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## Ezekiel 28.

(2014)

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## Ezekiel 28.

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### Topics.

- The heart of the king of Tyre was pride.
- Healthy pride and destructive pride.
- The king of Tyre makes his heart like the heart of a god.
- A lamentation for the king of Tyre.
- The king of Tyre was an anointed guardian cherub.
- The king of Tyre was blameless until unrighteousness was found in him.
- The LORD'S promise to gather Israel.
- An echo of Jesus return.

**Introduction to the Book of Ezekiel:** Ezekiel, a prophet and priest, was exiled to Babylon in 597 B.C. His ministry extended over at least twenty-three years. The book opens with his first dramatic vision of the "likeness" of the LORD". Ezekiel was keenly aware of God's presence and power in human affairs. He addressed both the exiles and the people left in Judah with messages of warning and judgment, predicting the fall of Jerusalem.

After its fall (586), Ezekiel prophesied of hope and reassurance for the people of Judah, who had then lost the focus of God's covenant and the temple in Jerusalem. His vision of the valley of dry bones (ch. 37) is a classic picture of God's ability to breathe new life into those who are spiritually dead. Ezekiel is prophesying about the Jews that did not go into captivity to Babylon, but remained against the word of the LORD in Jerusalem.

**NOTE:** Ezekiel's message is primarily directed to the people in the land of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the two tribes), but often it is difficult to separate the message from Judah and Israel (the ten tribes) because much of what the LORD says can be applied to both Judah and Israel because the two are so intertwined and both nations were guilty of the same gross sins.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### THE HEART OF THE KING OF TYRE WAS PRIDE.

Ezekiel 28:1-2 ----- <sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>"Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is proud, and you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas,' yet you are but a man, and no god, though you make your heart like the heart of a god.

**Prince:** from Strong's Concordance means the chief ruler (as occupying the front place). It generally carries the idea of being honourable or excellent, a noble ruler or a civil military commander or religious leader.

- The focus of Ezekiel chapter twenty-six was God judging Tyre.
- The focus of chapter twenty-seven was a lamentation for Tyre.
- The focus of this chapter is the heart condition of the king of Tyre (see the title: "The King of Tyre or Satan," following (v9).

**NOTICE:** the LORD Himself says, “Though the person in focus in this chapter believes in his heart he is a god, he is actually a human mortal man.” The heart of the King of Tyre, is full of pride, self-exaltation and self-glory so much so that he proclaims that he is a god and sits in the seat of the gods.

**The LORD says, “The King of Tyre is Wiser than Daniel.”**

Ezekiel 28:3-5 ----- <sup>3</sup>you (the king of Tyre) are indeed wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you; <sup>4</sup>by your wisdom and your understanding you have made wealth for yourself, and have gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; <sup>5</sup>by your great wisdom in your trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart has become proud in your wealth.

Wisdom in this context is not wisdom concerning the things of God if that was the wisdom in focus the King of Tyre would not be in a position that brings God's wrath on him and his nation. The wisdom in focus is worldly wisdom, wisdom for business, how do multiply your wealth and make your business or nation great. The LORD is not rebuking the King of Tyre for having this wisdom it is not a sin to succeed in business or to increase the prosperity of a nation. It is because of the extreme pride the King of Tyre has in his heart that the LORD is rebuking him.

**Healthy pride and destructive pride:** not all pride is evil pride the following notes show the difference between healthy pride and destructive pride.

**Healthy Pride.**

1. Satisfaction with self: the happy satisfied feeling somebody experiences when having or achieving something special that other people admire. A person taking great pride in their work.
2. Proper sense of own value: having the correct level of respect for the importance and value of your personal character, life, efforts, or achievements as opposed to having no confidence and no sense of worth.
3. The source of personal satisfaction: such as an achievement or possession that somebody feels especially pleased and satisfied with (i.e. their grandchildren were their pride and joy).
4. To be proud of something: personal satisfaction and pleasure from a particular source, especially something accomplished or a quality possessed.

**Unhealthy Pride.**

A feeling of superiority: a haughty attitude shown by somebody who believes, often unjustifiably, that he or she is better than others. A person who has this kind of pride will often not mix with those they consider their social inferiors. This pride is arrogant it exalts oneself above others and even God, and will treat those it looks down to and believes are inferior to them with disdain and at its peak with cruelty and destruction. It causes quarrels, strife, arguments, fights and even wars.

**The king of Tyre had the ultimate ego:** his was the biggest ego of all; he is at the top of the tree of pride that is why the LORD is rebuking him. A person at this level of pride sees themselves at the top of humanity and views themselves as always being right. At the peak of pride they believe they are equal to God or even a god themselves. They are so egotistical that they think the whole world revolves around them.

**Spiritual wisdom:** spiritual wisdom for the king of Tyre would have been to have the understanding that self-exalting pride can only lead to strife and destruction and in knowing this to choose to act humbly in his tremendous success rather than being arrogant and prideful and full of self-glory and self-exaltation.

