

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 נִשְׁבָרֶת מִיָּם (nishbarte miyyammim, 'broken by the seas') בְּמַעַמְקֵי-מֵי (bēma'āmaqē-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—מַעֲבָרֶךָ וְכָל-קָבְלָךְ (ma'ārābēkh wēkhōl-qēhālēkh, 'your merchandise and all your assembly') נִפְאַלְוָךְ (nāphālū, '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

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

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

כָּל־יְשָׁבֵת בְּאָיִם שָׁמָם וְעַל־יָם

H3605 All the inhabitants of the isles shall be astonished

H3427

H339

H5921

H8074

וּמֶלֶכִים שָׁעַר שָׁעַם וְעַל־יָם

at thee and their kings afraid shall be sore they shall be troubled

H4428

H8175

H8178

H7481

פְּנֵים:

in their countenance

H6440

Additional Cross-References

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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