

Jeremiah 25:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the kings of Tyrus, and all the kings of Zidon, and the kings of the isles which are beyond the sea,

Analysis

And all the kings of Tyrus, and all the kings of Zidon, and the kings of the isles which are beyond the sea. Tyre and Sidon were Phoenician city-states on the Mediterranean coast, famous for seafaring, commerce, and wealth. The phrase *malkē ha'î 'ăsher bē'ēber hayyām* (מלכי הָאָשֶׁר בְּעֵבֶר הַיָּם), kings of the isles/coastlands beyond the sea) likely refers to Phoenician trading colonies across the Mediterranean—Cyprus, Crete, perhaps even Carthage and Spain. Tyre's pride in its commercial empire and perceived invulnerability drew extensive prophetic condemnation (Isaiah 23, Ezekiel 26-28).

Ezekiel 28 describes Tyre's king in terms echoing Eden's fall, suggesting satanic pride behind human arrogance. The city's wealth, built on international trade, created false security: 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas' (Ezekiel 28:2). God's judgment on Tyre demonstrates that economic power and geographic isolation provide no protection from divine justice. Jesus later condemned Tyre and Sidon for rejecting His ministry, declaring they would be judged more severely than Sodom (Matthew 11:21-22). Commercial success and cultural sophistication don't exempt anyone from accountability before God.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre for thirteen years (585-572 BC), partially fulfilling this prophecy. The mainland city was destroyed, though the island fortress survived. Alexander the Great finally conquered island Tyre in 332 BC, fulfilling

Ezekiel's prophecy that the city would become 'a place for the spreading of nets' (Ezekiel 26:14). Today, fishermen spread nets on the ancient site—a precise literal fulfillment. Sidon was also conquered by Babylon and later destroyed by Persians (351 BC). The 'isles beyond the sea' fell as Phoenician power collapsed.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment on wealthy, sophisticated Tyre challenge our tendency to trust in economic prosperity and cultural achievement?
2. What does the pride of Tyre—"I am a god"—reveal about the spiritual dangers of commercial success and self-sufficiency?
3. In what ways might modern Western civilization mirror Tyre's false confidence in wealth, technology, and perceived invulnerability?

Interlinear Text

צַדִּיקִים וְמַלְכִים כָּל אֶת צָרֶם
H853 H3605 And all the kings of Tyrus H853 H3605 And all the kings of Zidon
H4428 H6865 H4428 H6721

צַדִּיקִים וְמַלְכִים אֲשֶׁר בַּאֲתָרֵם בְּעֵבֶר הַיָּם
H853 H3605 And all the kings of the isles H834 H5676 which are beyond the sea
H4428 H339 H3220

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 47:4 (Parallel theme): Because of the day that cometh to spoil all the Philistines, and to cut off from Tyrus and Zidon every helper that remaineth: for the LORD will spoil the Philistines, the remnant of the country of Caphtor.

