

Ezekiel 27:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The men of Arvad with thine army were upon thy walls round about, and the Gammadims were in thy towers: they hanged their shields upon thy walls round about; they have made thy beauty perfect.

Analysis

The men of Arvad with thine army were upon thy walls round about, and the Gammadims were in thy towers (וְגַמְמַדִּים בְּמִגְדְּלוֹתַיִךְ הָיוּ, vegammadim bemigdelotayikh hayu)—the mysterious Gammadim (גַּמְדִּים) likely derives from gammad ("warrior/valiant man") or possibly "Cappadocians," though some suggest "short-statured" guards. Regardless, they manned Tyre's towers (migdalot), the defensive strongpoints. **They hanged their shields upon thy walls round about; they have made thy beauty perfect** (הֵמָּה כָּלְלוּ יָפוֹיִךְ, hemmah kalelu yofyekh)—the verb kalal means "to complete/perfect," with yofi being "beauty." Tyre's aesthetic perfection required foreign mercenaries' shields as decorative completion!

The irony is devastating: Tyre's self-proclaimed "perfect beauty" (v. 3) actually depended entirely on outsiders. True beauty belongs to God's dwelling (Psalm 27:4, 96:6), not commercial cities. Tyre's judgment reveals that beauty built on exploitation and pride is already ruined, awaiting only God's verdict to manifest.

Historical Context

Tyre was built on a rocky island 600 yards offshore, with massive walls and towers making it virtually impregnable to ancient siege tactics. Alexander the Great finally

conquered it (332 BC) only by building a causeway—a 7-month siege requiring unprecedented engineering. The city's fortifications were manned by various mercenary groups, each assigned specific defensive positions. Ancient practice involved hanging shields on external walls both for quick access and as intimidating display, visible from sea and land.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we construct "perfect beauty" in our lives, ministries, or communities by depending on external props rather than internal godliness?
2. What does it mean that God's beauty is intrinsic and self-sufficient, unlike Tyre's composite, dependent splendor?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי יִ	אַרְבַּד	וְחֵילָךְ	עַל	חֻמוֹתַיִךְ	סָבִיב
The men	of Arvad	with thine army	upon thy walls	round about	
H1121	H719	H2428	H5921	H2346	H5439
וְגַמְדִּים	בְּמִגְדָּלוֹתַיִךְ	הֵיוּ	שְׁלִטֵּיהֶם	תָּלָו	עַל
and the Gammadims	were in thy towers		their shields	they hanged	
H1575	H4026	H1961	H7982	H8518	H5921
חֻמוֹתַיִךְ	סָבִיב	הֵפֶה	כָּלֵל	יְפִיָּה:	
upon thy walls	round about		perfect	thy beauty	
H2346	H5439	H1992	H3634	H3308	

