

Ezekiel 27:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The merchants among the people shall hiss at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt be any more.

Analysis

The merchants among the people shall hiss at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt be any more—The final verse: סֹחָרִים בְּעָמִים (sōhārîm bā'ammîm, 'traders among the peoples') (שָׁרְקָו עַלְּךָ (shārēqû 'ālayik, 'hiss at you'). The verb שָׁרָק (shāraq) indicates shocked derision, a hissing sound expressing horror and contempt (1 Kings 9:8, Jeremiah 19:8).

Thou shalt be a terror—בְּלָהָות הַיִת (ballāhôt hāyît, 'terrors you have become'), an object lesson of judgment. **And never shalt be any more**—וְאַيְגָע עַד-עוֹלָם (wě'ēnēkh 'ad-'ôlām, 'and you are not until eternity'). This concludes the extended lament (chapters 26-28) with finality: Tyre's commercial glory is permanently ended. Those who profited from her trade now mock her—fair-weather friends revealed when prosperity ends. The chapter warns against building identity on economic achievement, participating in systems built on pride, or trusting wealth for security. Only God's kingdom endures; all else is vapor (James 4:14).

Historical Context

Ezekiel 26-28 was written circa 586 BC. Babylon besieged Tyre 585-573 BC. Alexander destroyed it completely 332 BC. By Roman times, Tyre was a minor port. Today, it's a small Lebanese city with ancient ruins—literally 'a terror and never shall be any more' as a commercial empire. The prophecy's fulfillment over centuries demonstrates God's sovereignty over history.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why do those who profited from a system mock it when it falls?
2. What does Tyre becoming 'a terror'—a cautionary example—teach subsequent generations?
3. How should believers invest their lives to avoid Tyre's fate of building on temporal foundations?

Interlinear Text

קְנָתִים	בְּעֵם יִם	שָׁרָק אֶל	בְּלָה וְתָ
The merchants	among the people	shall hiss	at thee thou shalt be a terror
H5503	H5971	H8319	H1091
וְאֵין כִּי יִתְ	עַד	עוֹלָם:	
H1961	H369	and never shalt be any more	H5769
			H5704

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 18:16 (Parallel theme): To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head.

Psalms 37:36 (Parallel theme): Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

Psalms 37:10 (Parallel theme): For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

Jeremiah 19:8 (Parallel theme): And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof.

Ezekiel 26:21 (Parallel theme): I will make thee a terror, and thou shalt be no more: though thou be sought for, yet shalt thou never be found again, saith the Lord GOD.

Zephaniah 2:15 (Parallel theme): This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, and wag his hand.