

Ezekiel 27:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Dan also and Javan going to and fro occupied in thy fairs:
bright iron, cassia, and calamus, were in thy market.

Analysis

Dan also and Javan going to and fro occupied in thy fairs—The Hebrew *me'uzal* (מֵעֻזַּל) means "from Uzal," likely modern Sana'a in Yemen, indicating South Arabian trade routes. **Bright iron, cassia, and calamus** (בְּרִזְלֵי עֲשׂוֹת קִדְדָּה וְעָנָה, *barzel ashot qiddah veqaneh*) represents luxury trade goods: wrought iron (possibly Damascus steel), cassia bark (a cinnamon-like spice used in holy anointing oil, Exodus 30:24), and calamus (sweet cane, an aromatic reed). This verse climaxes the trade catalog spanning 27:12-24, showing Tyre's reach from the Mediterranean to Arabia and East Africa.

The geographic scope—from Tarshish (Spain) to Sheba (Arabia)—demonstrates the ancient world's interconnected economy centered on Phoenician maritime commerce. Tyre's fall (prophesied in 27:26-36) would collapse this entire network, illustrating how pride and self-sufficiency lead to divine judgment regardless of economic power.

Historical Context

Written during Ezekiel's Babylonian exile (593-571 BC), this lament over Tyre was prophetic—Nebuchadnezzar would besiege Tyre for 13 years (585-572 BC), and Alexander the Great would destroy it completely in 332 BC. Tyre (modern Sur, Lebanon) was the dominant commercial power of the eastern Mediterranean, controlling trade routes between three continents. Archaeological finds confirm Tyrian trade with locations mentioned in this chapter.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the extent of Tyre's trade network reveal both human ingenuity and the danger of trusting in economic power rather than God?
2. What "luxury goods" in your life might distract you from spiritual priorities, just as Tyre's wealth blinded them to their need for God?

Interlinear Text

דָּן	וְגַם	וּלְמֵאוֹתָיִם	בְּעִזְבוֹנֶיךָ	נִתְּנוּ	בַּרְזֶל	עֲשׂוֹת
Dan	also and Javan	going to and fro	in thy fairs	occupied	iron	bright
H2051	H3120	H235	H5801	H5414	H1270	H6219
קַזְיָה	וְקַלָּמֹס	בַּמַּעֲרָב	הָיָה:			
cassia	and calamus	were in thy market	H1961			
H6916	H7070	H4627				

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