

# Ezekiel 27:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Fine linen with brodered work from Egypt was that which thou spreadest forth to be thy sail; blue and purple from the isles of Elishah was that which covered thee.

## Analysis

**Fine linen with brodered work from Egypt was that which thou spreadest forth to be thy sail; blue and purple from the isles of Elishah was that which covered thee**—The ship metaphor continues with Tyre's sails and awnings. The Hebrew shesh berikmah miMitzrayim (שֵׁשׁ בְּרִיקְמָה מִמִּצְרַיִם, "fine linen with embroidery from Egypt") describes expensive fabric. Egyptian linen was the ancient world's finest—white, strong, and finely woven, perfect for sails. **"That which thou spreadest forth to be thy sail"** (mifrasekh, מִפְרָשֶׁךְ) indicates the ship's primary sail, its identifying banner visible from afar.

**"Blue and purple from the isles of Elishah"**—These royal colors came from Phoenicia's famous purple dye, extracted from murex sea snails (requiring thousands of shells per ounce of dye). Elishah likely refers to Cyprus or Greek coastal regions. The Hebrew tekhelet ve'argaman (תֵּכֵלֶת וְאַרְגָּמָן, "blue and purple") were the most expensive dyes in antiquity, reserved for royalty and temples—hence 'royal purple.' **"That which covered thee"** (mikhasekh, מִכְסֶּךְ) refers to the ship's awning or canopy. Tyre's merchant ships were floating palaces, advertising wealth and power. Yet this magnificence becomes a funeral shroud when the ship sinks (v. 26-27).

## Historical Context

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Egyptian linen production was sophisticated—tomb paintings show detailed weaving processes. The finest linen was nearly transparent, used for priestly garments and royal clothing. Phoenician purple dye (Tyrian purple) was so valuable it became synonymous with royalty—Roman emperors wore purple togas; Byzantine emperors were 'born in the purple.' Archaeological excavations at Tyre and Sidon have uncovered massive heaps of crushed murex shells—remnants of the dye industry. A single gram of pure Tyrian purple required 10,000 shellfish. This extraordinarily expensive industry collapsed with Tyre's fall—another fulfillment of prophecy. The ship metaphor climaxes in verses 26-27 when the 'east wind' (Babylon) sinks Tyre's magnificent vessel.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Tyre's elaborate display of wealth through expensive fabrics and dyes parallel modern status symbols that proclaim success?
2. What does the eventual sinking of this magnificent 'ship' teach about the ultimate worthlessness of material splendor without God?

## Interlinear Text

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יָשׁ	בְּרִקְמָה	מִמִּצְרַיִם	הָ	
Fine linen	with broidered work	from Egypt	H1961	
H8336	H7553	H4714		
	מִפָּרֶשׁ	לָהּ	לָהּ	לָהּ
	was that which thou spreadest forth	H1961	H0	to be thy sail
	H4666			H5251
				תְּכֵלֶת
				blue
				H8504
וְאַרְגָּמָן	מֵאֵי יָם	אֵלִישָׁה	הָ	מִכְסָּהּ
and purple	from the isles	of Elishah	H1961	was that which covered
H713	H339	H473		H4374

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 10:9** (Parallel theme): Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men.

**Exodus 25:4** (Parallel theme): And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair,

**Genesis 10:4** (Parallel theme): And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.