

Ezekiel 28:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

God addresses 'the prince of Tyre,' exposing his arrogant claim: '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.' The Hebrew 'gabah libekha' (גָּבַהַ לִבְךָ, 'your heart is lifted up') describes pride's essential nature—self-exaltation. The prince's claim 'I am a God' (el ani, אֲנִי אֱלֹהִים) represents ultimate hubris, echoing Satan's original rebellion ('I will be like the Most High,' Isaiah 14:14). The phrase 'in the midst of the seas' refers to Tyre's island location, which gave it strategic military advantage and fostered false security. God's response is blunt: 'yet thou art a man, and not God' (adam attah velo-el, אָדָם אַתָּה וְלֹא־אֱלֹהִים). This confronts human pride's fundamental delusion—the creature claiming creator status, the finite pretending to be infinite.

Historical Context

Tyre was a wealthy Phoenician city-state known for maritime trade and commercial dominance. Its king/prince enjoyed tremendous prosperity and power, which bred arrogance. The city's island location (before Alexander the Great built a causeway) made it nearly impregnable to ancient siege warfare, fostering pride in human achievement and security. Tyre's wealth came from purple dye

production, cedar trade, and extensive Mediterranean commerce. This prophecy was delivered around 587 BC, shortly before or during Jerusalem's fall. Tyre's response to Jerusalem's destruction reveals their attitude: 'Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people' (26:2)—they saw profit opportunity in Israel's calamity. God's judgment on Tyre demonstrates that He holds all nations accountable, not just covenant Israel.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What forms of pride in achievement, intellect, or security tempt you to 'set your heart as the heart of God'?
2. How does recognizing you are 'man, and not God' shape proper humility and dependence?

Interlinear Text

אֶדְנִי יְ	וַתֹּאמֶר	כֹּה	צַר	לְנָגִיד	וַתֹּאמֶר	אָדָם	בֶּן
the Lord	Thus saith	H3541	of Tyrus	unto the prince	Thus saith	of man	Son
H136	H559		H6865	H5057	H559	H120	H1121
אֶנִּי	אֵל ל	וַתֹּאמֶר	כֹּל ב	גָּבַהּ ה	יֵשׁן	יְהוָה ה	
H589	I am a God	Thus saith	Because thine heart	is lifted up	GOD		
	H410	H559	H3820	H1361	H3069		
וַאֲנִי ה	יַם יָם	כֹּל ב	יֹשֵׁב בְּתֵי	אֱלֹהִים:	מוֹשֵׁב ב		
H859	of the seas	Because thine heart	I sit	of God	in the seat		
	H3220	H3820	H3427	H430	H4186		
כֹּל ב	וַתֵּת	אֵל ל	וְלֹא	אָדָם			
Because thine heart	though thou set	I am a God	and no	of man			
H3820	H5414	H410	H3808	H120			
אֱלֹהִים:	כֹּל ב						
of God	Because thine heart						
H430	H3820						

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 28:9 (References God): Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (References God): Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Isaiah 31:3 (References God): Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.

Psalms 9:20 (References Lord): Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.

Proverbs 16:18 (Parallel theme): Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Isaiah 2:12 (References Lord): For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

Proverbs 18:12 (Parallel theme): Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

1 Timothy 3:6 (Parallel theme): Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Genesis 3:5 (References God): For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Deuteronomy 8:14 (References God): Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;