

Ezekiel 27:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy borders are in the midst of the seas, thy builders have perfected thy beauty.

Analysis

Thy borders are in the midst of the seas, thy builders have perfected thy beauty continues Tyre's self-description. Borders in the seas emphasizes maritime identity—Tyre's dominion was the Mediterranean. Thy builders have perfected thy beauty credits human skill and artistry for Tyre's magnificence. This represents humanistic self-glorification—we built this, we perfected this. No acknowledgment of God who gave intelligence, resources, and opportunity. Taking credit for what God enabled is theft of His glory. All human achievement ultimately depends on divine gifts of life, intelligence, resources, and opportunity.

Historical Context

Tyrian architects and craftsmen were famous throughout the ancient world. Solomon employed Tyrian builders for the temple (1 Kings 5). Tyre's construction and artistic sophistication were indeed impressive. Yet attributing perfection to human builders rather than the Creator who enabled them constitutes the pride that provokes judgment. Human skill is real but derivative—all talent comes from God.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do we take credit for achievements that ultimately depend on God?
2. What does 'thy builders have perfected thy beauty' reveal about humanistic pride?
3. Why is ignoring God's role in our achievements a form of theft?

Interlinear Text

בְּלִ בְּ יָם גְּבוּלֵ יָם בְּנֵי יָם כָּלְלֵי יָם
are in the midst of the seas Thy borders thy builders have perfected thy beauty
H3820 H3220 H1366 H1129 H3634 H3308

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