

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 (גַּמְדִים בְּמִגְדָּלוֹתֶיךָ הַיּוּ) — the mysterious Gammadim (גַּמְדִים) 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** (הִמְמָה קָלָלָה יְפִיָּה) — 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

סְבִּיבָּה חֹמֹמָתִיךְ עַל אֶרְדָּן בְּנֵי
The men of Arvad with thine army upon thy walls round about
H1121 H719 H2428 H5921 H2346 H5439

עַל תַּלְיָה שְׁלֹטִיתֶךָ מִפְּנֵי בְּמִגְדָּלוֹתֶיךְ וְגַם יְמִינֶךָ
and the Gammadims were in thy towers their shields they hanged
H1575 H4026 H1961 H7982 H8518 H5921

יְפִיָּה כְּלָל אֶחָד חֹמֹמָתִיךְ סְבִּיבָּה
upon thy walls round about perfect thy beauty
H2346 H5439 H1992 H3634 H3308

