

## **The Decline, Destitution And Degradation of Tyre**

Isaiah 23:1-18

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### **I. Introduction**

Tyre was a city in two parts, an inland and island. The inland city was conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians, just as Isaiah prophesied. The inland city was conquered later by Alexander the Great in (332 BC). The influence of Tyre was both good and bad. For Israel, King Hiram of Tyre supplied David and Solomon great timbers for the building of the temple and other projects (I Kings 5:1-11), but later, Tyre gave Israel one of the worst rulers Israel ever had: Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab of Israel (I Kings 16:31 ).

Tyre was the mart of the nations. She was noted for mirth ( high Excitement) and diversions and this made her reluctant to consider the warnings God gave by his servants. Her merchants were princes, and lived like princes. Tyre later being destroyed and laid to waste would abandon her. They fled for their own safety. When Gods judgement pursue sinners, they will overtake them. Where did this trouble come from you ask? It was a destruction from the almighty.

God's design to convince men of the vanity and uncertainty of all earthly glory. The ruin of Tyre warned all places and persons to take heed of pride. For he who exalts himself, shall be abased. God who has all power in his hands will do it, but the Babylonians will be the Instrument ( Chaldeans, Assyrians were descendants of Babylonians).

They will be in ruins for seventy years. Then the Lord will allow Tyre to prosper again, but her earnings and profits will be for the Lord.

### **II. THE Lesson**

1. Wail, you ships of Tarshish! For Tyre is destroyed and left without house or harbor. From the land of Cyprus word has come to them.

2. Be silent you people of the island and you merchants of Sidon, whom the seafarers have enriched.

3. On the great waters came the grain of the Shihor, the harvest of the Nile, was the revenue of Tyre, and she became the marketplace Of the nations.

4. Be ashamed, Sidon and you fortress of the sea, for the sea has spoken: I have neither been in labor nor given birth; I have neither reared sons nor brought up daughters.

5. When word comes to Egypt, they will be in anguish at the report from Tyre.

This is a prophecy that talks about the destruction of Tyre, a wealthy Port city and the emptiness that follows a life built on material wealth. The passage highlights Gods judgement against pride and reliance on wealth and emphasizes that mighty empires will fall at Gods command.

Be ashamed for the sea has spoken:

For the sea has spoken: The part of the in which Tyre was, and from which ships and men were sent into all countries.

The strength of the sea: Because it was strong at sea, both by situation and strength of its naval forces, Tyre who was so fruitful sent forth colonies into other countries, now barren and desolate.

6. Cross over to Tarshish; wail you people of the island.

7. Is this your city of revelry, the old city, whose feet have taken her to settle in far off lands?

8. Who planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, whose merchants are princes, whose traders are renowned in the earth?

9. The Lord almighty planned it, to bring down her pride in all her splendor and to humble all who are renowned on the earth.

The destruction Tyre will be felt everywhere and that God is bringing. This doom because of the citys pride.

#### **A. Transitory nature of earthly power:**

Tyre was a powerful maritime city and a hub of international commerce, but its destruction serve as a reminder that fortune can shift quickly.

#### **B. The folly of pride:**

Tyres destruction is a warning to all to take heed of pride, and That those who exalt themselves will be abased:

Biblical teachings on humility and trust in divine providence:  
The verse aligns with broader biblical teachings on humility and trust

**C. In divine providence.**

Those who live on the sea coast , take a good look and wail. God reached out to the sea and sea traders, threw the kingdoms into turmoil. God ordered the destruction of the seacoast cities, the centers of commerce, God said there is nothing left to be proud of Bankrupt and deprived , Tyre, Sidon. (also Ezekiel 29:17-21).

10. Till your land as they do along the Nile, daughter Tarshish, for you no longer have a harbor.

11. The Lord has stretched out his hand over the Sea and made kingdoms tremble. He has given an order concerning Phoenicia that her fortresses be destroyed.

12. He said, no more of your reveling, Virgin Daughter Sidon, now crushed! Up, cross over to Cyprus; even there you will find no rest.

13. Look at the land of the Babylonians, this people is now of no account! The Assyrians have made it a place for desert creatures; they raise up their siege towers, they stripped its fortress bare and turned it into ruin.

14. Wail you ships of Tarshish; your fortress is destroyed.

The prophecy concerning ancient Tyres ultimate demise, highlighting Judgement against pride and reliance on wealth. Tyre a powerful maritime city, known for its trade and affluence, becomes a subject of divine disdain due to its arrogance and exploitation of others. Because they placed trust in worldly treasures, they would soon fall into ruin due to the wrath of the Assyrians who served as Gods appointed means of judgement. ( The Chaldeans and Assyrians were descendants of Babylonians).

15. At that time Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years, the span of a Kings life. But at the end of these seventy years, it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the prostitute.

16. Take up a harp, walk through the city you forgotten prostitute ; play the harp well, sing many a song, so that you will be remembered.

17. At the end of seventy years, the Lord will deal with Tyre. She will return to her lucrative prostitution and will ply her trade with all Kingdoms on the face of the earth.

18. Yet her profit and her earnings will be set apart for the Lord; they will not be stored up or hoarded. Her profits will go to those who live before the Lord , for abundant food and fine clothes.

The desolation of Tyre were not to be forever. The Lord will visit Tyre in mercy, but when set at liberty , she will use her old arts of temptation. The love of worldly wealth is spiritual idolatry, and covetousness is spiritual idolatry. This directs those that have wealth, to use it in the service of God. When we abide in God in our worldly callings; when we do all in our power to further the gospel, then our merchandise and hire are holiness to the Lord, if we look to his glory, Christians should carry on business as Gods servants, and use riches as his stewards, for all is owned by God.

### **III. conclusion**

God is sovereign and has the whole world in his hands. He doesn't like prideful people or nations. He can use anything or person to make things difficult for those who don't heed his warnings from his word or prophet's teachings. But he is willing to give you another chance to repent and get it right.