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## Ezekiel 26

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Ezekiel 26.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

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### Topics.

- God is going to judge Tyre.
  - Tyre plans to plunder Jerusalem.
  - God is against Tyre.
  - The coastlands, will tremble when they see the destruction of Tyre.
  - The LORD will make Tyre go down to the pit.
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## INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

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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 (chpt. 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. 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 a greater overview of the entire book, visit the introduction to the book of Ezekiel in chapter one.

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**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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## EZEKIEL 26:1-2

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### GOD IS GOING TO JUDGE TYRE

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Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his armies have destroyed the city of Jerusalem and taken its inhabitants captive to Babylon (Ezekiel chapter 24).

### Tyre plans to Plunder Jerusalem.

- **Ezekiel 26:1-2:** In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>"Son of man, because Tyre said concerning Jerusalem, 'Aha, the gate of the peoples is broken; it has swung open to me. I shall be replenished, now that she is laid waste,'"

This is the eleventh year of Babylonian captivity, Tyre has seen that Jerusalem is left in ruin, and plans to go down to the city and plunder its good.

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## EZEKIEL 26:3-14

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## God is against Tyre.

- **Ezekiel 26:3-14:** therefore, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves. <sup>4</sup>They shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers, and I will scrape her soil from her and make her a bare rock. <sup>5</sup>She shall be in the midst of the sea a place for the spreading of nets, for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD. And she shall become plunder for the nations, <sup>6</sup>and her daughters on the mainland shall be killed by the sword. *Then they will know that I am the LORD.* <sup>7</sup>"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will bring against Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses and chariots, and with horsemen and a host of many soldiers. <sup>8</sup>He will kill with the sword your daughters on the mainland. He will set up a siege wall against you and throw up a mound against you, and raise a roof of shields against you. <sup>9</sup>He will direct the shock of his battering rams against your walls, and with his axes he will break down your towers. <sup>10</sup>His horses will be so many that their dust will cover you. Your walls will shake at the noise of the horsemen and wagons and chariots, when he enters your gates as men enter a city that has been breached. <sup>11</sup>With the hoofs of his horses he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people with the sword, and your mighty pillars will fall to the ground. <sup>12</sup>They will plunder your riches and loot your merchandise. They will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses. Your stones and timber and soil they will cast into the midst of the waters. <sup>13</sup>And I will stop the music of your songs, and the sound of your lyres shall be heard no more. <sup>14</sup>I will make you a bare rock. You shall be a place for the spreading of nets. You shall never be rebuilt, for I am the LORD; I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD.

The LORD will bring Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his armies against Tyre. Nebuchadnezzar and all the nations aligned with him will:

- Destroy the nations on the mainland aligned with Tyre.
- Set up a siege against Tyre and break down their towers.
- Enter the gates of Tyre and kill its inhabitants.
- Plunder all Tyres riches and merchandise.
- Destroy their houses and all their beautiful buildings.
- Leave the city of Tyre like a bare rock so that music and songs will be heard no more.

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**Tyre shall be in the midst of the sea a place for the spreading of nets:** (v5, 14) means the Coastland will be so empty of ships, trade, houses, buildings and people etc., that it will be a good place to go fishing and to cast nets off from its shoreline.

**NOTICE:** "Then they will know that I am the LORD" (v6) this expression was repeated four times in the previous chapter (Ezek. v5, 7, 11, 17).

Naturally God being a God of justice He had to discipline and punish His own people first, but now after having done that He is going to show the nations who belittled, mocked and scorned His people during their suffering and loss that He is the true Almighty God the Lord God of Israel. He is about to judge Tyre because they planned to rob the city of Jerusalem while it laid in ruin with no-one to defend it (Nebuchadnezzar left only the very poor living in it).

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## EZEKIEL 26:15-18

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### The Coastlands, will Tremble when They See the Destruction of Tyre.

- **Ezekiel 26:15-18:** Thus says the Lord GOD to Tyre: Will not the coastlands shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, when slaughter is made in your midst? <sup>16</sup>Then all the princes of the sea will step down from their thrones and remove their robes and strip off their embroidered garments. They will clothe themselves with trembling; they will sit on the ground and tremble every moment and be appalled at you. <sup>17</sup>And they will raise a lamentation over you and say to you, "How you have perished, you who were

inhabited from the seas, O city renowned, who was mighty on the sea; she and her inhabitants imposed their terror on all her inhabitants! <sup>18</sup>Now the coastlands tremble on the day of your fall, and the coastlands that are on the sea are dismayed at your passing.'

Tyre 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. This is why all the kings of the surrounding nations and the captains of ships are pictured as trembling as they stand in amazement, bewildered at how such devastation came to such a powerful and glorious city.

**The sailors and nations will raise a lamentation over Tyre:** the nations and shipping captains are pictured sitting on the ground and trembling over the destruction of Tyre. This is because without the shipping ports and wharfs of Tyre it means the end of their global shipping trade and the loss of their riches and wealth.

**The lesson for today:** no-matter how glorious, wealthy or strong a nation may look, financially, militarily or globally, when its cup of iniquity is overflowing it cannot stand against the judgment of God.

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## EZEKIEL 26:19-21

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### The LORD will make Tyre go down to the Pit.

- **Ezekiel 26:19-21:** For thus says the Lord GOD: When I make you (Tyre) a city laid waste, like the cities that are not inhabited, when I bring up the deep over you, and the great waters cover you, <sup>20</sup>then I will make you go down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of old, and I will make you to dwell in the world below, among ruins from of old, with those who go down to the pit, so that you (Tyre) will not be inhabited; but I will set beauty in the land of the living. <sup>21</sup>I will bring you to a dreadful end, and you shall be no more. Though you be sought for, you will never be found again, declares the Lord GOD."

**I will make you dwell in the world below:** the LORD says He is going to send Tyre down to the pit, to the people and the ruins of Old in the world below and they will be no-more, but in the land of the living there will be beauty.

**The world below and hell:** some people in the Christian faith use these Scriptures to support the theory that there is a place of eternal torment called hell in which those who are judged unworthy of eternal life go to a place of fiery flames called hell where they are not only cruelly and brutally tortured by evil eternal creatures called demons, but their bodies are also burned by fiery flames so that they suffer the worst of all agonies for all eternity. This doctrine is not only a gross misunderstanding of Scripture but is also a gross misrepresentation of God's character, since it portrays Him as an extremely sadistic God since not even the secular world would inflict such brutal and cruel torture on a human for their entire life let alone for all eternity.

Added to this John tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8) (1 John 4:16). This horrific doctrine of hell was no-doubt perpetuated in the early years of the church by religious leaders to scare the naïve into the church and has been adopted and perpetuated by their followers from generation to generation through tradition and religious institutions and organisations.

For further information see the titles:

- Hell or the Grave (Final destination of Humans).
- The Lake of Fire.
- Both titles are in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The expression, "I will make you dwell in the world below" is simply a personification of the grave, it is lofty biblical language to highlight and dramatize the final destruction of the city of Tyre.

**NOTICE:** the LORD contrasts the final death of Tyre, "You shall be no-more" (v21) against those who will live eternally, by saying. "In the land of the living there will be beauty (v20)."

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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