I'm about to bring many nations to attack you. They'll come in wave after wave, like the advancing tide,

3 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up.

- "therefore" - because of Tyre's malicious rejoicing over the destruction of Jerusalem

- "...Tyre" - *Tsor*, "rock," located on a rocky island of 142 acres, which had two harbors connected by a canal. The island city was 1200 yards offshore from the walled city ("Old Tyre") on the mainland.

- "...I will bring up many nations against you" - throughout history, many nations have fulfilled this prophecy:

- Babylon (586-573 BC)
- Persia (539 BC)
- Greece (332 BC)
- Ptolemaic Egypt (4th century BC)
- Seleucid Empire (198 BC)
- Rome (64 BC)

— These invasions indeed struck Tyre like the relentless waves of the sea, wearing down its defensive walls

- "...as the sea brings up its waves" - because Tyre was an island city, this simile aptly captures the imagery of successive waves of invaders overwhelming the city's defenses

4 They will **destroy the walls of Tyre and tear down her towers**; and I will **sweep her debris away from her and make her a bare rock.**

4 They will destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; and I will scrape her debris from her and make her a bare rock.

4 and will destroy the city walls of Tyre. After they break down her fortified towers, I'll scrape away the city's debris, right down to the bare bedrock,

4 And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.

- This verse indicates that the invasions would be successful

- "...destroy the walls of Tyre and tear down her towers" - referring to the city situated on the coast (mainland). This prophecy was fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar besieged the city for 13 years and finally destroyed it in 572 BC.

— Nebuchadnezzar came against the city and destroyed it, but he didn't scrape it. But that is exactly what Alexander the Great did. He literally scraped the rubble of the old mainland site of Tyre to make his causeway out to the island city to level it.

- "...sweep her debris away from her and make her a bare rock" - this prophecy was fulfilled later by Alexander the Great when he used the rubble from the destroyed coastal city, leftover from Nebuchadnezzar's siege, to construct a causeway to the island city of Tyre offshore.

— This causeway enabled Alexander to conquer the island city in 332 BC

5 She will become a dry place for *the spreading of* nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,' declares the Lord GOD; 'and she will become **plunder for the nations**.

5 She will be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,' declares the Lord GOD, 'and she will become spoil for the nations.

5 and it will become a place where nets will be spread out right in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. Because I have declared this to happen,' declares the Lord GOD, 'Tyre will be treated as the spoils of war by the invading nations.

5 It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD: and it shall become a spoil to the nations.

- God said it would be a fishing village—not the proud commercial capital it once was—and that's what it is still today

— Fishermen generally spread out their nets to dry on barren rocks, to keep them from becoming tangled in trees or bushes. Tyre would be so decimated that the once-bustling city would be barren enough to use as a drying place for nets.

- "...plunder for the nations" - Tyre would no longer be able to increase her wealth, but instead would become a target for other nations

6 Also **her daughters** who are on the mainland will be killed by the sword, and they will know that I am the LORD.'"

6 Also her daughters who are on the mainland will be slain by the sword, and they will know that I am the LORD.'"

6 Furthermore, her citizens who live on the mainland will be executed with swords. That's how they'll learn that I am the LORD.'"

6 And her daughters which are in the field shall be slain by the sword; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

- "...her daughters" - the villages or suburbs of Tyre; they, too, would be destroyed

Nebuchadnezzar's Invasion

7 For the Lord GOD says this: "Behold, I am going to bring upon Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses, chariots, cavalry, and a great army.

7 For thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will bring upon Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses, chariots, cavalry and a great army.

7 "This is what the Lord GOD says: 'Watch out! I'm about to bring from the north King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, that king of kings. He'll come with horses, chariots, cavalry, and a vast army.

7 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people.

- "For the Lord GOD says" - introduces a new prophecy, independent of the previous verses (v1-6), although it contains clarifications of the earlier revelations.

