A Prophecy Against Tyre

Ezekiel 26:1-21
A Prophecy Against Tyre

Text:

Ezekiel 26:1-21,

1. In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me:
2. “Son of man, because Tyre has said about Jerusalem, ‘Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has swung open to me. I will become rich, now that she has been destroyed,’
3. therefore this is what the sovereign Lord says: Look, I am against you, O Tyre! I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves.
4. They will destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers. I will scrape her soil from her and make her a bare rock.
5. She will be a place where fishing nets are spread, surrounded by the sea. For I have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord. She will become plunder for the nations,
6. and her daughters who are in the field will be slaughtered by the sword. Then they will know that I am the Lord.
7. “For this is what the sovereign Lord says: Take note that I am about to bring King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north, with horses, chariots, and horsemen, an army and hordes of people.
8. He will kill your daughters in the field with the sword. He will build a siege wall against you, erect a siege ramp against you, and raise a great shield against you.
9. He will direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and tear down your towers with his weapons.
10. He will cover you with the dust kicked up by his many horses. Your walls will shake from the noise of the horsemen, wheels, and chariots when he enters your gates like those who invade through a city’s broken walls.
11. With his horses’ hoofs he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people with the sword, and your strong pillars will tumble down to the ground.
12. They will steal your wealth and loot your merchandise. They will tear down your walls and destroy your luxurious homes. Your stones, your trees, and your soil he will throw into the water.
13. I will silence the noise of your songs; the sound of your harps will be heard no more.
14. I will make you a bare rock; you will be a place where fishing nets are spread. You will never be built again, for I, the Lord, have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord.
15. “This is what the sovereign Lord says to Tyre: Oh, how the coastlands will shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, at the massive slaughter in your midst!
16. “This is what the sovereign Lord says to Tyre: Oh, how the coastlands will shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, at the massive slaughter in your midst! (NET)
17. They will sing this lament over you: “‘How you have perished—you have vanished from the seas, O renowned city, once mighty in the sea, she and her inhabitants, who spread their terror!
18. Now the coastlands will tremble on the day of your fall; the coastlands by the sea will be terrified by your passing.’
19. “For this is what the sovereign Lord says: When I make you desolate like the uninhabited cities, when I bring up the deep over you and the surging waters overwhelm you,
20. then I will bring you down to bygone people, to be with those who descend to the Pit. I will make you live in the lower parts of the earth, among the primeval ruins, with those who descend to the Pit, so that you will not be inhabited or stand in the land of the living.
21. I will bring terrors on you, and you will be no more! Though you are sought after, you will never be found again, declares the sovereign Lord.” (NET)
Introduction:

I. Coffman wrote, “Tyre was an exceedingly strong city, the citadel of which was located on a rock-bound island 1,200 yards off the eastern shore of the Mediterranean.”

A. They even bought and sold prisoners of war which included, on one occasion, selling Israelites to Edom.

1. Amos 1:9, This is what the Lord says: “Because Tyre has committed three crimes—make that four!—I will not revoke my decree of judgment. They sold a whole community to Edom; they failed to observe a treaty of brotherhood. (NET)

B. “Tyre was primarily a merchandiser, a tradesman; . . .” (Coffman)

II. Ezekiel 26 can be divided, (Coffman wrote, into four sections; viz., . . .

A. the announcement of Tyre’s ruin (verses 1-6), . . .

B. Nebuchadnezzar named as the destroyer (verses 7-14), . . .

C. world-wide shock at Tyre’s fall (verses 15-18), . . .

D. the permanence of the city’s ruin . . . (verses 19-21).

III. Ezekiel 26-28 consist of prophecies against Tyre and Sidon. (McGee)

A. McGee wrote, “Tyre was the capital of the great Phoenician nation which was famous for its seagoing traders.
B. Ships from Tyre and Sidon reached Great Britain trading and colonizing everywhere they went. (McGee)

C. The Pulpit Commentary notes that the prophetic messages against Ammon, Moab, Edom, and the philistines were comparatively short while the prophetic message against Tyre covers three chapters (Ezekiel 21:1-29: 18).

1. This may have been due, The Pulpit Commentary further states, to Tyre’s political importance at the time as well as to Ezekiel’s knowledge of the city.