**The King of Tyre makes His Heart like the Heart of a God.**

Ezekiel 28:6-10 ----- <sup>6</sup>therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you make your heart like the heart of a god, <sup>7</sup>therefore, behold, I will bring foreigners upon you, the most ruthless of the nations; and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendor.

<sup>8</sup>They shall thrust you down into the pit, and you shall die the death of the slain in the heart of the seas. <sup>9</sup>Will you still say, 'I am a god,' in the presence of those who kill you, though you are but a man, and no god, in the hands of those who slay you? <sup>10</sup>You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners; for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD."

**The king of Tyre or satan:** because of the language of the following verses some in the Christian faith teach that this chapter is talking about a demonic creature named satan, but God Himself clearly tells us, the person in focus is a mortal man who will be killed and not an evil spirit being (v9).

For further information see the title: -

- Satan in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**NOTICE:** it is not because the king has made his nation one of the greatest and richest nations of his era that the LORD is against him, but because of his wrong attitude. God is rebuking him not because of his enormous success but because of his extreme pride and making his heart like the heart of God.

**The lesson for today:** being successful in business and accumulating enormous wealth is not a sin; it is what we do with that success and the wealth that will determine if our gift and talent to multiply what we do is a sin or a blessing.

**I will bring foreigners upon you:** (v7) refers to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his armies (Ezekiel 26:7).

**The enormous power of pride and deception:** the king of Tyre is a mortal human man he has the same downward thoughts that all men have, he gets sick and old, his body decays and dies and yet pride is somehow able to blind him to all this human weakness and frailty and convince him he is a god.

**You shall die the death of the slain in the heart of the seas:** (v7) is a very appropriate term for the king of Tyre as all his success, prosperity and wealth was because of their shipping trade across the oceans.

#### **A Lamentation for the King of Tyre.**

Ezekiel 28:11-13 ----- <sup>11</sup>Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>12</sup>"Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. <sup>13</sup>You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared.

The LORD says the king of Tyre was: -

**The signet of perfection:** (v12) meaning Tyre was perfect amongst the nations, through their shipping trade Tyre brought prosperity to multitudes of countries. They had a vast shipping trade passing through it from all nations. It was known as the great city and called a city of renown by the surrounding nations, meaning it had widespread acclaim, fame and honour (see Ezekiel 26).

**Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty:** (v12) meaning Tyre had great wisdom for creating enormous wealth, riches and building a prosperous and beautiful city. The people of Tyre boasted in their heart: -

- I am perfect in beauty.
- I sail the oceans.
- My trade has no borders.
- My ships are made from the best fir trees, cedars trees, oak and pine trees; they are inlaid with ivory by skilled craftsmen.

- My sails and my flags are made of fine embroidered linen of blue and purple. The rowers, captains and mariners of all my ships are skilled men.
- I make every nation rich and wealthy by my beauty.

**Tyre was basically saying:** “There is no other like me everyone is made perfect in my beauty” (see Ezekiel 27).

**In Eden, the garden of God:** (v13) means Tyre was a great place to live it was called the exalted and glorious city and a city of renown by the surrounding nations.

**Every precious stone was his covering:** (v12) the riches and great wealth of Tyre was their precious minerals of silver, iron, tin, and lead, the ships of Tarshish sailed to multitudes of nations, with all kinds of wares that brought great satisfaction those they traded with. Tyre enriched the kings of the earth with the abundance of their silver, iron, tin, lead and all kinds of wares (See Ezekiel 27).

**On the day that you were created they were prepared:** (v12) means, the minerals, precious metals and stones already existed in the land of Tyre before the king of Tyre was even born.

**The King of Tyre was an Anointed Guardian Cherub.**

Ezekiel 28:14 ----- <sup>14</sup>You (the king of Tyre) (v12) were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.

This is biblical, lofty language to describe how enormously prideful the king was in his heart and how majestic, beautiful and great the king of Tyre and his kingdom was over the earth.

**Cherub:** (k<sup>e</sup>ruwb) Strong's Concordance explains a cherub as an imaginary figure (cherubims is the plural of Cherub).

- The LORD drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life (Gen. 3:24).
- Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel (the LORD) you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth (Psalm 80:1).
- The LORD rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind (Psalm 18:10).

**SUMMARY:** perhaps there are angels called cherubs, but based on these verses it appears that the word cherub is a title that is applied to God's mighty power since it is unlikely that an actual angel stood with a literal flaming sword guarding the tree of life and to God's omnipresence (symbolised by Him riding on a cherub and flying swiftly on the wings of the wind. But since in (Ezekiel 28:14) the title is applied to the king of Tyre it can also apply to a man with great power, a nation or something that is above the ordinary in beauty, authority and influence. Ezekiel's fantastic and detailed descriptions of the cherubim (Ezek. 1:4-28) (Ezek. 10:3-22), however particular, unique and unusual or exaggerated are mostly responsible for the vast variety of paintings of cherubim's in the history of art.

