

# Ezekiel 27:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These were thy merchants in all sorts of things, in blue clothes, and broidered work, and in chests of rich apparel, bound with cords, and made of cedar, among thy merchandise.

## Analysis

**These were thy merchants in all sorts of things, in blue clothes, and broidered work, and in chests of rich apparel, bound with cords, and made of cedar** (בְּגָדֵי תֵּכֶהֶלֶת וְרִקְמָה וּבְגִנְזֵי בְּרֹמִים, biglomei tekhelet veriqmah uvginzei beromim)—The tekhelet (purple-blue dye) came from murex shellfish, requiring thousands of mollusks for a single garment, making it a royal color (Numbers 15:38). Riqmah (embroidered work) indicates skilled artisan labor. "Chests of rich apparel bound with cords, made of cedar" (בַּחֲבָלִים חֲבָשִׁים וְאַרְזִים, bachavalim chavushim va'aruzim) describes luxury storage—cedar-lined treasure chests bound with ropes, preserving expensive textiles.

This verse concludes the extensive trade catalog (27:12-24) by emphasizing variety ("all sorts of things") and luxury. Yet verse 25 immediately shifts: "The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas." Glory without God leads to the destruction prophesied in verses 26-36.

## Historical Context

The purple dye industry was Phoenicia's most famous export—the name "Phoenician" derives from Greek phoinix (purple). Archaeological sites along the

Lebanese coast show massive murex shell middens. Cedar from Lebanon was prized throughout the ancient world for its durability and pleasant scent (1 Kings 5). The binding cords and cedar chests represent the pinnacle of luxury goods preservation in the ancient world.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does the detailed description of Tyre's luxury trade warn against measuring success by accumulation of "all sorts of things" rather than by faithfulness to God?
2. What purple garments or cedar chests—symbols of status and security—are you tempted to trust in instead of God's provision?

## Interlinear Text

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הָמָה H1992	רָכֵל יָרָה H7402	בְּמִכְלָל יִם H4360	בְּגָלוּמֵי H1545	תָּכָה לָת H8504
These were thy merchants		in all sorts	clothes	of things in blue
וּרְקִמָּה H7553	וּבְגִנֵּי יָה H1595	בְּרִמָּה יִם H1264	בְּחִבְלֵי יִם H2256	חִבְשֵׁי יִם H2280
and brodered work	and in chests	of rich apparel	with cords	bound
וְאֶרֶז יִם H729	בְּמִרְכָּלֵתָהּ H4819			
and made of cedar	among thy merchandise			