Commentary:

Ezekiel 26:1, In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: (NET)

I. In the eleventh year, on the first day of our month, the word of the Lord came to me: . . .

A. This divine communication to Ezekiel is dated to the eleventh year of Jehoiachin’s captivity, on the first day of the month. (See Smith.)

1. Smith dated this communication to September 18, 586 B.C.

   a. The first day of a Hebrew month would not necessarily be the first day of the month.

B. This date notice is the fifth to this point cited in the book of Ezekiel and differs from the previous one in that no specific month is specified. (Fredenburg)
1. Ezekiel 1:2, (On the fifth day of the month—it was the fifth year of King Jehoiachin’s exile—(NET)

2. Ezekiel 8:1, In the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth of the month, as I was sitting in my house with the elders of Judah sitting in front of me, the hand of the sovereign Lord seized me. (NET)

3. Ezekiel 20:1, In the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth of the month, some of the elders of Israel came to seek the Lord, and they sat down in front of me. (NET)

4. Ezekiel 24:1, The word of the Lord came to me in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month: (NET)

5. This references the exile of Jehoiachin which may reflect a scribal error, the accurate reference being to the twelfth year, eleventh month and the first day of the month which is more in harmony with the chronology of Jerusalem’s fall on July 17, 586 B.C. (See Fredenburg.)

6. This word of the Lord came to Ezekiel in the same year in which Jerusalem was destroyed. (Clarke)

   a. This eleventh year was the eleventh of Jehoiachin’s/Jeconiah’s captivity and the eleventh of Zedekiah’s reign. (Clarke)

   b. Jeremiah 52:6, 12, By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine in the city was so severe the residents had no food. On the tenth day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Nebuzaradan, the
captain of the royal guard who served the king of Babylon, arrived in Jerusalem. (NET)

Ezekiel 26:2, “Son of man, because Tyre has said about Jerusalem, ‘Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has swung open to me. I will become rich, now that she has been destroyed,’ (NET)

I. “Son of man, because Tyre has said of Jerusalem, ‘Aha! The gate to the nations is broken, and its doors have swung open to me; now that she lies in ruins I will prosper, . . .

A. Because of Tyre’s arrogance, insolence, and haughty delight over Jerusalem’s adversities, God would destroy Tyre. (See Hamilton and Smith.)

1. Tyre rejoiced over the destruction of Jerusalem, a major commercial competitor. (See Smith.)

B. Smith reported that some seventy-six verses in the book of Ezekiel, “speak of Tyre and four additional verses speak of Tyre’s sister city Sidon.”

C. Another reason Tyre and Sidon were the targets of God’s vengeance was that they were “pagan to the core.” (Coffman)

1. Remember Jazebel, the wife of Ahab, the daughter of Eth-Baal, King of Sidon, who corrupted Israel with her paganism!

D. Jerusalem was the gate to the nations by being located on the principal trade-routes connecting three continents and positioned to exact taxes on all those who need these trade-routes.

1. Jealous and greedy Tyre was delighted when Jerusalem fell and could no longer collect these taxes. Tyre believed
could now enrich itself by collecting the taxes which before had gone to Jerusalem.

2. Jerusalem fell and Tyre came under attack subsequently, The Pulpit Commentary states.

E. Ezekiel’s attitude toward Tyre reflected the attitudes of other prophets.

1. Joel 3:4, Why are you doing these things to me, Tyre and Sidon? Are you trying to get even with me, land of Philistia? I will very quickly repay you for what you have done! (NET)

2. Amos 1:9-10, This is what the Lord says: “Because Tyre has committed three crimes—make that four!—I will not revoke my decree of judgment. They sold a whole community to Edom; they failed to observe a treaty of brotherhood. So I will set fire to Tyre’s city wall; fire will consume her fortresses.” (NET)

F. In understanding these prophecies relating to Tyre, it is important to realize there were two sections of the city; one located on the mainland and the other located on an island. (The Pulpit Commentary)

Ezekiel 26:3, therefore this is what the sovereign Lord says: Look, I am against you, O Tyre! I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves. (NET)

I. therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: . . .

A. The importance of speaking only what God says and of being certain that what we believe is exactly what God has said is repeatedly emphasized in this chapter.
II. I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves.


