

Ezekiel 27:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty.

Analysis

And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea describes Tyre's geographic position—controlling Mediterranean access from the Levantine coast. Which art a merchant of the people for many isles identifies Tyre's commercial role as middleman for island and coastal trade. Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty quotes Tyre's self-assessment. Perfect beauty indicates pride in appearance, wealth, and sophistication. Pride in beauty—whether physical, cultural, or economic—precedes judgment. Self-proclaimed perfection blinds to need for God. Tyre's commercial success produced arrogant self-sufficiency, forgetting that all prosperity comes from God.

Historical Context

Tyre's position on an island just offshore made it nearly impregnable while controlling crucial Mediterranean trade routes. The city grew immensely wealthy as a trading hub, developing a reputation for luxury, culture, and beauty. This prosperity produced the pride God judges. Commercial success without corresponding humility before God always leads to judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does commercial success breed pride and self-sufficiency?
2. What beauty or perfection are we prideful about?
3. Why does economic prosperity often distance us from God rather than draw us to Him?

Interlinear Text

וְאַמְرָתִי תְּמִבָּאָת עַל הַיָּם בְּתִי צַוְּרָא אַמְרָתִי
And say O Tyrus O thou that art situate H5921 at the entry of the sea H3220
H559 H6865 H3427 H3997

אַמְרָתִי כִּי בְּבָיִם אַל בְּעָמָם יִם אַיִם רַכְלָת
And say which art a merchant of the people H3541 H559
H7402 H5971 H413 H339 H7227

וְאַמְרָתִי אַתְּ צַוְּרָא אַתְּ אַמְרָתִי אַתְּ אַמְרָתִי
I am of perfect beauty And say the Lord O Tyrus H3068 H859 H559 H3632 H3308
H136 H6865

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 27:4 (Parallel theme): Thy borders are in the midst of the seas, thy builders have perfected thy beauty.