— Verses 7-14 point in some respects to a distant prophetic fulfillment, while the judgment in v1-6 has already been fulfilled

- Nebuchadnezzar breached the walls of ancient Tyre, just as he had at Jerusalem. This prophecy was literally fulfilled.

— Josephus tells us that Nebuchadnezzar began the siege in the seventh year of Ithobal's reign as king of Tyre. Tyre's gloating over Jerusalem's fall would be short-lived. The king who destroyed Jerusalem would also attack and destroy Tyre.

— After defeating Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar moved his army north to Tyre in 585 BC and besieged the city for 13 years until all settlements on the mainland were destroyed. Tyre could hold out for all those years because her navy brought in supplies that would otherwise have been depleted.

— Nebuchadnezzar destroyed mainland Tyre, but not the island stronghold (Cf. v8-12)

8 He will kill your **daughters** on the **mainland** with the sword; and he will make siege walls against you, pile up an assault ramp against you, and raise up a large shield against you.

8 He will slay your daughters on the mainland with the sword; and he will make siege walls against you, cast up a ramp against you and raise up a large shield against you.

8 He'll execute your citizens who live on the mainland with swords. He'll build siege engines to attack you. Then he'll construct siege ramps against you and build huge shields to protect themselves against you.

8 He shall slay with the sword thy daughters in the field: and he shall make a fort against thee, and cast a mount against thee, and lift up the buckler against thee.

- "He" - Nebuchadnezzar; notice that the pronouns change in v12-14 to "them," which refers to other invaders
- "...daughters" - suburbs or outlying villages around Tyre (Cf. v6)
- "...mainland" - differentiating mainland Tyre from the island city
- Ezekiel describes the siege of Tyre with five key elements:
 1. Nebuchadnezzar would construct forts against the city (v8b)
 2. He would build a mound or ramp against Tyre's walls (v8c)
 3. He would deploy the buckler, or shield, against the city (v8d)
 4. He would position battering engines against Tyre's walls (v9a)
 5. He would demolish the city's towers using axes or swords (v9b)
- Each element underscores the severity of the siege, indicating the intent to not only starve the population into submission, but to also systematically breach the city's defenses using battering rams.

9 And he will direct the blow of his battering rams against your walls, and he will tear down your towers with his axes.

9 The blow of his battering rams he will direct against your walls, and with his axes he will break down your towers.

9 "'He'll direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and will breach your fortified towers with axes.

9 And he shall set engines of war against thy walls, and with his axes he shall break down thy towers.

10 Because of the multitude of his horses, the dust *raised by* them will cover you; your walls will shake from the noise of cavalry, wagons, and chariots when he enters your gates as *warriors* enter a city that is breached.

10 Because of the multitude of his horses, the dust *raised by* them will cover you; your walls will shake at the noise of cavalry and wagons and chariots when he enters your gates as men enter a city that is breached.

10 There will be so many horses that the dust raised by them will cover you completely. The walls of your city will tremble from the noise of Nebuchadnezzar's cavalry, wagons, and chariots when they enter through the gates of your city, as men enter a city that has been breached.

10 By reason of the abundance of his horses their dust shall cover thee: thy walls shall shake at the noise of the horsemen, and of the wheels, and of the chariots, when he shall enter into thy gates, as men enter into a city wherein is made a breach.

- After 13 years, Nebuchadnezzar finally breached the walls of Tyre because of the multitude of horses. The siege eventually led to a breach, which allowed the Babylonian

army access to the city to destroy it.

— This verse indicates that the Babylonians had amassed a huge army of men, horses, and chariots for this siege

11 With the hoofs of his horses he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people with the sword, and **your strong pillars will go down to the ground.**

11 With the hoofs of his horses he will trample all your streets. He will slay your people with the sword; and your strong pillars will come down to the ground.

11 "“Their horses will trample all the public places as he executes your inhabitants with swords. The most fortified of your pillars will be torn to the ground.