1. Ezekiel 26:1-6, In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, because Tyre has said about Jerusalem, ‘Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has swung open to me. I will become rich, now that she has been destroyed,’ therefore this is what the sovereign Lord says: Look, I am against you, O Tyre! I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves. They will destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers. I will scrape her soil from her and make her a bare rock. She will be a place where fishing nets are spread, surrounded by the sea. For I have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord. She will become plunder for the nations, and her daughters who are in the field will be slaughtered by the sword. Then they will know that I am the Lord. (NET)

2. Ezekiel 26:7-14, “For this is what the sovereign Lord says: Take note that I am about to bring King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north, with horses, chariots, and horsemen, an army and hordes of people. He will kill your daughters in the field with the sword. He will build a siege wall against you, erect a siege ramp against you, and raise a great shield against you. He will direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and tear down your towers with his weapons. He will cover you with the dust
kicked up by his many horses. Your walls will shake from the noise of the horsemen, wheels, and chariots when he enters your gates like those who invade through a city’s broken walls. With his horses’ hoofs he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people with the sword, and your strong pillars will tumble down to the ground. They will steal your wealth and loot your merchandise. They will tear down your walls and destroy your luxurious homes. Your stones, your trees, and your soil he will throw into the water. I will silence the noise of your songs; the sound of your harps will be heard no more. I will make you a bare rock; you will be a place where fishing nets are spread. You will never be built again, for I, the Lord, have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord. (NET)

3. Ezekiel 26:15-18, “This is what the sovereign Lord says to Tyre: Oh, how the coastlands will shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, at the massive slaughter in your midst! All the princes of the sea will vacate their thrones. They will remove their robes and strip off their embroidered clothes; they will clothe themselves with trembling. They will sit on the ground; they will tremble continually and be shocked at what has happened to you. They will sing this lament over you: ‘‘How you have perished—you have vanished from the seas, O renowned city, once mighty in the sea, she and her inhabitants, who spread their terror! Now the coastlands will tremble on the day of your fall; the coastlands by the sea will be terrified by your passing.’” (NET)

4. Ezekiel 26:19-21, “For this is what the sovereign Lord says: When I make you desolate like the uninhabited cities, when I bring up the deep over you and the surging waters overwhelm you, then I will bring you down to
bygone people, to be with those who descend to the Pit. I will make you live in the lower parts of the earth, among the primeval ruins, with those who descend to the Pit, so that you will not be inhabited or stand in the land of the living. I will bring terrors on you, and you will be no more! Though you are sought after, you will never be found again, declares the sovereign Lord.” (NET)

5. Ezekiel 27:1-36, The word of the Lord came to me: “You, son of man, sing a lament for Tyre. Say to Tyre, who sits at the entrance of the sea, merchant to the peoples on many coasts, ‘This is what the sovereign Lord says: “O Tyre, you have said, “I am perfectly beautiful.” Your borders are in the heart of the seas; your builders have perfected your beauty. They crafted all your planks out of fir trees from Senir; they took a cedar from Lebanon to make your mast. They made your oars from oaks of Bashan; they made your deck with cypresses from the Kittean isles. Fine linen from Egypt, woven with patterns, was used for your sail to serve as your banner; blue and purple from the coastlands of Elishah was used for your deck’s awning. The leaders of Sidon and Arvad were your rowers; your skilled men, O Tyre, were your captains. The elders of Gebal and her skilled men were within you, mending cracks; all the ships of the sea and their mariners were within you to trade for your merchandise. Men of Persia, Lud, and Put were in your army, men of war. They hung shield and helmet on you; they gave you your splendor. The Arvadites joined your army on your walls all around, and the Gammadites were in your towers. They hung their quivers on your walls all around; they perfected your beauty. “Tarshish was your trade partner because of your abundant wealth; they exchanged silver, iron, tin, and lead for your products. Javan, Tubal, and Meshech were your clients; they
exchanged slaves and bronze items for your merchandise. Beth Togarmah exchanged horses, chargers, and mules for your products. The Dedanites were your clients. Many coastlands were your customers; they paid you with ivory tusks and ebony. Edom was your trade partner because of the abundance of your goods; they exchanged turquoise, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral, and rubies for your products. Judah and the land of Israel were your clients; they traded wheat from Minnith, millet, honey, olive oil, and balm for your merchandise. Damascus was your trade partner because of the abundance of your goods and of all your wealth: wine from Helbon, white wool from Zahar, and casks of wine from Izal they exchanged for your products. wrought iron, cassia, and sweet cane were among your merchandise. Dedan was your client in saddlecloths for riding. Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your trade partners; for lambs, rams, and goats they traded with you. The merchants of Sheba and Raamah engaged in trade with you; they traded the best kinds of spices along with precious stones and gold for your products. Haran, Kanneh, Eden, merchants from Sheba, Asshur, and Kilmad were your clients. They traded with you choice garments, purple clothes and embroidered work, and multicolored carpets, bound and reinforced with cords; these were among your merchandise. The ships of Tarshish were the transports for your merchandise. “So you were filled and weighed down in the heart of the seas. Your rowers have brought you into surging waters. The east wind has wrecked you in the heart of the seas. Your wealth, products, and merchandise, your sailors and captains, your ship’s carpenters, your merchants, and all your fighting men within you, along with all your crew who are in you, will fall into the heart of the seas on the day of your downfall. At the sound of your captains’ cry
the waves will surge; They will descend from their ships—all who handle the oar, the sailors and all the sea captains—they will stand on the land. They will lament loudly over you and cry bitterly. They will throw dust on their heads and roll in the ashes; they will tear out their hair because of you and put on sackcloth, and they will weep bitterly over you with intense mourning. As they wail they will lament over you, chanting: “Who was like Tyre, like a tower in the midst of the sea?” When your products went out from the seas, you satisfied many peoples; with the abundance of your wealth and merchandise you enriched the kings of the earth. Now you are wrecked by the seas, in the depths of the waters; your merchandise and all your company have sunk along with you. All the inhabitants of the coastlands are shocked at you, and their kings are horribly afraid—their faces are troubled. The traders among the peoples hiss at you; you have become a horror, and will be no more.”

