

Ezekiel 27:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And shall cause their voice to be heard against thee, and shall cry bitterly, and shall cast up dust upon their heads, they shall wallow themselves in the ashes:

Analysis

They shall stand upon the land; and shall cause their voice to be heard against thee, and shall cry bitterly—The maritime workers stand on אֶל-הָאָרֶץ ('el-hā'āreṣ, 'on the land'), displaced from their natural element. They וְהִשְׁמִיעוּ עֲלֶיךָ וְהִשְׁמִיעוּ עֲלֶיךָ (wəhishmî'û 'ālayik bəqôlām, 'cause to be heard upon you with their voice').

וַיִּזְעֻקוּ מְרָחָה (wəyiz'ăqû mārāh, 'and they shall cry bitterly')—the verb זָעַק (zā'aq) indicates anguished outcry, while מְרָחָה (mārāh, 'bitter') suggests grief mixed with despair. Their lament is both for Tyre and for their own livelihoods destroyed with her. Economic interdependence means Tyre's judgment cascades to all who benefited from her trade. This collective mourning demonstrates how one nation's pride and judgment affects entire regions—a principle seen when any economic superpower collapses.

Historical Context

Ancient economies were less diversified than modern ones; Tyre's fall devastated Mediterranean commerce. Ezekiel 27:12-24 lists Tyre's trade partners: Tarshish (Spain), Greece, Tubal, Meshech, Togarmah, Dedan, Arabia, Sheba—a vast network. When the hub collapsed, the entire system suffered. Historical records show economic depression followed Babylon's campaigns.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does economic interconnection mean one nation's sin affects many?
2. What is the spiritual danger of building identity and security on commercial success?
3. How should believers respond when economic systems they depend on face judgment?

Interlinear Text

וְהִשָּׁמַע יְעוֹ	עַל יָדְךָ	בְּקוֹלָם	וַיִּזְעַק וְ	
to be heard	H5921	And shall cause their voice	against thee and shall cry	
H8085		H6963	H2199	
מְרָה	וַיַּעַל וְ	עָפָר	כִּי אֲשִׁיחָם	בָּאֵשׁ פָּר
bitterly	and shall cast up	dust	upon their heads	themselves in the ashes
H4751	H5927	H6083	H7218	H665
וַיִּתְפַּלְשׁוּ:				
they shall wallow				
H6428				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 6:26 (Parallel theme): O daughter of my people, gird thee with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us.

Lamentations 2:10 (Parallel theme): The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ground, and keep silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have

girded themselves with sackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground.

2 Samuel 1:2 (Parallel theme): It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.

Jonah 3:6 (Parallel theme): For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

Ezekiel 26:17 (Parallel theme): And they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and say to thee, How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of seafaring men, the renowned city, which wast strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants, which cause their terror to be on all that haunt it!

1 Samuel 4:12 (Parallel theme): And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.