The LORD says in (Ezekiel 28:14) that the king of Tyre was on the holy mountain of God and walked in the midst of the stones of fire, for an explanation of this see the notes following (v16-19).

**The King of Tyre was Blameless until Unrighteousness was Found in Him.**

Ezekiel 28:15-19 ----- <sup>15</sup>You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. <sup>16</sup>In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>17</sup>Your heart was proud

because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. <sup>18</sup>By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you. <sup>19</sup>All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever."

**O guardian cherub:** the king of Tyre is called a guardian cherub because at the beginning of his kingship he was a righteous king and protector of the people of his nation, but it appears his enormous success and wealth corrupted him. His heart became proud because of Tyre's glory amongst the nations and the abundance of his riches caused him to use violence and no doubt deceit and lies to increase his trade, fame and wealth even more.

**The mountain of God:** (v16) in this context means the pinnacle of success, fame, wealth, glory, power and influence the king had amongst the nations.

**From the midst of the stones of fire;** (v16) refers to everything that made the king rich, famous, successful and powerful, because it was all these things that filled his heart with pride and caused him to use violence to keep what he had or gain even more.

**The king's mortality is exposed:** because the king of Tyre was so full of pride, self-glory and declared himself a god, the LORD exposed his mortality before all kings by destroying his shipping trade and his nation.

**The LORD is against Sidon.**

Ezekiel 28:20-24 ----- <sup>20</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>21</sup>"Son of man, set your face toward Sidon, and prophesy against her <sup>22</sup>and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Sidon, and I will manifest my glory in your midst. And they shall know that I am the LORD when I execute judgments in her and manifest my holiness in her; <sup>23</sup>for I will send pestilence into her, and blood into her streets; and the slain shall fall in her midst, by the sword that is against her on every side. *Then they will know that I am the LORD.* <sup>24</sup>"And for the house of Israel there shall be no more a brier to prick or a thorn to hurt them among all their neighbors who have treated them with contempt. *Then they will know that I am the Lord God.*

**Sidon:** is a city on the northern boundary of the Canaanites in Palestine on the coast above Tyre; it was a city of commerce and a place of seamen and is frequently mentioned in the Bible in connection with Tyre, especially in prophetic literature.

**NOTICE:** in this context the LORD'S holiness is pestilence, war, death and blood in the streets of Sidon.

**The LORD will remove all nations that bring harm to Israel:** God will judge Sidon and the surrounding nations who have brought harm to Jerusalem and treated them with contempt so that there will be no nation that will bring harm to the people of Israel and then the nations and Israel will know that the God of Israel is the LORD (v23-24).

**The Wisdom of God:** the expression, "Then they will know that I am the LORD God," is regularly repeated throughout Ezekiel. It is applied to all the nations that mocked, scorned and harmed Israel, and also to the people of Israel. The LORD by judging and bringing to ruin the surrounding nation's results in them recognising that the God of Israel is the LORD and at the same time results in Israel making the same declaration.

**THE LORD'S PROMISE TO GATHER ISRAEL.**

Ezekiel 28:25-26 ----- <sup>25</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and manifest my holiness in them in the sight of the nations, then they shall dwell in their own land that I gave to my servant Jacob. <sup>26</sup>And they shall dwell securely in it, and they shall build houses and plant vineyards. They shall dwell securely,

when I execute judgments upon all their neighbors who have treated them with contempt. *Then they will know that I am the LORD their God."*

After the LORD has executed judgment upon all the surrounding nations of Israel who have treated them with contempt God will: -

- Gather Israel from the nations they have been scattered into.
- Manifest His holiness in them in the sight of the nations.
- Give Israel their own land to build their houses and plant their vineyards in.
- Bring all Israel's enemies to ruin and cause Israel to dwell securely in their own land.

When all this happens, then Israel's enemies and the people of Israel, "Will know that the LORD is the God of Israel."

**An echo of Jesus return:** the above promises were fulfilled by Cyrus king of Persia at the end of Israel's seventy years in captivity in Babylon. Cyrus conquered the entire empire of Babylon and gave Israel written permission to return to their beloved homeland and rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the Temple of God. Multitudes of Jews and their families returned from the foreign nations and lands they had been scattered into. After the Temple was completed Israel had a period of peace and prosperity, but the promises also carry with them a faint echo of the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

The dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish.

The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called

the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

**For further information see titles: -**

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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**For further understanding of (Ezekiel 28:1-19) see: -**

- Isaiah chapter 14 in, Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Isaiah in this chapter uses very similar language when speaking of Lucifer and the king of Babylon's pride as Ezekiel does in this chapter when talking of the king of Tyre being an anointed cherub and his pride.

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End.