

Ezekiel 26:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more—תְּלַהֲהֹת (ballāhōt, 'terrors/horrifying thing') describes Tyre as an object lesson of judgment. **Though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord GOD**—The Hebrew (tēbuqshî wělō'-timmās̄e'î, 'you will be sought but not found') promises permanent erasure.

This is the divine signature: בְּאָמֵן אֶדְתִּי הַהִיא (nē'um 'ădōnāy YHWH, 'utterance of the Lord GOD') sealing the prophecy. Ancient Tyre's magnificent civilization—described in chapter 27 as the perfection of beauty—would become a byword for judgment. Isaiah 23, Amos 1:9-10, Zechariah 9:3-4, and Jesus' own references (Matthew 11:21-22, Luke 10:13-14) all assume Tyre's destruction as historical fact. Archaeological excavations confirm: Phoenician Tyre's glory was systematically obliterated, first by Babylon, then completely by Alexander. The city exists but its ancient identity is irretrievable—precisely as prophesied.

Historical Context

Phoenician Tyre was founded circa 2750 BC, making it one of antiquity's oldest cities. It pioneered maritime trade, invented purple dye, and spread the alphabet. At its peak, Tyre controlled Mediterranean commerce. Yet its pride brought judgment: 'sought for, yet never found again.' This prophecy, written 586 BC, came true by 332 BC.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Tyre becoming 'a terror' (cautionary tale) serve God's purposes?
2. What does permanent loss of identity teach about valuing worldly achievement over God?
3. How does Jesus' reference to Tyre's judgment (Matthew 11:21-22) apply to our accountability?

Interlinear Text

וְתַתְּבִּשֵּׁשׁ וְתִמְצָא אֵין בָּלָה וְתַתְּבִּשֵּׁשׁ

thee a terror I will make

H369

H1091

H5414

וְתַתְּבִּשֵּׁשׁ וְתִמְצָא אֵין בָּלָה וְתַתְּבִּשֵּׁשׁ

and thou shalt be no more though thou be sought for

H3808

H5750

H1245

be found

H4672

לֹא נָא אַדְנִי וְתַתְּבִּשֵּׁשׁ

yet shalt thou never

again saith

the Lord

GOD

H5769

H5002

H136

H3069

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 27:36 (Parallel theme): The merchants among the people shall hiss at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt be any more.

Revelation 18:21 (Parallel theme): And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

Ezekiel 28:19 (Parallel theme): All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

Psalms 37:36 (Parallel theme): Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

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