

ISAIAH –Lesson 28

Learn: These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart the deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among the brethren. Proverbs 6:16-19

Read: Isaiah 23:1-18

1. This burden or judgment by God is against Tyre. What do we learn about Tyre from the following passages?

Joshua 19:29

II Samuel 24:7

NOTE: From about 3000 BC until 1000 BC, Tyre was dominated by the Hittites, Amorites, Assyrians, and Egyptians. About 1000 BC King Hiram of Tyre took control (981-947 BC).

II Samuel 5:11

I Kings 5:1

II Chronicles 2:11, 12

I Kings 9:11

NOTE: Solomon was corrupted by Phoenician wives (I Kings 11:1-5). Ancient Phoenicia was known for its dominance on the Mediterranean Sea. It was composed of city-states such as Tyre, Sidon, Byblos (Geba) and Berytos(Beirut). One of their colonies was Carthage on the north African coast. The growth of the Assyrian empire and power around 750BC led to Phoenicia's decline. Babylon carried out an intense devastation of this city-state.

The Persian Empire gave independence to Phoenicia and even used their fleet of ships against Egypt and Greece. Finally, Alexander the Great conquered Tyre and put an end to their political power although their economic power continued.

Tyre (also Tyrus) is mentioned 59 times in the Bible. See the prophecy of its destruction in Ezekiel 26-28. The king of Tyre becomes a historical illustration of Satan himself, demonstrating his great pride. The details describing Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of

Tyre in the passage of Ezekiel are remarkable. And the prophecy was fulfilled exactly as described. – Dr. David Hocking

2. How did Jesus' ministry touch on the city of Tyre?
Matthew 11:21-22

Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-31

Luke 6:17

The word “Phoenicia” is a translation of the Hebrew word “Canaan” which means “purple” or “crimson.” Canaan was a “land of purple.” Their religion featured the fertility rites of the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth. It was a Phoenician princess named Jezebel who brought Baal worship to Israel at the time of King Ahab and the prophet Elijah.

- Dr. David Hocking

3. Why were the merchant ships of Tarshish going to howl? v 1

The ships of Tarshish were especially large and seaworthy ships which carried smelted metal to Tarshish. “Tarshish” comes from a word meaning “melt or to be melted” and might refer to any place that had smelting operations of any land that contained mineral deposits, though many identify it with Tartessus near the SW coast of Spain.

Chittim is Cyprus and Sihor is the Nile.

- Charles Ryrie

4. What is the stillness that is to affect Tyre? vv 2,3 See also Isaiah 47:5

5. “The strength or stronghold of the sea” is Tyre. Zidon , being the most ancient and venerable of the Phoenician cities is called to be ashamed. Why? v 4

6. Why is there so much pain over the destruction of Tyre? vv 5,6
Also see Ezekiel 27:1-36

7. Why did the Lord bring destruction on this great city of Tyre? v 9

8. What are some characteristics of the city? vv 7-9

9. How does Proverbs 6:16-19 apply to this city?

10. The purpose of the Lord will bring the destruction. What will happen?

Also see Ezekiel 26:1-21.

11. Who will God use to carry out this judgment? vv 13,14

NOTE: During Isaiah's time, in 738 BC Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria put a military governor over Tyre. The people rebelled against it. In 727-722 BC Shalmaneser besieged Tyre unsuccessfully. In 701 BC Sennacherib devastated the mainland. Killed every person, cut down every tree. Tyre, the island city, remained strong through all this and even gained some of their former glory when Assyria started to decline. In 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conducted a 13 year siege of this fortress city but without ultimate success.

It finally fell to Alexander the great in 332 BC. However, the vast trading and economic control of this famous city-state fortress was destroyed by both Assyria and Babylon.

Tyre is being warned by the prophet not to trust in the Babylonians and provoke the Assyrians. They had already put down Babylon's efforts at independence and rebellion.

- Dr. David Hocking

12. There was a period of time when Tyre was forgotten. How long did it last?

vv 15-17a

The probability is that this period was from 701 BC to around 630 BC when the empire of Assyria was in decline and they allowed Tyre to be restored.

13. At the end of that time, what would happen in the city? v 17b
Also review Ezekiel 27 and see Nahum 3:4 for help.

14. God has a plan for Tyre. What is it? vv 17,18

Also see:

Ezra 3:7

Isaiah 60:5-9

Psalm 72:10,11