6. Ezekiel 28:1-10, The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, ‘This is what the sovereign Lord says: “Your heart is proud and you said, “I am a god; I sit in the seat of gods, in the heart of the seas”—yet you are a man and not a god, though you think you are godlike. Look, you are wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you. By your wisdom and understanding you have gained wealth for yourself; you have amassed gold and silver in your treasuries. By your great skill in trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart is proud because of your wealth. “Therefore this is what the sovereign Lord says: Because you think you are godlike, I am about to bring foreigners against you, the most terrifying of nations. They will draw their swords against the grandeur made by your wisdom, and
they will defile your splendor. They will bring you down to the Pit, and you will die violently in the heart of the seas. Will you still say, “I am a god,” before the one who kills you—though you are a man and not a god—when you are in the power of those who wound you? You will die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners; for I have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord.’” (NET)

7. Ezekiel 28:11-19, The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, sing a lament for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘This is what the sovereign Lord says: “You were the sealer of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering, the ruby, topaz, and emerald, the chrysolite, onyx, and jasper, the sapphire, turquoise, and beryl; your settings and mounts were made of gold. On the day you were created they were prepared. I placed you there with an anointed guardian cherub; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked about amidst fiery stones. You were blameless in your behavior from the day you were created, until sin was discovered in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I defiled you and banished you from the mountain of God—the guardian cherub expelled you from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom on account of your splendor. I threw you down to the ground; I placed you before kings, that they might see you. By the multitude of your iniquities, through the sinfulness of your trade, you desecrated your sanctuaries. So I drew fire out from within you; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth before the eyes of all who saw you. All who
know you among the peoples are shocked at you; you have become terrified and will be no more.”” (NET)

B. Hamilton further wrote that "Ancient Tyre was the chief eastern Mediterranean port for trade Egypt, Palestine, Anatolia, Arabia, and Babylonia, toward the west as far as Spain."

1. Tyre consisted of a mainland city on the Phoenician coast and an island port, Hamilton further stated, “about 500 yards offshore,” Fredenburg added.

C. Many nations did indeed come again to Tyre including the Babylonians (whose army consisted of soldiers from many nations) (See Clarke.), Alexander, Artigonus, the Arabs and the Crusaders, Smith wrote.

1. Ezekiel 23:22-27, As silver is melted in a furnace, so you will be melted in it, and you will know that I, the Lord, have poured out my anger on you.”” The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, say to her: ‘You are a land that receives no rain or showers in the day of my anger.’ Her princes within her are like a roaring lion tearing its prey; they have devoured lives. They take away riches and valuable things; they have made many women widows within it. Her priests abuse my law and have desecrated my holy things. They do not distinguish between the holy and the profane, or recognize any distinction between the unclean and the clean. They ignore my Sabbaths and I am profaned in their midst. Her officials are like wolves in her midst rending their prey—shedding blood and destroying lives—so they can get dishonest profit. (NET)
2. Fredenburg noted that during most of the Old Testament history, Tyre remained on good terms with Israel and Judah.

