

Isaiah 23:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As at the report concerning Egypt, so shall they be sorely pained at the report of Tyre.

Analysis

As at the report concerning Egypt, so shall they be sorely pained at the report of Tyre—The Hebrew *yachilu* (be in anguish/writhe in pain) describes physical agony, often used for childbirth pangs. Egypt's judgment (Isaiah 19-20) sent shockwaves through the ancient Near East; Tyre's fall would be equally traumatic. The parallelism emphasizes that the seemingly invincible economic and military powers both fall under the same sovereign judgment.

The 'report' (*shema'*) refers not to rumor but to verified news of catastrophe. When word spread that Tyre—the 700-year-old trading empire that had survived Assyrian sieges—was destroyed, the international economic order collapsed. Dependent trading partners, colonies, and client states faced sudden ruin. This illustrates economic interdependence's danger: when the hub fails, the entire network crashes. The passage warns against building life on systems that appear stable but rest on human power rather than divine foundation.

Historical Context

Tyre's destruction came in stages: Assyrian pressure (701 BC), Nebuchadnezzar's 13-year siege (585-572 BC) that destroyed mainland Tyre, and Alexander's seven-month siege (332 BC) that demolished island Tyre using rubble from the mainland. Each blow sent economic shockwaves throughout the Mediterranean, disrupting trade for generations.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What economic institutions seem invincible in our time but remain vulnerable to sudden collapse?
2. How should Christians balance engagement with economic systems while avoiding ultimate dependence on them?
3. What does it mean to build your security on God rather than on seemingly stable financial systems?

Interlinear Text

כְּאַשֶׁר H834	כִּשׁ מֵע H8088	לְמִצְרַיִם H4714	יִהְיֶה יָלֹדָם H2342
As at the report	concerning Egypt	so shall they be sorely pained	
כִּשׁ מֵע H8088	צֹר: H6865		
As at the report	of Tyre		

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