

Ezekiel 27:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thy wares went forth out of the seas, thou filledst many people; thou didst enrich the kings of the earth with the multitude of thy riches and of thy merchandise.

Analysis

Saying, What city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea?—

The rhetorical question מִי כְצוֹר כְּדוּמָה בְּתוֹךְ הַיָּם (mî khěšôr kaddûmāh bēthôkh hayyām, 'who is like Tyre, like the silenced in the midst of the sea?') uses דוּמָה (dûmāh, 'silence/desolation'), suggesting Tyre's voice is stilled forever.

This echoes laments over Babylon ('who is like Babylon?'—Revelation 18:18) and represents humanity's astonishment when seemingly invincible powers fall. Tyre appeared impregnable: island fortress, commercial dominance, wealth beyond measure. Yet God silenced her. The question highlights not just Tyre's uniqueness but the shock of her destruction—if mighty Tyre can fall, no human achievement is secure. Only God's kingdom is unshakable (Hebrews 12:27-28).

Historical Context

Tyre's island location made it nearly impregnable to ancient siege warfare. It resisted Assyrian king Shalmaneser V for five years (724-720 BC) and Nebuchadnezzar for thirteen years (585-573 BC). Many doubted Tyre could fall. Yet Alexander the Great destroyed it in 332 BC by building a causeway from mainland to island—a feat considered impossible. The rhetorical question proved ironic: Tyre's uniqueness made her fall more stunning.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What modern powers seem 'like Tyre'—too established to fall?
2. How does human shock at judgment reveal our false confidence in worldly security?
3. What does Tyre's uniqueness-turned-vulnerability teach about pride?

Interlinear Text

בָּצָא אֶת	עֲזָבוֹנֶי יָרֵךְ	מִמֶּנּוּ יָם	הִשָּׁבַע עֲתָה	עַמֵּי יָם	רַבִּי יָם
went forth	When thy wares	out of the seas	thou filledst	people	many
H3318	H5801	H3220	H7646	H5971	H7227
בְּרַב	הוֹנֵי יָרֵךְ	וּמִמֶּנּוּ יָרֵךְ	הָעֵשׂ רַתָּה	מְלָכֵי	
with the multitude	of thy riches	and of thy merchandise	thou didst enrich	the kings	
H7230	H1952	H4627	H6238	H4428	
אֶרֶץ:					
of the earth					
H776					

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 18:19 (Parallel theme): And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all

that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

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