

Redeemer C S I Bible Study Ezekiel 26, October 24, 2024,

Rev. Sureshkumar Nelson (7:00 PM -8:00 PM)

Ezekiel 26 contains a prophecy against the city of Tyre, announcing its destruction due to its pride and opposition to Israel. Here is a word-by-word exegesis of key elements in the chapter, focusing on historical, theological, and symbolic significance:

Verses 1-2:

- “Son of man”: This phrase refers to Ezekiel himself, emphasizing his role as a human messenger delivering divine revelation.
- “Tyre”: A wealthy and powerful Phoenician city known for its commerce and maritime strength.
- “Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken”: Tyre rejoices over the downfall of Jerusalem, seeing it as an opportunity for its own gain in trade and influence, since Jerusalem was a competing city.

Verses 3-5:

- “I am against you”: God declares His opposition to Tyre due to its arrogance and joy over Israel’s downfall.
- “Many nations will come against you”: This prophecy refers to multiple waves of attacks on Tyre. Historically, Tyre was besieged by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and later by Alexander the Great.
- “Scrape her dust from her and make her a bare rock”: This predicts the city being reduced to ruins, stripped of its splendor and left as a desolate place.

Verses 6-7:

- “Her daughters on the mainland”: Tyre had a mainland city and an island city. The daughters refer to the settlements on the coast.
- “Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon”: The historical figure who would begin the fulfillment of this prophecy by besieging Tyre for 13 years.

Verses 12-14:

- “Your wealth, your merchandise”: Tyre was known for its commercial wealth and maritime trade. This verse highlights how Tyre’s economy would be completely destroyed.
- “You shall never be rebuilt”: This prophecy was partially fulfilled. While the

island city was destroyed by Alexander the Great, Tyre did exist in some form afterward, though never regaining its former glory.

Verses 15-18:

- “Coastlands shall shake”: The fall of Tyre would have a ripple effect on other coastal cities that relied on trade with Tyre, spreading fear and economic collapse.
 - “The princes of the sea”: Refers to the leaders of other maritime nations, lamenting the destruction of their trading partner.

Verses 19-21:

- “I will make you a desolate city”: God promises total destruction for Tyre, symbolizing the judgment against pride and opposition to His will.
 - “I will bring you down...with those who go down to the Pit”: This speaks of death and Sheol (the grave), symbolizing complete ruin and descent into nothingness.

Theological Significance:

- **Judgment on Pride:** Tyre’s fall is a direct result of its pride and greed. Throughout the Bible, God consistently judges nations and cities that oppose His will and take pleasure in the downfall of others (see also Isaiah 14:12-15).
 - **God’s Sovereignty:** This chapter highlights God’s control over the nations. Even powerful cities like Tyre are subject to His judgment.

Historical Context:

- The prophecy was partially fulfilled through Nebuchadnezzar’s siege and later through Alexander the Great, who famously destroyed the island city by building a causeway from the mainland.
 - Tyre’s destruction serves as an example of the fulfillment of biblical prophecy and the consequences of pride and arrogance.

In summary, Ezekiel 26 reveals God’s judgment on Tyre, emphasizing themes of divine justice, pride, and the ultimate sovereignty of God over the nations.