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## Ezekiel 27

(2019)

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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 27.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

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### Topics.

- A lamentation for Tyre.
- The great wealth of Tyre.
- Tyre's armies and soldiers.
- The pride of Tyre (I am perfect in beauty).
- The east wind has wrecked Tyre in the heart of the seas.
- The lamentation of the surrounding nations.
- An echo of a future day.

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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.

**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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### A LAMENTATION FOR TYRE

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This entire chapter shines a spotlight on the pride of Tyre, its power and might and its impending doom. The LORD tells Ezekiel to raise the following lamentation for Tyre because of its impending doom. Tyre satisfied many people and enriched the kings of the earth with her abundant wealth and merchandise. All the nations thrived because of the trade of Tyre but now in this lamentation all nations that traded with Tyre are in great sorrow, weeping and mourning because Tyre has fallen. Since this chapter is one complete lamentation rather than break it up the notes amplifying the highlights are at the end of the chapter.

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### EZEKIEL 27:1-36

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- **Ezekiel 27:1-36:** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>"Now you, son of man, raise a lamentation over Tyre, <sup>3</sup>and say to Tyre, who dwells at the entrances to the sea, merchant of the peoples to many coastlands, thus says the Lord GOD: "O Tyre, you have said, 'I am perfect in beauty.' <sup>4</sup>Your borders are in the heart of the seas; your builders made perfect your beauty. <sup>5</sup>They made all your planks of fir trees from Senir; they took a cedar from Lebanon to make a mast for you. <sup>6</sup>Of oaks of Bashan they made your oars; they made your deck of pines from the coasts of Cyprus, inlaid with ivory. <sup>7</sup>Of fine embroidered linen from Egypt was your sail, serving as your banner; blue and purple from the coasts of Elishah was your awning. <sup>8</sup>The inhabitants of Sidon and Arvad were your rowers; your skilled men, O Tyre, were in you; they were your pilots. <sup>9</sup>The elders of Gebal and her skilled men were in you, caulking your seams; all the ships of the sea with their mariners were in you to barter for your wares. <sup>10</sup>"Persia and Lud and Put were in your army as your men of war. They hung the shield and helmet in you; they gave you splendor. <sup>11</sup>Men of Arvad and Helech were on your walls all around, and men of Gamad were in your towers. They hung their shields on your walls all around; they made perfect your beauty. <sup>12</sup>"Tarshish did business with you because of your great wealth of every kind; silver, iron, tin, and lead they exchanged for your wares. <sup>13</sup>Javan, Tubal, and Meshech traded with you; they exchanged human beings and vessels of bronze for your merchandise. <sup>14</sup>From Beth-togarmah they exchanged horses, war horses, and mules for your wares. <sup>15</sup>The men of Dedan traded with you. Many coastlands were your own special markets; they brought you in payment ivory tusks and ebony. <sup>16</sup>Syria did business with you because of your abundant goods; they exchanged for your wares emeralds, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral, and ruby. <sup>17</sup>Judah and the land of Israel traded with you; they exchanged for your merchandise wheat of Minnith, meal, honey, oil, and balm. <sup>18</sup>Damascus did business with you for your abundant goods, because of your great wealth of every kind; wine of Helbon and wool of Sahar <sup>19</sup>and casks of wine from Uzal they exchanged for your wares; wrought iron, cassia, and calamus were bartered for your merchandise. <sup>20</sup>Dedan traded with you in saddlecloths for riding. <sup>21</sup>Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your favored dealers in lambs, rams, and goats; in these they did business with you. <sup>22</sup>The traders of Sheba and Raamah traded with you; they exchanged for your wares the best of all kinds of spices and all precious stones and gold. <sup>23</sup>Haran, Canneh, Eden, traders of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad traded with you. <sup>24</sup>In your market these traded with you in choice garments, in clothes of blue and embroidered work, and in carpets of colored material, bound with cords and made secure. <sup>25</sup>The ships of Tarshish traveled for you with your merchandise. So you were filled and heavily laden in the heart of the seas. <sup>26</sup>"Your rowers have brought you out into the high seas. The east wind has wrecked you in the heart of the seas. <sup>27</sup>Your riches, your wares, your merchandise, your mariners and your pilots, your caulkers, your dealers in merchandise, and all your men of war who are in you, with all your crew that is in your midst, sink into the heart of the seas on the day of your fall. <sup>28</sup>At the sound of the cry of your pilots the countryside shakes, <sup>29</sup>and down from their ships come all who handle the oar. The mariners and all the pilots of the sea stand on the land <sup>30</sup>and shout aloud over you and cry out bitterly. They cast dust on their heads and wallow in ashes; <sup>31</sup>they make themselves bald for you and put sackcloth on their waist, and they weep over you in bitterness of soul, with bitter mourning. <sup>32</sup>In their wailing they raise a lamentation for you and lament over you: 'Who is like Tyre, like one destroyed in the midst of the sea? <sup>33</sup>When your wares came from the seas, you satisfied many peoples; with your abundant wealth and merchandise you enriched the kings of the earth. <sup>34</sup>Now you are wrecked by the seas, in the depths of the waters; your merchandise and all your crew in your midst have sunk with you. <sup>35</sup>All the inhabitants of the coastlands are appalled at you, and the hair of their kings bristles with horror; their faces are convulsed. <sup>36</sup>The merchants among the peoples hiss at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever.' "