3. Tyre’s greatness was in shipping and trade, not in waging war with neighboring nations, however, conflict certainly did arise with Israel and Judah.

4. 1 Kings 5:1-12, King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to Solomon when he heard that he had been anointed king in his father’s place. (Hiram had always been an ally of David.) Solomon then sent this message to Hiram: “You know that my father David was unable to build a temple to honor the Lord his God, for he was busy fighting battles on all fronts while the Lord subdued his enemies. But now the Lord my God has made me secure on all fronts; there is no adversary or dangerous threat. So I have decided to build a temple to honor the Lord my God, as the Lord instructed my father David, ‘Your son, whom I will put on your throne in your place, is the one who will build a temple to honor me.’ So now order some cedars of Lebanon to be cut for me. My servants will work with your servants. I will pay your servants whatever you say is appropriate, for you know that we have no one among us who knows how to cut down trees like the Sidonians.” When Hiram heard Solomon’s message, he was very happy. He said, “The Lord is worthy of praise today because he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation.” Hiram then sent this message to Solomon: “I received the message you sent to me. I will give you all the cedars and evergreens you need. My servants will bring the timber down from Lebanon to the sea. I will send it by sea in raft-like
bundles to the place you designate. There I will separate the logs and you can carry them away. In exchange you will supply the food I need for my royal court.” So Hiram supplied the cedars and evergreens Solomon needed, and Solomon supplied Hiram annually with 20,000 cors of wheat as provision for his royal court, as well as 120,000 gallons of pure olive oil. So the Lord gave Solomon wisdom, as he had promised him. And Hiram and Solomon were at peace and made a treaty. (NET)

5. 1 Kings 16:31, As if following in the sinful footsteps of Jeroboam son of Nebat were not bad enough, he married Jezebel the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians. Then he worshiped and bowed to Baal. (NET)

6. Psalm 83:1-18, O God, do not be silent! Do not ignore us! Do not be inactive, O God! For look, your enemies are making a commotion; those who hate you are hostile. They carefully plot against your people, and make plans to harm the ones you cherish. They say, “Come on, let’s annihilate them so they are no longer a nation! Then the name of Israel will be remembered no more.” Yes, they devise a unified strategy; they form an alliance against you. It includes the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites, Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, Philistia and the inhabitants of Tyre. Even Assyria has allied with them, lending its strength to the descendants of Lot. (Selah) Do to them as you did to Midian—as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the Kishon River! They were destroyed at Endor; their corpses were like manure on the ground. Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb, and
all their rulers like Zebah and Zalmunna, who said, “Let’s take over the pastures of God!” O my God, make them like dead thistles, like dead weeds blown away by the wind! Like the fire that burns down the forest, or the flames that consume the mountainsides, chase them with your gale winds, and terrify them with your windstorm. Cover their faces with shame, so they might seek you, O Lord. May they be humiliated and continually terrified! May they die in shame! Then they will know that you alone are the Lord, the sovereign king over all the earth. (NET)

7. Isaiah 23:1-18, Here is a message about Tyre: Wail, you large ships, for the port is too devastated to enter! From the land of Cyprus this news is announced to them. Lament, you residents of the coast, you merchants of Sidon who travel over the sea, whose agents sail over the deep waters! Grain from the Shihor region, crops grown near the Nile she receives; she is the trade center of the nations. Be ashamed, O Sidon, for the sea says this, O fortress of the sea: “I have not gone into labor or given birth; I have not raised young men or brought up young women.” When the news reaches Egypt, they will be shaken by what has happened to Tyre. Travel to Tarshish! Wail, you residents of the coast! Is this really your boisterous city whose origins are in the distant past, and whose feet led her to a distant land to reside? Who planned this for royal Tyre, whose merchants are princes, whose traders are the dignitaries of the earth? The Lord who commands armies planned it—to dishonor the pride that comes from all her beauty, to humiliate all the dignitaries of the earth. Daughter Tarshish, travel
back to your land, as one crosses the Nile; there is no longer any marketplace in Tyre. The Lord stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook kingdoms; he gave the order to destroy Canaan’s fortresses. He said, “You will no longer celebrate, oppressed virgin daughter Sidon! Get up, travel to Cyprus, but you will find no relief there.” Look at the land of the Chaldeans, these people who have lost their identity! The Assyrians have made it a home for wild animals. They erected their siege towers, demolished its fortresses, and turned it into a heap of ruins. Wail, you large ships, for your fortress is destroyed! At that time Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years, the typical life span of a king. At the end of seventy years Tyre will try to attract attention again, like the prostitute in the popular song: “Take the harp, go through the city, forgotten prostitute! Play it well, play lots of songs, so you’ll be noticed!” At the end of seventy years the Lord will revive Tyre. She will start making money again by selling her services to all the earth’s kingdoms. Her profits and earnings will be set apart for the Lord. They will not be stored up or accumulated, for her profits will be given to those who live in the Lord’s presence and will be used to purchase large quantities of food and beautiful clothes. (NET)

