

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, חָלַל) 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

בְּרַב	רִכְלֹתֶיךָ	מָלְאוּ	מִתּוֹךְ
By the multitude	of thy merchandise	they have filled	from the midst
H7230	H7404	H4390	H8432
חֲמָסָךָ	וַתִּחַטֵּא	וְאֶחָלָלְךָ	
of thee with violence	and thou hast sinned	therefore I will cast thee as profane	
H2555	H2398	H2490	
מִהַר	אֱלֹהִים	וְאֶבְדֶּךָ	כְּרוּבִים
out of the mountain	of God	and I will destroy	cherub
H2022	H430	H6	H3742
מִתּוֹךְ	אֲבָנִים	אֵשׁ:	
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.