

# Ezekiel 27:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All the inhabitants of the isles shall be astonished at thee, and their kings shall be sore afraid, they shall be troubled in their countenance.

## Analysis

**In the time when thou shalt be broken by the seas in the depths of the waters**—The metaphor shifts: Tyre the magnificent ship is נִשְׁבֶּרֶת מִיָּם (nishbartē miyyammîm, 'broken by the seas') בְּמַעְמָקֵי-מַיִם (běma'āmaqê-māyim, 'in the depths of waters'). The very element that enabled Tyre's prosperity—the sea—becomes her destroyer.

**Thy merchandise and all thy company in the midst of thee shall fall**—מִעֲרִבְךָ וְכָל-קִרְבְּךָ (ma'ārābēkh wěkhol-qēhālēkh, 'your merchandise and all your assembly') נָפְלוּ (nāphālû, 'have fallen'). Total collapse: goods, sailors, merchants—all sink together. This imagery of a wrecked ship represents total systemic failure. Tyre's integrated economy, which seemed so sophisticated and resilient, proves vulnerable to God's judgment. The lesson: systems built on human pride rather than divine foundation are destined for catastrophic failure (Matthew 7:24-27).

## Historical Context

Maritime disasters were common in antiquity but rarely catastrophic to empires because trade networks were diversified. Tyre's uniqueness was that the city itself was the network's center. When the city fell, the entire system collapsed—like a modern financial crisis when the central bank fails. Ezekiel's ship metaphor captures this systemic interdependence and vulnerability.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does the metaphor of Tyre as a wrecked ship illustrate total systemic collapse?
2. What modern 'ships'—complex systems we trust—might be vulnerable to similar judgment?
3. How do we avoid building our lives on systems destined for failure?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּל	יֹשְׁבֵי	הָאֲיִלִּים	שָׁמָּה וְ	עַל יָם
H3605	<b>All the inhabitants</b>	<b>of the isles</b>	<b>shall be astonished</b>	H5921
	H3427	H339	H8074	
וּמַלְכֵיהֶם	שֶׁ יִפְּרוּ	שֶׁ יִפְּרוּ	רָעָם וְ	
<b>at thee and their kings</b>	<b>afraid</b>	<b>shall be sore</b>	<b>they shall be troubled</b>	
H4428	H8175	H8178	H7481	
פָּנִים:				
<b>in their countenance</b>				
H6440				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 23:6** (Parallel theme): Pass ye over to Tarshish; howl, ye inhabitants of the isle.

**Ezekiel 32:10** (Kingdom): Yea, I will make many people amazed at thee, and their kings shall be horribly afraid for thee, when I shall brandish my sword before them; and they shall tremble at every moment, every man for his own life, in the day of thy fall.

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