D. The reference to nations being brought against Tyre like the sea casting up its waves is altogether fitting as Tyre was famous for maritime trading fleets.

1. Like the waves from a hurricane pounds the seashore, Tyre would be pounded by the attacks of one nation after another.
2. Coffman wrote that Tyre was indeed overthrown by waves of nations including the Babylonians, Persians, Alexander the great, Antiochus III, the Romans, the Saracens . . .”, a very appropriate figure for a maritime city.

3. Nebuchadnezzar made Tyre’s king his puppet vassal and appointed a Babylonian High Commissioner to guarantee Babylon’s interests in Tyre.

II. I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves.


1. Ezekiel 26:1-6, In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, because Tyre has said about Jerusalem, ‘Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has swung open to me. I will become rich, now that she has been destroyed,’ therefore this is what the sovereign Lord says: Look, I am against you, O Tyre! I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves. They will destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers. I will scrape her soil from her and make her a bare rock. She will be a place where fishing nets are spread, surrounded by the sea. For I have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord. She will become plunder for the nations, and her daughters who are in the field will be slaughtered by the sword. Then they will know that I am the Lord. (NET)

2. Ezekiel 26:7-14, “For this is what the sovereign Lord says: Take note that I am about to bring King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north, with horses, chariots, and horsemen, an army and hordes of people. He will kill your daughters in the field with the sword. He will build a siege wall against
you, erect a siege ramp against you, and raise a great shield against you. He will direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and tear down your towers with his weapons. He will cover you with the dust kicked up by his many horses. Your walls will shake from the noise of the horsemen, wheels, and chariots when he enters your gates like those who invade through a city’s broken walls. With his horses’ hoofs he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people with the sword, and your strong pillars will tumble down to the ground. They will steal your wealth and loot your merchandise. They will tear down your walls and destroy your luxurious homes. Your stones, your trees, and your soil he will throw into the water. I will silence the noise of your songs; the sound of your harps will be heard no more. I will make you a bare rock; you will be a place where fishing nets are spread. You will never be built again, for I, the Lord, have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord. (NET)

3. Ezekiel 26:15-18, “This is what the sovereign Lord says to Tyre: Oh, how the coastlands will shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, at the massive slaughter in your midst! All the princes of the sea will vacate their thrones. They will remove their robes and strip off their embroidered clothes; they will clothe themselves with trembling. They will sit on the ground; they will tremble continually and be shocked at what has happened to you. They will sing this lament over you:‘‘How you have perished—you have vanished from the seas, O renowned city, once mighty in the sea, she and her inhabitants, who spread their terror! Now the coastlands will tremble on the day of your fall; the coastlands by the sea will be terrified by your passing.’ (NET)
4. Ezekiel 26:19-21, “For this is what the sovereign Lord says: When I make you desolate like the uninhabited cities, when I bring up the deep over you and the surging waters overwhelm you, then I will bring you down to bygone people, to be with those who descend to the Pit. I will make you live in the lower parts of the earth, among the primeval ruins, with those who descend to the Pit, so that you will not be inhabited or stand in the land of the living. I will bring terrors on you, and you will be no more! Though you are sought after, you will never be found again, declares the sovereign Lord.” (NET)

