

# Ezekiel 26:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

**Then all the princes of the sea shall come down from their thrones, and lay away their robes, and put off their broidered garments: they shall clothe themselves with trembling**—The "princes of the sea" (Hebrew nesiey hayam, נְשִׂיֵּי הַיָּם) are rulers of maritime city-states in Tyre's commercial network. Their descending from thrones signals abdication of authority and dignity. Laying aside royal robes and embroidered garments (Hebrew riqmah, רִקְמָה—expensive woven fabrics Tyre specialized in) symbolizes mourning and terror.

Most striking: **"they shall clothe themselves with trembling"** (Hebrew charadot yilbashu, חֲרָדוֹת יִלְבָּשׁוּ). Trembling becomes their garment—terror so pervasive it defines them. **"They shall sit upon the ground, and shall tremble at every moment"**—sitting on the ground (Hebrew al-ha'aretz yeshevu, עַל-הָאָרֶץ יֵשְׁבוּ) is mourning posture (Job 2:13, Lamentations 2:10). The phrase "tremble at every moment" (Hebrew charad lirgaim, חֲרָדוֹ לְרִגְעִים) means constant, unrelenting terror. These merchant princes who once dominated global trade now sit paralyzed with fear. Economic collapse produces not just poverty but psychological devastation.

## Historical Context

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This describes the reaction of Phoenician colonies and trading partners when Tyre fell. Cities like Sidon, Byblos, Arvad, and distant colonies like Carthage and Tartessus (Spain) depended on Tyre's commercial network. When Alexander destroyed Tyre in 332 BC, the entire Phoenician civilization collapsed. The purple dye industry (made from murex shells, Tyre's monopoly) ceased. Banking networks failed. Maritime trade routes became unsafe. The 'princes' are city rulers who derived wealth and authority from Tyrian commerce—when the hub collapsed, the spokes disintegrated. This prophesied the end of Phoenician civilization as a world power.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does the image of powerful rulers 'clothing themselves with trembling' reveal the fragility of human authority built on material prosperity?
2. What securities (financial, political, social) do we trust in that could prove as unstable as Tyre's maritime empire?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיָּרֶד וּ	מֵעַל	כְּסֵאוֹתָם	כֹּל	נְשִׂיאָיו	הַיָּם
shall come down	H5921	from their thrones	H3605	Then all the princes	of the sea
H3381		H3678		H5387	H3220
וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	אֶת	מְעֵילֵיהֶם	וְאֶת	בְּגָדֵי	רִקְמָתָם
and lay away	H853	their robes	H853	garments	their brodered
H5493		H4598		H899	H7553
					and put off
					H6584
וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם
themselves with trembling	they shall clothe	H5921	upon the ground	they shall sit	
H2731	H3847		H776	H3427	
וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם	וְהִסּוּ יָרֵאֵם
and shall tremble	at every moment	and be astonished			
H2729	H7281	H8074			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 32:10** (Parallel theme): Yea, I will make many people amazed at thee, and their kings shall be horribly afraid for thee, when I shall brandish my sword before them; and they shall tremble at every moment, every man for his own life, in the day of thy fall.

**Job 8:22** (Parallel theme): They that hate thee shall be clothed with shame; and the dwelling place of the wicked shall come to nought.

**Jonah 3:6** (Parallel theme): For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

**Hosea 11:10** (Parallel theme): They shall walk after the LORD: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west.

**Isaiah 3:26** (Parallel theme): And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.

**Psalms 35:26** (Parallel theme): Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.

**1 Peter 5:5** (Parallel theme): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

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