

Ezekiel 26:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit, with the people of old time, and shall set thee in the low parts of the earth, in places desolate of old, with them that go down to the pit, that thou be not inhabited; and I shall set glory in the land of the living;

Analysis

When I shall bring thee down with them that descend into the pit—Tyre's judgment continues. בָּר (bôr, 'pit') often means Sheol, the realm of the dead (Psalm 28:1, Isaiah 14:15). **With the people of old time** (מִזְמָרָעָם, 'am-'ôlām)—ancient civilizations already destroyed and forgotten.

And shall set glory in the land of the living—While Tyre descends to death, God promises צָבֵב (sěbî, 'beauty/glory') in אֶרֶץ חַיִּים ('erēṣ ḥayyîm, 'the land of the living')—referring to restored Israel (20:6, 15). Tyre's wealth and splendor would vanish, but Israel's glory would be restored. This contrast appears throughout prophetic literature: prideful nations are humbled, while humble Israel is exalted (Isaiah 2:11-17). Tyre's ruins would testify to God's judgment; Israel's restoration would testify to His faithfulness.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre 585-573 BC (29:18). Though island Tyre survived initially, Alexander the Great completely destroyed it in 332 BC, using mainland ruins to build a causeway, exactly as prophecy depicted (26:12). Today, Tyre is a modest Lebanese town—its ancient glory utterly gone.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Tyre's descent 'to the pit' teach about the destiny of prideful wealth?
2. How does Israel's promised restoration contrast with Tyre's permanent desolation?
3. What modern 'Tyres'—centers of wealth and power—might face similar judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְרֹדֵי	אֶת	וְרֹדֵי	בְּ וְרֹדֵי	אֶל
When I shall bring thee down	H854	When I shall bring thee down	into the pit	H413
	H3381			H953
עַם	מִזְמָרָם	תִּשְׁבַּבְתִּי	בָּאָרֶץ	תִּחְתַּתְּ אָרֶץ
with the people	of old	and shall set	in the land	thee in the low parts
H5971	H5769	H3427	H776	H8482
וְרֹדֵי	אֶת	וְרֹדֵי	בְּ וְרֹדֵי	בְּ וְרֹדֵי
מִזְמָרָם	מִזְמָרָם	וְתִּשְׁבַּבְתִּי	וְתִּשְׁבַּבְתִּי	וְתִּשְׁבַּבְתִּי
in places desolate	of old	When I shall bring thee down	into the pit	into the pit
H2723	H5769	H854	H3381	H953
עַל	אֶת	אֶת	בָּאָרֶץ	בָּאָרֶץ
לֹא	לֹמֶן	בְּ	אֲבָבָה	אֲבָבָה
לֹמֶן	לֹמֶן	בְּ	יְתִתְתָּה	יְתִתְתָּה
and shall set	and I shall set	and I shall set	glory	in the land
H4616	H3808	H3427	H5414	H776
עַל	אֶת	אֶת	אֲבָבָה	אֲבָבָה
לֹמֶן	לֹמֶן	בְּ	יְתִתְתָּה	יְתִתְתָּה
and shall set	and I shall set	and I shall set	glory	in the land
H4616	H3808	H3427	H5414	H776
עַל	אֶת	אֶת	אֲבָבָה	אֲבָבָה
לֹמֶן	לֹמֶן	בְּ	יְתִתְתָּה	יְתִתְתָּה
and shall set	and I shall set	and I shall set	glory	of the living
H4616	H3808	H3427	H5414	H2416

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 27:13 (Parallel theme): I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Zechariah 2:8 (Glory): For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.

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