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## THE GREAT WEALTH OF TYRE

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The wealth of Tyre was silver, iron, tin, and lead, the ships of Tarshish sailed with the merchandise of Tyre to multitudes of nations, their wares of all kinds satisfied those they traded with and they enriched the kings of the earth with the abundance of their silver, iron, tin, and lead.

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## YOU WERE FILLED AND LADEN IN THE HEART OF THE SEAS

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The words, “so, you were filled and heavily laden in the heart of the seas,” (v25) means Tyres trade depended on sailors, ships and the sea. Following are countries and nations that Tyre traded with:

- Javan, Tarshish Tubal, Meshech Beth-togarmah and Dedan.
- Many coastlands, Syria, Judah, Israel, Damascus Uzal and Arabia.
- Kedar Sheba Raamah Haran, Canneh, Eden, Sheba, Asshur and Chilmad.

### **Merchandise Tyre bought from kings and nations they traded with:**

- Bronze, ivory, tusks, ebony, horses, war horses and mules.
- Emeralds, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral and rubies.
- Wheat, honey, oil, balm, casks of wine and wool.
- Saddlecloths for riding wrought iron, cassia, calamus lambs, rams, and goats.
- Choice clothes of blue and embroidered work and carpets of coloured material.
- All kinds of spices and all kinds of precious stones and gold.

**NOTICE:** Javan, Tubal, and Meshech traded humans for Tyres merchandise (v13).

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## TYRES ARMIES AND SOLDIERS

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- Warriors from Persia Lud and Put were in Tyres army.
- Soldiers from Arvad and Helech were on all Tyres walls.
- Men of Gamad were in Tyres towers.

Tyres army was so vast that when the sun reflected on their shields that they had hung on all the walls of the city it made Tyre appears perfect in beauty.

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## THE PRIDE OF TYRE (I AM PERFECT IN BEAUTY)

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The king and the people of Tyre boasted in their heart saying:

- 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 is basically saying: “I am the greatest there is no other like me everyone is made perfect in my beauty.” Tyres great pride was their shipping trade, but it is brought to ruin and all its great trade, wealth, glory and beauty has crumbled.

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## THE EAST WIND HAS WRECKED TYRE IN THE HEART OF THE SEAS

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The expression, “the east wind has wrecked Tyre in the heart of the seas,” (v26) has the following two aspects:

1. The storms of the seas destroyed the ships of Tyre.
2. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his armies destroyed the ports, wharfs and the city of Tyre (Ezekiel 26:7).

**NOTE:** it is unimportant in this context that the city of Babylon is north of Tyre because in this context the wind is referred to as the east wind, because it is the east wind that courses the storms on the oceans of Tyre and it is most likely that Babylon’s actual attack on Tyre came from the east side of the city.

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## THE LAMENTATION OF THE SURROUNDING NATIONS

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Kings and all the inhabitants of the coastlands, and those who depended on Tyres trade are seen standing in horror and weeping with bitter mourning and wailing aloud saying, “Who is like Tyre, like one destroyed in the midst of the sea?” As they look upon the destruction and fall of Tyre.

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## AN ECHO OF A FUTURE DAY

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This chapter can be seen as an echo of a future day when God will judge not only a nation, but the entire world. At this time Tyre was known as the great and glorious city, it brought trade to and fro from many countries across the ocean. Nations looked up to Tyre as the strong city the city of prosperity, influence, power and military skill and might. Multitudes of kings and countries across the seas prospered because of Tyres rich mineral resources and their shipping trade, yet in a single moment Tyre was brought to ruin and every nation associated with her financially crumbled. Tyre and Babylon are very similar in worldly glory and the widespread influence they had over the world system of their time.

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**For further information see the title:**

- Babylon Has fallen, Has Fallen in, Jeremiah chapter 50.

In, Commentary Old Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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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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