11 With the hoofs of his horses shall he tread down all thy streets: he shall slay thy people by the sword, and thy strong garrisons shall go down to the ground.

- Both the infantry and the calvary were able to enter Tyre once the wall was breached.

Once inside, a brutal massacre ensued, with the inhabitants of Tyre on the losing end.

- "...your strong pillars will go down to the ground" - the very defenses that Tyre had depended upon for their safety had collapsed

Other Invaders

12 Also **they will take your riches as spoils** and **plunder your merchandise, tear down your walls** and **destroy your delightful houses**, and **throw your stones, your timbers, and your debris into the water.**

12 Also they will make a spoil of your riches and a prey of your merchandise, break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses, and throw your stones and your timbers and your debris into the water.

12 They will plunder your riches and loot your businesses. They'll tear down your walls and demolish your luxurious homes. They'll grab the stones, wood, and rubble from the destruction and dump it all into the Mediterranean Sea.

12 And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise: and they shall break down thy walls, and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water.

- "...they" - notice the pronoun change from "he" (referring to Nebuchadnezzar) in v7-11 to "they" beginning in v12, referring to subsequent armies that invaded Tyre, namely Alexander the Great

- Five statements are made about these invaders:

1. "...they will take your riches as spoils" - all the wealth and resources that Tyre boasted of would be looted by these invaders
2. "...plunder your merchandise" - this echoes the first statement, emphasizing the plundering of Tyre's trade goods

3. "...tear down your walls" - the invaders would demolish the protective walls of Tyre, symbolizing the city's vulnerability and loss of security
4. "...destroy your delightful houses" - not only the defensive structures would be destroyed, but also the luxurious residences within the city would also be demolished
5. "...throw your stones, your timbers, and your debris into the water" - the rubble of Tyre from Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of the mainland city, including its stones, timber, and debris, would be cast into the sea.
 - a. This is exactly what Alexander the Great did approximately 250 years later. He gathered up the rubble from mainland Tyre's destruction and used it to build a causeway from the mainland to the island city.
 - b. Work was completed in about seven months, and Alexander's troops invaded and destroyed the island city of Tyre.

Destruction of Tyre

Although Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed the city, this second prophecy had not been fulfilled. Who was going to take up the stones and even scrape the dust into the ocean? After the return of the Tyrians from the Babylonian captivity, they decided to rebuild their city on an island and forget all about the mainland. Since they were a seafaring power, they could better protect themselves on an island.

In 332 BC Alexander got there, he saw the ruins of the city, but the inhabited new city was on the island out of his reach. So he built a causeway to the city. He took the building material of old Tyre, the stones, the pillars, and even the dust of the city, and in seven months built a causeway over which his army marched right into the new city of Tyre. He destroyed the city, and from that day to this it has never been rebuilt.

The critics try to explain away the prophecy regarding Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of the city by saying that Ezekiel wrote it after it had happened, but it is impossible for them to claim that Ezekiel wrote after Alexander the Great!

The ruins are being excavated and there were all kinds of broken pieces of pottery and artifacts around. Ezekiel's prophecy was literally fulfilled. Sidon stands today as it always has, but Tyre is gone. Nobody has tried to rebuild it. Lebanon hasn't tried. God's Word says that Tyre will never be rebuilt.

13 So I will put an end to the sound of your songs, and the sound of your harps will no longer be heard.

13 So I will silence the sound of your songs, and the sound of your harps will be heard no more.

13 "I'll silence the noise of your songs and the music of your harps won't be heard anymore.

13 And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard.

- This judgment from God would put an end to all joy in Tyre. The joyous sounds of music and celebration, symbolized by songs and harps, would be completely silenced.

14 I will **turn you into a bare rock**; you will become **a dry place for *the spreading of nets***. **You will not be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken,**" declares the Lord GOD.

14 I will make you a bare rock; you will be a place for the spreading of nets. You will be built no more, for I the LORD have spoken," declares the Lord GOD.

