

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* (יִחָרְדוּ, "shall tremble") and *nibhalu* (נִבְהָלוּ, "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*, בְּיוֹם מַפְלֵתְךָ) marks the specific moment of Tyre's collapse.

The phrase **"thy departure"** (Hebrew *tzetekh*, צֵאתְךָ—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

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

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

יִחְרַד וְ H6258	תִּרְעַד H2729	הָאִיִּים H339	בַּיּוֹם H3117	מִפֹּלֶתְךָ H4658	וְנִבְהַל וְ H926
tremble		Now shall the isles	in the day	of thy fall	shall be troubled
הָאִיִּים H339	אֲשֶׁר H834	בְּיָם H3220	מִצְאֲתֹךָ H3318		
Now shall the isles		that are in the sea	at thy departure		

Additional Cross-References

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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