

Ezekiel 28:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

Analysis

The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, The prophetic formula *vayehi devar-YHWH elai* (וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלַי) marks a distinct oracle, the second of two concerning Tyre (following 26:1-28:19). *Devar* (דְּבַר, "word") isn't merely information but dynamic, authoritative divine speech that accomplishes God's purposes (Isaiah 55:11). This word-event theology underlies all biblical prophecy: when God speaks, reality shifts.

The phrase **came again** (*vayehi... od*) indicates this is a subsequent revelation, building on previous oracles against Tyre (chapters 26-27). Chapter 26 prophesied Tyre's destruction by Nebuchadnezzar; chapter 27 lamented Tyre's commercial glory as a magnificent ship destined for shipwreck. Now chapter 28 addresses the ideological heart of Tyre's rebellion: the pride of its ruler who claimed divine status. This progression—from physical destruction to economic collapse to spiritual diagnosis—reveals God's comprehensive judgment that addresses not just actions but attitudes, not just sins but their source.

Historical Context

Tyre, the great Phoenician maritime city-state, dominated Mediterranean trade from roughly 1200-573 BC. Built partly on an island fortress (making it nearly impregnable), Tyre grew wealthy through purple dye production, timber export (cedars of Lebanon), and far-flung trading networks described in Ezekiel 27. The city supplied materials and craftsmen for Solomon's temple (1 Kings 5:1-12), and King Hiram of Tyre allied with David and Solomon. Yet by Ezekiel's time (586 BC),

Tyre rejoiced over Jerusalem's fall (Ezekiel 26:2), hoping to profit from Judah's destruction. The 'prince of Tyre' addressed here was likely Ithobaal II (c. 590-573 BC), who resisted Nebuchadnezzar's thirteen-year siege (585-572 BC). The ruler's pride, claiming wisdom and deity, reflected ancient Near Eastern royal ideology where kings were considered divine or semi-divine. Ezekiel's oracle demolishes such pretensions: only Yahweh is God, and human rulers who claim divinity will be humiliated.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the 'word of the LORD' function as more than information—as creative, judging, and transforming power?
2. What modern 'Tyres'—wealthy, self-sufficient entities that claim autonomy from God—face divine judgment today?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּהִי י'	דְּבַר	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	לֵאמֹר:
H1961	The word	of the LORD	H413	came again unto me saying
	H1697	H3068		H559

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