14 I'll turn you into bare rock, and your city will become a place to spread nets. You will never be built again, because I the LORD have decreed this,' declares the Lord GOD."

14 And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the LORD have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

- The reason why all joy would leave Tyre is that the city will be utterly destroyed and never rebuilt

- "...turn you into a bare rock" - only exposed bedrock would remain of the city

- "...a dry place for *the spreading of nets*" - fishing nets would be spread out, meaning the absence of human habitation

- "...You will not be rebuilt" - Tyre is done, it is no more nor will it ever be again

- "...for I the LORD have spoken" - this outcome was certain because the Word of God Himself spoke it

In v15-18 we see the effect of the fall of Tyre on the nations: the lament is not just for Tyre; the lament is also for the nations which are affected by the fall of Tyre. When news of Tyre's collapse reached the Phoenician colonies, there was great lamentation.

Terror at Tyre's Destruction

15 The Lord GOD says this to Tyre: "Will **thecoastlands** not shake from the sound of your downfall when the wounded groan, when the slaughter takes place in your midst?

15 Thus says the Lord GOD to Tyre, "Shall not the coastlands shake at the sound of your fall when the wounded groan, when the slaughter occurs in your midst?

15 "This is what the Lord GOD says to Tyre: 'When your wounded citizens groan while the slaughter takes place among you, the people who live in the coastlands will tremble in terror as they hear about your fall, will they not?

15 Thus saith the Lord GOD to Tyrus; Shall not the isles shake at the sound of thy fall, when the wounded cry, when the slaughter is made in the midst of thee?

- "The Lord GOD says this to Tyre" - the beginning of a new prophecy

- "...the coastlands" - the colonies established by Tyre across the Mediterranean Sea: Cathage, Cadiz, Malta, Cyprus, Sicily, and Sardinia. These colonies would react with fear upon hearing of the destruction of their mother city.

16 Then all the princes of the sea will descend from their thrones, remove their robes, and strip off their colorfully woven garments. They will clothe themselves with trembling; they will sit on the ground, tremble again and again, and be appalled at you.

16 Then all the princes of the sea will go down from their thrones, remove their robes and strip off their embroidered garments. They will clothe themselves with trembling; they will sit on the ground, tremble every moment and be appalled at you.

16 That's when all the kings of the seafaring nations will abandon their thrones, strip off their fancy clothes, and collapse trembling on the ground. They'll be so frightened as they observe what has happened to you that they'll be unable to stop trembling. They will be utterly appalled at you!

16 Then all the princes of the sea shall come down from their thrones, and lay away their robes, and put off their brodered garments: they shall clothe themselves with trembling; they shall sit upon the ground, and shall tremble at every moment, and be astonished at thee.

- The focus here moves from the colonies themselves to their rulers. Overwhelmed by the news of Tyre's destruction, they would go into mourning (Cf. Jonah 3:6).

17 And they will take up a song of mourning over you and say to you, 'How you have perished, you inhabited one, From the seas, you famous city, Which was mighty on the sea, She and her inhabitants, Who imposed her terror On all her inhabitants!

17 They will take up a lamentation over you and say to you, 'How you have perished, O inhabited one, From the seas, O renowned city, Which was mighty on the sea, She and her inhabitants, Who imposed her terror On all her inhabitants!

17 They'll sing this mourning song for you: "How lost you are, you inhabited city, that was built in the middle of the sea! How famous you were! How strong on the sea! She and her inhabitants inflicted terror to everyone who lived within her."

17 And they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and say to thee, How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of seafaring men, the renowned city, which wast strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants, which cause their terror to be on all that haunt it!

- The content of the princes' lamentations or dirges

— These merchants, accustomed to Tyre's longstanding dominance and prosperity, would be utterly confused and perplexed by its sudden destruction

18 'Now the coastlands will tremble On the day of your downfall; Yes, the coastlands which are by the sea Will be horrified at your passing.'

