

Ezekiel 27:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They of Persia and of Lud and of Phut were in thine army, thy men of war: they hanged the shield and helmet in thee; they set forth thy comeliness.

Analysis

They of Persia and of Lud and of Phut were in thine army, thy men of war (אֲנְשֵׁי מִלְחָמֶתֶךָ, *anshei milchamtekh*)—Tyre hired mercenaries from vast geographic extremes: Persia (modern Iran, far east), Lud (Lydia in Asia Minor, northeast), and Phut (Libya/North Africa, southwest). These weren't allies but paid soldiers (*anshei milchamah*, "men of war"), revealing Tyre's wealth could purchase military protection from the known world's edges. **They hanged the shield and helmet in thee; they set forth thy comeliness** (הֵמָּה נָתְנוּ הַדָּרֶךְ, *hemmah nathnu hadarekh*)—the displayed weaponry served dual purpose: defense and *hadar* ("splendor/majesty"), turning military might into aesthetic boasting.

Tyre's security rested on hired foreigners, not covenant relationship with the living God. Compare Israel: God Himself fought their battles when they trusted Him (Exodus 14:14). Tyre's judgment exposes the futility of military pageantry divorced from divine favor.

Historical Context

The Persian Empire had not yet risen to dominance when Ezekiel prophesied (c. 586 BC)—this either refers to Persia as a region/people or demonstrates prophetic foresight. Lud (Lydia) in western Asia Minor was famous for its wealth and military prowess. Phut (likely Libya) represented North African military power. Ancient Near Eastern kingdoms regularly employed mercenaries; the Phoenician cities,

lacking large native populations, relied heavily on hired troops. The practice of displaying shields on city walls appears in ancient reliefs and texts as both defense and prestige.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What are modern equivalents of trusting in hired protection rather than God's provision and presence?
2. How does the display of military or financial strength as "splendor" mask spiritual vulnerability?

Interlinear Text

פָּרַס	וְלִלּוּד	וּפְּטוּ	הֵיוּ	בְּחֵילֶךָ	אֲנִשִּׁי
They of Persia	and of Lud	and of Phut		were in thine army	
H6539	H3865	H6316	H1961	H2428	H376
מִלְחָמָתְךָ	מָגֵן	וְכַבֵּעַ	תָּלִוּ	בְּךָ	הֵמָּה
of war	the shield	and helmet	they hanged		
H4421	H4043	H3553	H8518	H0	H1992
נָתַתָּ	הִדְרָךְ:				
in thee they set forth	thy comeliness				
H5414	H1926				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 38:5 (Parallel theme): Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

Ezekiel 30:5 (Parallel theme): Ethiopia, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword.

Isaiah 66:19 (Parallel theme): And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

Jeremiah 46:9 (Parallel theme): Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots; and let the mighty men come forth; the Ethiopians and the Libyans, that handle the shield; and the Lydians, that handle and bend the bow.

Song of Solomon 4:4: Thy neck is like the tower of David builded for an armoury, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men.

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