

Ezekiel 28:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Analysis

Son of man, set thy face against Zidon, and prophesy against it—After Tyre (chapters 26-28:19), God turns to צִדּוֹן (Ṣîdô̄n, 'Sidon'), Tyre's sister city 25 miles north. Both were principal Phoenician cities; judgment on one extends to the other.

The command שִׁמְעֵנִי (sîm pānekhā, 'set your face') signals hostile prophetic attention (6:2, 13:17, 21:2). Sidon shared Tyre's maritime commerce, idolatry (Baal/Astarte worship, 1 Kings 11:5, 33), and pride. While the oracle against Sidon is briefer than Tyre's (only vv. 20-23), the principle remains: God judges all who exalt themselves, oppress His people, and corrupt worship through commercial religion. Sidon's idolatry particularly infected Israel—Jezebel was a Sidonian princess (1 Kings 16:31)—making judgment appropriate.

Historical Context

Sidon (modern Saida, Lebanon) was one of Phoenicia's oldest cities, mentioned in Genesis 10:19. It rivaled Tyre commercially and religiously. Like Tyre, Sidon was besieged by Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, then destroyed by Persia (345 BC when 40,000 citizens died), and later conquered by Alexander (333 BC). Unlike Tyre, Sidon survived in diminished form.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does judgment on Sidon demonstrate that no partner in sin escapes accountability?
2. What spiritual dangers does Sidon's influence on Israel (through Jezebel) illustrate?
3. How should believers respond to cultural influences that corrupt worship?

Interlinear Text

לְאמֹר: אֶל־יְהוָה דְּבָר־יְהוָה הִיא אֶל־יְהוָה לְאמֹר:
H1961 Again the word of the LORD H413 came unto me saying
H1697 H3068 H559

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