

Ezekiel 27:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market refers to Tarshish ships (large merchant vessels capable of long voyages) trading at Tyre and celebrating the city's wealth. Thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas summarizes Tyre's peak prosperity and fame. The irony: this glory is past tense from God's perspective—already finished, already fallen. God speaks of future judgment as accomplished fact because His decrees are certain. What God declares done is done, regardless of present appearances. Tyre's glory is already past, though she doesn't know it yet.

Historical Context

Tarshish likely refers to distant western Mediterranean locations (possibly Spain). That ships from such distance traded at Tyre demonstrates the extent of Tyrian commercial networks. At its peak, Tyre was indeed glorious, controlling Mediterranean trade. Yet as Ezekiel prophesied, this glory ended with Babylonian and later Alexandrian conquest.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God speak of future judgment as past tense?
2. What glories in our lives might already be finished from God's perspective?
3. Why should present prosperity not create false security?

Interlinear Text

וְתַמְלִא	אָנָי	וְתַ	מְעַבֵּד	הָ	שְׁרֹותָת	וְרַ	תְּרַשֵּׁשׁ	וְשָׁ
The ships	of Tarshish	did sing	of thee	in thy market	and thou wast replenished			
H591	H8659	H7788		H4627				H4390
וְתַכְבִּיד	מָאָד	בְּלִבְנֵי	יְמִים					
glorious	and made very	in the midst	of the seas					
H3513	H3966	H3820	H3220					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:16 (Parallel theme): And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.

Isaiah 23:14 (Parallel theme): Howl, ye ships of Tarshish: for your strength is laid waste.

Psalms 48:7 (Parallel theme): Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind.