

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. חִלְלָתָ מִקְדָּשֶׁךָ (ḥillaltā miqdāshēkhā, 'you have profaned your sanctuaries') suggests corrupting holy places through עֲוֹנֶיךָ (ăwōnekhā, 'your iniquities').

By the iniquity of thy traffick—בְּעֵיל רְכַלְתָּךְ (bě'ewel rěkhullātēkhā, '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 מִתְּוֹךְךָ ('ēsh mittōkhekhā, '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

מִרְבָּה	עֲוֹנָה יְבָשָׁה	בְּעֵיל	רְכָל תְּבָשָׁה	חַל לְפָתָח
by the multitude	of thine iniquities	by the iniquity	of thy traffick	Thou hast defiled
H7230	H5771	H5766	H7404	H2490
מִקְדָּשׁ יְבָשָׁה	תַּאֲוֹצָא	אֵשׁ	מִתְזַכֵּר	הַיָּא
thy sanctuaries	therefore will I bring forth	a fire	from the midst	H1931
H4720	H3318	H784	H8432	
אָכְלָתְךָ	וְאֶתְתַּנְבָּה	לְאָפָר	עַל	בְּאַרְצָךְ
of thee it shall devour	thee and I will bring	thee to ashes	upon	the earth
H398	H5414	H665	H5921	H776
כָּל לְעֵינֵי	רָאִיבָן			
in the sight	of all them that behold			
H5869	H3605			
	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:

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