

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 תִּפְּשֵׂהוּ מִשֹּׁטוֹת (tōphěśê māshôṭ, 'handle the oar'), the חֹבְלִים (ḥōbēlīm, 'sailors'), and כָּל חֹבְלֵי הַיָּם (kōl ḥōbēlē 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

וַיָּרֶד וּ	מֵאֲנֻתֵיהֶם	כֹּל	תִּפְשֵׁי י	נָשׁ וְט	
shall come down	from their ships	H3605	And all that handle	the oar	
H3381	H591		H8610	H4880	
מַלְחֵי יָם	כֹּל	חֹבְלֵי י	הַיָּם	אֶל	קֵץ רֶגֶץ
the mariners	H3605	and all the pilots	of the sea	H413	upon the land
H4419		H2259	H3220		H776
יַעֲמֻדוּ:					
they shall stand					
H5975					