

Ezekiel 27:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all that handle the oar, the mariners, and all the pilots of the sea, shall come down from their ships, they shall stand upon the land;

Analysis

And all that handle the oar, the mariners, and all the pilots of the sea, shall come down from their ships—The lament for Tyre continues from verse 1. Those who handle the oar (תֹּפְשֵׁה māshōt, 'handle the oar'), the sailors (חֹבְלִים hōbēlîm, 'sailors'), and all pilots of the sea (כָּל חֹבְלֵי הָיָם kōl hōbēlē hayyām, 'all pilots of the sea') abandon ship.

This vivid imagery depicts maritime professionals—whose livelihood depends on sailing—leaving their vessels to stand on shore. It's an unnatural act, signaling the end of seafaring itself. When Tyre, the ancient world's commercial hub, falls, international trade collapses. Those who profited from Tyre's wealth watch helplessly as their economic system crumbles. Revelation 18:17-19 echoes this passage in describing Babylon's fall, showing the pattern of commercial empire collapse continues throughout history.

Historical Context

Tyre's maritime dominance lasted over 1,000 years. Phoenician ships reached Britain for tin, circumnavigated Africa, and established Carthage. Tyrian purple dye and cedar wood were legendary. The city's commercial network spanned the known world (27:12-24). When Babylon besieged Tyre (585-573 BC), this economic empire began its collapse.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do economic empires built on pride eventually face God's judgment?
2. What does the image of sailors abandoning ships teach about the instability of worldly wealth?
3. How does Revelation 18's echo of this passage apply to modern commercial powers?

Interlinear Text

מַשְׁׁוֹךְ וְתַפְשֵׁלָה כִּי מִן־אֲנָוְתִּים מִן־יָמִים
the oar and that handle And all that handle from their ships shall come down
H4880 H8610 H3605 H591 H3381

בְּאָרֶץ אֲלֹהִים חַבֵּל וְכִי מִלְחָםָה יְמִינָה
upon the land and all the pilots of the sea and all the mariners
H776 H413 H3220 H2259 H3605 H4419

יְעַמְּדוּ
they shall stand
H5975

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org