

# Ezekiel 26:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**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**—Repetition intensifies the message. The Hebrew yecherdu (יְחִרְדָּו, "shall tremble") and nibhalu (נִבְחָלָו, "shall be troubled") are synonyms for terror, fear, and panic. The doubling—"isles tremble...isles troubled"—creates poetic emphasis. "**In the day of thy fall**" (beyom maplekh, בַּיּוֹם מֶפְלָתָךְ) marks the specific moment of Tyre's collapse.

The phrase "**thy departure**" (Hebrew tzetekh, צָאתָךְ—literally "your going out" or "your exit") is euphemistic for death and destruction—Tyre's permanent removal from history's stage. This isn't temporary setback but permanent displacement. The economic and political vacuum created by Tyre's fall destabilized the ancient Mediterranean world. What appears to be merely economic prophecy reveals theological truth: when God removes a world power, the ripple effects are global. No empire is indispensable; every human system is temporary. Only God's kingdom endures.

## Historical Context

Tyre's fall created ancient history's first recorded global economic crisis. Phoenician colonies throughout the Mediterranean—Cyprus, Crete, Sicily, Sardinia, North Africa, Spain—lost their commercial lifeline. The purple dye trade collapsed. Maritime insurance and banking systems failed. Trade routes became unsafe. When Alexander destroyed Tyre in 332 BC, Carthage (founded by Tyre in

814 BC) attempted to inherit Phoenician power but eventually fell to Rome. The 'departure' was permanent—Phoenician civilization never recovered. Today's tiny Tyre bears no resemblance to the ancient commercial empire. The prophecy's fulfillment is so complete that tourists walk on the ancient causeway Alexander built, now a permanent peninsula, exactly as Ezekiel predicted.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does the permanent 'departure' of seemingly invincible civilizations like Tyre shape our perspective on contemporary global powers?
2. What does God's ability to remove entire empires teach us about placing ultimate trust in political or economic systems?

## Interlinear Text

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וְנִבְכַּל וְמִפְלָתָה רָאָתָה עַתָּה  
H6258 tremble Now shall the isles in the day of thy fall shall be troubled  
H2729 H339 H3117 H4658 H926

מִצְאָתְךָ בְּיַם אֲשֶׁר בְּאַיִם  
Now shall the isles that are in the sea at thy departure  
H339 H834 H3220 H3318

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 26:15** (Parallel theme): 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?

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