

Ezekiel 28:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

Analysis

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities—This section (28:11-19) shifts from Tyre's king to a figure some interpret as Satan's fall, though primarily addressing Tyre's prince. חִלְלַתָּ מִקְדָּשֶׁיִךָ (ḥillaltā miqdāshêkā, 'you have profaned your sanctuaries') suggests corrupting holy places through עֲוֹנוֹתֶיךָ (ʾăwōnekhā, 'your iniquities').

By the iniquity of thy traffick—בְּעוֹל רֶכֶלֶתְךָ (bē'ewel rēkhullātēkhā, 'by the injustice of your trade'). Commerce itself became corrupt: dishonest scales, exploitation, greed. **Therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee**—God brings אֵשׁ מִתּוֹכְךָ ('ēsh mittôkhekhā, 'fire from within you'). Judgment emerges from Tyre's own corruption, consuming from inside out. Self-destruction through accumulated sin is a consistent biblical principle (Galatians 6:7-8).

Historical Context

Tyre's 'sanctuaries' likely refer to temples to Melqart (Tyrian Baal) and Astarte, mixed with commercial halls. Phoenician religion intertwined with commerce—prosperity was seen as divine favor. Archaeological excavations show Tyrian

temples contained treasury rooms, suggesting worship had become transactional. This corrupted worship system would be destroyed along with the city.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does commercial success tempt us to corrupt worship by making it transactional?
2. What does fire emerging 'from the midst' teach about sin's self-destructive nature?
3. How can legitimate business become 'iniquity of traffick'?

Interlinear Text

מֵרַב by the multitude H7230	עוֹנֵי יָדְךָ of thine iniquities H5771	בְּעָוֹל by the iniquity H5766	רֶכֶל תִּגְבֹּה of thy traffick H7404	חַל לְתֶךָ Thou hast defiled H2490
מִקְדָּשֶׁיִּךָ thy sanctuaries H4720	וְאֹצֵא therefore will I bring forth H3318	אֵשׁ a fire H784	מִתּוֹכָךְ from the midst H8432	הִיא H1931
אֲכָל תִּגְבֹּה of thee it shall devour H398	וְאֵתְּנֶכָה thee and I will bring H5414	לֹא פָר thee to ashes H665	עַל H5921	הָאֵרֶץ upon the earth H776
לְעֵינַי in the sight H5869	כָּל H3605	רְאִיכֶם: of all them that behold H7200		

Additional Cross-References

Malachi 4:3 (Parallel theme): And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Revelation 18:8 (Parallel theme): Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Ezekiel 28:16 (Sin): 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.

Ezekiel 28:2 (Parallel theme): Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: