

Ezekiel 26:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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,

Analysis

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—This precise dating formula (Hebrew *vayehi*, וַיְהִי) marks a significant prophetic oracle against Tyre. The eleventh year of Jehoiachin's exile corresponds to 587 BC, the very year Jerusalem fell to Babylon. The "first day of the month" (without specifying which month) creates interpretive discussion—likely the first month (Nisan/April) following Jerusalem's destruction in the fifth month (Ab/August) of the previous year.

That God's word came to Ezekiel at this precise moment—when Jerusalem lay in ruins—is theologically significant. Tyre's rejoicing over Jerusalem's fall (v. 2) would prove premature. The same Babylonian armies that destroyed God's city would turn against the Phoenician commercial empire. This demonstrates that Yahweh judges not only His covenant people but all nations. The phrase "**the word of the LORD came**" (*davar YHWH*, דְּבַר־יְהוָה) emphasizes divine initiative and authority—Ezekiel speaks not his own words but God's sovereign decree.

Historical Context

Tyre was the premier Phoenician city-state, dominating Mediterranean trade from its island fortress location. Founded around 2750 BC, it reached commercial supremacy by 1000 BC under King Hiram (David and Solomon's ally). By Ezekiel's time, Tyre controlled vast maritime networks from Spain to the Red Sea. The city's island location made it virtually impregnable—it had never fallen to siege.

Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre for 13 years (585-572 BC) following Jerusalem's fall, ultimately forcing submission though not complete conquest. Alexander the Great finally destroyed island Tyre in 332 BC by building a causeway from the mainland, fulfilling Ezekiel's detailed prophecy (26:12).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment of Tyre immediately after Jerusalem's fall demonstrate His sovereignty over all nations, not just Israel?
2. What does Tyre's downfall teach about the temporal nature of commercial power and wealth built without regard for God?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי י' H1961	בַּעֲשֻׁתִּי H6249	עָשָׂה ה' H6240	שָׁנָה H8141	בָּאָה ד' H259	
And it came to pass in the eleventh		year	in the first		
לַח דָּשׁ H2320	הָ ה' H1961	דְּבַר H1697	יְהוָה ה' H3068	אֵלַי י' H413	לֵאמֹר: H559
day of the month	that the word	of the LORD	came unto me saying		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 20:1 (References Lord): And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to enquire of the LORD, and sat before me.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org