

Ezekiel 26:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

And I will make thee like the top of a rock repeats verse 4's imagery—bare, scraped clean. Thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon confirms fishing village status. Thou shalt be built no more declares permanent diminishment. For I the LORD have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD seals the prophecy with divine authority. The repetition emphasizes certainty. The phrase built no more doesn't mean absolutely never rebuilt but never restored to former glory. Tyre exists today but never regained its ancient dominance. God's judgments may not mean total annihilation but permanent humiliation—reduction from empire to insignificance.

Historical Context

Tyre still exists as the Lebanese city of Sur, but it never regained the power and glory of the Phoenician empire. From world-spanning maritime superpower, it became a minor Mediterranean port. Though rebuilt multiple times by various powers (Roman, Byzantine, Crusader, Arab), it remained a shadow of its former self, exactly fulfilling 'thou shalt be built no more'—not absolutely, but never to former glory.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does permanent diminishment rather than total annihilation teach about divine judgment?
2. How do we know when we've been reduced from glory to insignificance?
3. What causes empires and individuals to be permanently humbled?

Interlinear Text

וְנַתַּתִּי יָךְ	לְצֶחַ יִם	סֵלֶע	מִשְׁטַח				
And I will make	thee like the top	of a rock	thou shalt be a place to spread				
H5414	H6706	H5553	H4894				
נְטִים	תִּבְנֶה הָ	לֹא	תִבְנֶה הָ	עוֹד	כִּי	אֲנִי	יְהוָה
nets	H1961	H3808	thou shalt be built	H5750	H3588	H589	GOD
H2764			H1129				H3069
דִּבַּר רַתִּי	נֹאֵם	אֲדַבֵּר	יְהוָה:				
have spoken	it saith	the Lord	no more for I the LORD				
H1696	H5002	H136	H3068				

Additional Cross-References

Job 12:14 (Parallel theme): Behold, he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again: he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening.

Malachi 1:4 (References Lord): Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.

Isaiah 14:27 (References Lord): For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

Deuteronomy 13:16 (References God): And thou shalt gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street thereof, and shalt burn with fire the city, and all the spoil thereof every whit, for the LORD thy God: and it shall be an heap for ever; it shall not be built again.

Numbers 23:19 (References God): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

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