18 'Now the coastlands will tremble On the day of your fall; Yes, the coastlands which are by the sea Will be terrified at your passing.'

18 'Now the coastland inhabitants will tremble on the day that you fall. The coastland inhabitants, who make their living from the sea, will be terrified when you pass away!'

18 Now shall the isles tremble in the day of thy fall; yea, the isles that are in the sea shall be troubled at thy departure.

- The colonies themselves would be dismayed at Tyre's sudden departure. There would be widespread consternation throughout all of the colonies regarding their own future now that they had lost their most important lifeline.

19 For this is what the Lord GOD says: "When I make you a desolate city, like the cities which are not inhabited, when I bring up the deep over you and the great waters cover you,

19 For thus says the Lord GOD, "When I make you a desolate city, like the cities which are not inhabited, when I bring up the deep over you and the great waters cover you,

19 "This is what the Lord GOD says: 'When I turn your city into a ghost town, when I flood you with deep water that covers you completely,

19 For thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall make thee a desolate city, like the cities that are not inhabited; when I shall bring up the deep upon thee, and great waters shall cover thee;

- After God described the downfall of Tyre, the means of the downfall, and the lamentation and mourning by the Phoenician colonies, He now prophesied about the descent of the people of Tyre into *Sheol*

— It appears that the timing for this judgment was at the time of Tyre's final destruction. The mention of "great waters" suggests that this might not refer to the destruction of the mainland city by Nebuchadnezzar, but rather the destruction of the island city by Alexander the Great.

20 then I will bring you down with those who go down to **the pit**, to the people of old, and I will make you remain in the lower parts of the earth, like the ancient ruins, with those who go down to the pit, so that you will not be inhabited; **but I will put glory in the land of the living.**

20 then I will bring you down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of old, and I will make you dwell in the lower parts of the earth, like the ancient waste places, with those who go down to the pit, so that you will not be inhabited; but I will set glory in the land of the living.

20 I'll make sure that you go straight to the Pit, into the lowest part of the earth, where you'll be with people who lived in ancient times. You'll keep company there with the dead, who have gone into the Pit. As a result, your city won't be inhabited. Meanwhile, I will display my glory in the land of the living.

20 When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low parts of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I shall set glory in the land of the living;

- "...the pit" - referring to Sheol, or Hades. Sheol is the abode of the dead. It is the Hebrew term for the Greek word Hades.

— According to Scripture, Sheol (or Hades) is located in the center of the earth:

1. In Ezekiel, *Sheol* is referred to as the nether parts of the earth (26:20; 31:14,16,18; 32:18,24).
2. Eph 4:9-10 equates *Hades* with the lower parts of the earth, indicating a correspondence between *Hades* and *Sheol*.
3. Matt 12:40 describes *Hades*—and thus *Sheol*—as being in the heart of the earth.

— *Sheol* used to have two primary compartments. One section, known as "Abraham's bosom" (Luke 16:22-23), was reserved for the righteous. Before Christ's ascension, Paradise was in Abraham's bosom. Today, Paradise is in heaven (2 Cor 12:4).

