

Ezekiel 26:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD: and it shall become a spoil to the nations.

Analysis

It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea predicts Tyre's reduction from commercial superpower to fishing village. For I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD seals the prophecy with divine authority. And it shall become a spoil to the nations indicates plunder by many powers. What was prosperous becomes desolate; what was proud becomes pitiful. The contrast between maritime empire and fishing nets emphasizes total reversal. God brings down proud powers and reduces them to humble subsistence. All human glory is temporary when it opposes God.

Historical Context

After Alexander's destruction (332 BC), Tyre never regained its former glory. Though rebuilt, it remained a minor port rather than the commercial empire it had been. Fishermen literally spread nets on its ruins, fulfilling Ezekiel's prophecy. The reduction from empire to fishing village demonstrates the thoroughness of divine judgment against pride.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What brings down mighty empires and powerful institutions?
2. How does God humble the proud and exalt the humble?
3. What temporary glories are we trusting that God may reduce to nets and fish?

Interlinear Text

מִשְׁטַּח	חֲכָמִים	תְּהִיָּה	בֵּת וָדָג	הַיָּם
It shall be a place for the spreading	of nets	H1961	in the midst	of the sea
H4894	H2764		H8432	H3220
אֲנִי יְהוָה	דָּבַר רַחֲמֵי	נֹאֵם	אֲדַבֵּר	יְהוָה
H3588	H589	for I have spoken	it saith	the Lord
	H1696	H5002	H136	GOD
			H3069	H1961
וְהָיָה	לְבַז	לְגוֹיִם:		
and it shall become a spoil	to the nations			
H957	H1471			

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 29:19 (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will give the land of Egypt unto Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; and he shall take her multitude, and take her spoil, and take her prey; and it shall be the wages for his army.

Ezekiel 47:10 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En-gedi even unto En-eglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

Ezekiel 26:19 (References God): For thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall make thee a desolate city, like the cities that are not inhabited; when I shall bring up the deep upon thee, and great waters shall cover thee;

Ezekiel 25:7 (References Lord): Behold, therefore I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and will deliver thee for a spoil to the heathen; and I will cut thee off from the people, and I will cause thee to perish out of the countries: I will destroy thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 27:32 (Parallel theme): And in their wailing they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and lament over thee, saying, What city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea?

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