

Ezekiel 27:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the time when thou shalt be broken by the seas in the depths of the waters thy merchandise and all thy company in the midst of thee shall fall.

Analysis

When thy wares went forth out of the seas, thou filledst many people— Tyre's commercial reach: עַזְבּוֹנִיֶּךְ (izbônyik, 'your merchandise') מִיּוֹם (miyyammîm, 'from the seas') הַשְׁבָעַת עַמִּים כְּבָנִים (hisba'at 'ammîm rabbîm, 'satisfied many peoples'). The verb שָׁבַע (sâba', 'to be satisfied/filled') suggests Tyre provided abundance.

Thou didst enrich the kings of the earth with the multitude of thy riches and of thy merchandise— Tyre's wealth enriched monarchs: הָעֲשָׂרֶת מֶלֶךְ-אָרֶץ (he'esharté malkhê-'āreṣ, 'you made rich the kings of earth'). But wealth without worship, commerce without covenant, produces judgment. Tyre's error was self-sufficiency (28:2—'thou hast said, I am a God'). Prosperity became pride, trade became trust, wealth replaced worship. Her riches couldn't save her—highlighting that material abundance, while potentially good, becomes idolatrous when divorced from acknowledging God as ultimate provider (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).

Historical Context

Tyre's commercial catalog (27:12-24) shows trade in silver, iron, tin, lead, slaves, horses, ivory, ebony, wine, wool, spices, gold, precious stones—virtually everything valuable in the ancient world. Kings relied on Tyrian goods and expertise. Solomon used Tyrian craftsmen for the temple (1 Kings 5:1-12). But this economic power bred spiritual pride that demanded judgment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How can economic prosperity become spiritual poison if it leads to self-sufficiency?
2. What is the difference between stewarding wealth for God's glory and trusting wealth as security?
3. How should believers relate to commerce and wealth in light of Tyre's example?

Interlinear Text

עַת	נִשְׁבַּת	מִפְּנֵים	מִן
In the time	when thou shalt be broken	by the seas	in the depths
H6256	H7665	H3220	H4615
thy merchandise	and all thy company	in the midst	of thee shall fall
H4627	H3605	H6951	H5307

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