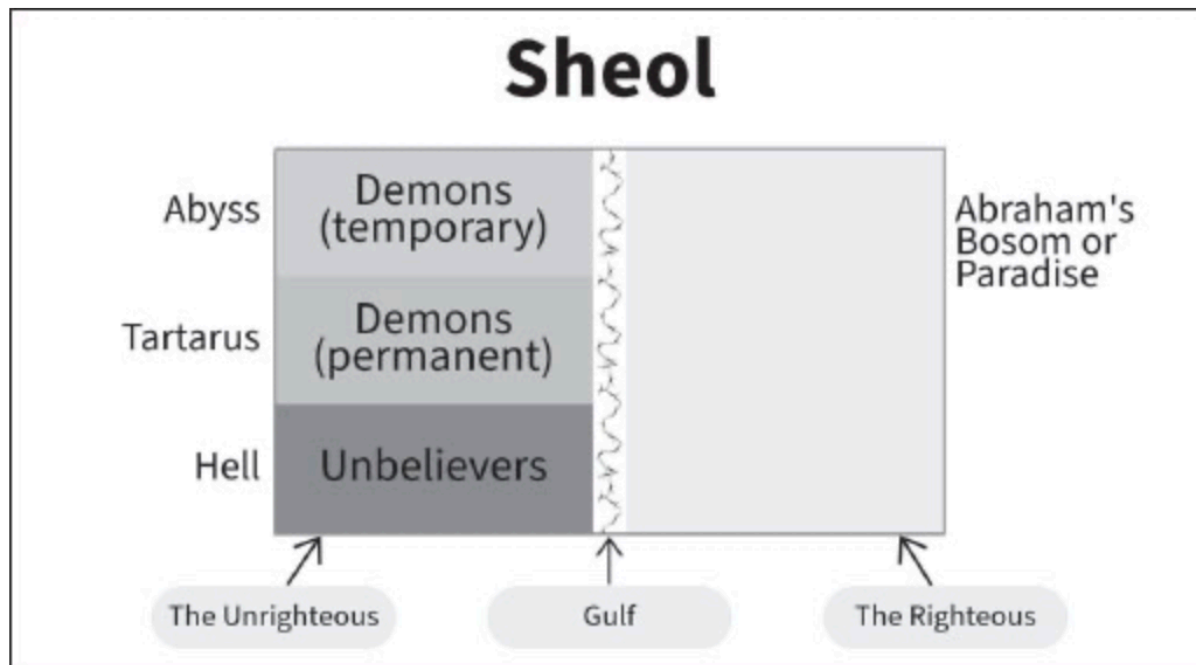
— The other section of *Sheol* was reserved for the unrighteous, including both angels and humans. This second compartment has three parts. As far as human unbelievers are concerned, they are in *Hades* proper, better known among believers today as "hell" (Cf. Luke 12:4-5; 16:19-31). The Bible calls this part *Abaddon* (Job 26:6; Ps 88:11; Rev 9:11) or "the pit" (v20).

— The two other parts are reserved for fallen angels. One of them is known as the "abyss" (Luke 8:31; Rom 10:7), which is a temporary place of confinement for fallen angels. The other part is *Tartarus* (2 Peter 2:4), which is the place of confinement for those angels who sinned in Gen 6.

— *Sheol* is a temporary place because it will cease to exist when the current earth is destroyed at the end of the millennial kingdom

- "...but I will put glory in the land of the living" - in the midst of this devastation, there is a glimmer of hope as God promised to establish His Messianic Kingdom, ultimately bringing glory to the region of Tyre because it is located inside the borders of the Promised Land (Gen. 15:18). Thus, the ultimate glory of Tyre will belong to Israel.

— "land of the living" - refers to Israel (Cf. Ps 116:9)



21 I will cause you sudden terrors and you will no longer exist; though you will be sought, you will never be found again," declares the Lord GOD.

21 I will bring terrors on you and you will be no more; though you will be sought, you will never be found again," declares the Lord GOD.

21 I'm going to send terrifying calamity in your direction, and you won't exist any longer. You might be sought after, but you'll never be found again,' declares the Lord GOD."

21 I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord GOD.

- Additional consequences of Tyre's downfall: it would become a source of terror to those who once trusted in it, and the city would cease to exist entirely.

— This predicts the enduring nature of Tyre's destruction. It will never be rebuilt and will have no place in the future millennial kingdom.

The historical reconstruction of Tyre by Alexander the Great indicates that the prophecy about the city's final destruction has not yet been fulfilled. In fact, even today there is a city named Tyre on the same site as ancient Tyre. Given this, we should expect a future fulfillment of this prophecy during the Messianic Kingdom, when the focus of glory will shift to Israel rather than Tyre. The ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy is therefore in the future and coincides with the events of the Tribulation and the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom.