

Ezekiel 28:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Analysis

"By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God." The language shifts between commercial activity (fitting Tyre) and cosmic rebellion (fitting Satan). "Cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God" describes Satan's expulsion from God's presence, echoing Revelation 12:7-9. The word "profane" (chalal, חַלָּל) means to desecrate or pollute. Sin cannot coexist with holiness; God's purity requires removing corruption from His presence. This foreshadows final judgment when all evil is excluded from the new creation.

Historical Context

Tyre's maritime commerce (587 BC) fostered pride and violence—wealth bred arrogance and oppression. But the cosmic language transcends commercial activity, depicting spiritual rebellion. Satan's fall from heaven occurred before human history, yet reverberates throughout it. Every earthly power repeats his pride; every human sin echoes his rebellion. The passage teaches that earthly events manifest spiritual realities. Reformed theology's two-kingdoms doctrine recognizes this interpenetration—spiritual warfare occurs through and behind

historical events. Understanding spiritual dimensions enriches historical interpretation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does material prosperity sometimes breed spiritual pride and violence?
2. What is the relationship between earthly commercial empires and spiritual principalities?

Interlinear Text

מַתָּה וְרַב בָּרֶכֶת בְּרַכְתָּה מַלְאָכִים

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled from the midst

H7230

H7404

H4390

H8432

סְמִתָּה

אַתְּמִתָּה

אַמְלָלָה

of thee with violence and thou hast sinned therefore I will cast thee as profane

H2555

H2398

H2490

מִרְאֵבֶן

אֱלֹהִים

תְּאַבְּדָה

כֶּרֶב

מִכְּרָבֶן

out of the mountain

of God

and I will destroy

cherub

thee O covering

H2022

H430

H6

H3742

H5526

מַתָּה וְ

אַבְנֵי

אֲשֶׁר

from the midst

of the stones

of fire

H8432

H68

H784

Additional Cross-References

Habakkuk 2:17 (Parallel theme): For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

Habakkuk 2:8 (Parallel theme): Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

John 2:16 (Parallel theme): And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

Genesis 3:24 (Parallel theme): So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Ezekiel 8:17 (Parallel theme): Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.
