

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. בֹּר (bôr, 'pit') often means Sheol, the realm of the dead (Psalm 28:1, Isaiah 14:15). **With the people of old time** (עַם-עוֹלָם, '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 צְבִי (šěbî, 'beauty/glory') in אֶרֶץ חַיִּים ('ereš 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

י וְרִדִּי	אֶת	י וְרִדִּי	ב וֹר	אֶל		
When I shall bring thee down	H854	When I shall bring thee down	into the pit	H413		
H3381		H3381	H953			
עַם	מְעוֹלָם	תִּשָּׁבִי	בְּאֶרֶץ	תַּחְתִּי וְתִ		
with the people	of old	and shall set	in the land	thee in the low parts		
H5971	H5769	H3427	H776	H8482		
כְּחֶרֶב וְתִ	מְעוֹלָם	אֶת	י וְרִדִּי	ב וֹר		
in places desolate	of old	H854	When I shall bring thee down	into the pit		
H2723	H5769		H3381	H953		
לֹא לִי עֵן	תִּשָּׁבִי	וְנָתַתִּי	צָבִי	בְּאֶרֶץ	חַיִּים:	
H4616	H3808	and shall set	and I shall set	glory	in the land	of the living
	H3427	H5414	H6643	H776	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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