

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' (גָּבָה לִבְּךָ, 'your heart is lifted up') describes pride's essential nature—self-exaltation. The prince's claim 'I am a God' (el ani, אֶל אָנִי) 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־אֵל). 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

אָדָם יְהוָה אָמַר אָדָם יְהוָה אָמַר
Son of man Thus saith unto the prince of Tyrus H3541
H1121 H120 H559 H5057 H6865 H3069 H136

אָנֹכִי אָל יְהוָה אָל יְהוָה אָל
GOD is lifted up Because thine heart Thus saith I am a God H589
H3069 H3282 H1361 H3820 H559 H410 H136

וְאַתָּה יְמִינְךָ מֹשֶׁב
in the seat of God I sit Because thine heart of the seas H859
H4186 H430 H3427 H3820 H3220

כִּי בְּאָלָהִים
of man I am a God though thou set Because thine heart
H120 H3808 H410 H5414 H3820 H136

כִּי בְּאָלָהִים
Because thine heart of God
H3820 H430 H136

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;