5. Ezekiel 27:1-36, The word of the Lord came to me: “You, son of man, sing a lament for Tyre. Say to Tyre, who sits at the entrance of the sea, merchant to the peoples on many coasts, ‘This is what the sovereign Lord says: “O Tyre, you have said, “I am perfectly beautiful.” Your borders are in the heart of the seas; your builders have perfected your beauty. They crafted all your planks out of fir trees from Senir; they took a cedar from Lebanon to make your mast. They made your oars from oaks of Bashan; they made your deck with cypresses from the Kittean isles. Fine linen from Egypt, woven with patterns, was used for your sail to serve as your banner; blue and purple from the coastlands of Elishah was used for your deck’s awning. The leaders of Sidon and Arvad were your rowers; your skilled men, O Tyre, were your captains. The elders of Gebal and her skilled men were within you, mending cracks; all the ships of the sea and their mariners were within you to trade for your merchandise. Men of Persia, Lud, and Put were in your army, men of war. They hung shield and helmet on you; they gave you your splendor. The Arvadites joined your army on your walls all around, and the Gammadites were
in your towers. They hung their quivers on your walls all around; they perfected your beauty. ““Tarshish was your trade partner because of your abundant wealth; they exchanged silver, iron, tin, and lead for your products. Javan, Tubal, and Meshech were your clients; they exchanged slaves and bronze items for your merchandise. Beth Togarmah exchanged horses, chargers, and mules for your products. The Dedanites were your clients. Many coastlands were your customers; they paid you with ivory tusks and ebony. Edom was your trade partner because of the abundance of your goods; they exchanged turquoise, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral, and rubies for your products. Judah and the land of Israel were your clients; they traded wheat from Minnith, millet, honey, olive oil, and balm for your merchandise. Damascus was your trade partner because of the abundance of your goods and of all your wealth: wine from Helbon, white wool from Zahar, and casks of wine from Izal they exchanged for your products. Wrought iron, cassia, and sweet cane were among your merchandise. Dedan was your client in saddlescloths for riding. Arabia and all the princes of Kedar were your trade partners; for lambs, rams, and goats they traded with you. The merchants of Sheba and Raamah engaged in trade with you; they traded the best kinds of spices along with precious stones and gold for your products. Haran, Kanneh, Eden, merchants from Sheba, Asshur, and Kilmad were your clients. They traded with you choice garments, purple clothes and embroidered work, and multicolored carpets, bound and reinforced with cords; these were among your merchandise. The ships of Tarshish were the transports for your merchandise. ““So you were filled and weighed down in the heart of the seas. Your rowers have brought you into surging waters. The east wind has wrecked you in the heart of the seas. Your
wealth, products, and merchandise, your sailors and captains, your ship’s carpenters, your merchants, and all your fighting men within you, along with all your crew who are in you, will fall into the heart of the seas on the day of your downfall. At the sound of your captains’ cry the waves will surge; They will descend from their ships—all who handle the oar, the sailors and all the sea captains—they will stand on the land. They will lament loudly over you and cry bitterly. They will throw dust on their heads and roll in the ashes; they will tear out their hair because of you and put on sackcloth, and they will weep bitterly over you with intense mourning. As they wail they will lament over you, chanting: “Who was like Tyre, like a tower in the midst of the sea?” When your products went out from the seas, you satisfied many peoples; with the abundance of your wealth and merchandise you enriched the kings of the earth. Now you are wrecked by the seas, in the depths of the waters; your merchandise and all your company have sunk along with you. All the inhabitants of the coastlands are shocked at you, and their kings are horribly afraid—their faces are troubled. The traders among the peoples hiss at you; you have become a horror, and will be no more.”” (NET)

6. Ezekiel 28:1-10, The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, ‘This is what the sovereign Lord says: “Your heart is proud and you said, “I am a god; I sit in the seat of gods, in the heart of the seas”—yet you are a man and not a god, though you think you are godlike. Look, you are wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you. By your wisdom and understanding you have gained wealth for yourself; you have amassed gold and silver in your treasuries. By your great skill in trade you have increased your wealth, and
your heart is proud because of your wealth. “Therefore this is what the sovereign Lord says: Because you think you are godlike, I am about to bring foreigners against you, the most terrifying of nations. They will draw their swords against the grandeur made by your wisdom, and they will defile your splendor. They will bring you down to the Pit, and you will die violently in the heart of the seas. Will you still say, “I am a god,” before the one who kills you— though you are a man and not a god—when you are in the power of those who wound you? You will die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners; for I have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord.”” (NET)

7. Ezekiel 28:11-19, The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, sing a lament for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘This is what the sovereign Lord says: “You were the sealer of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering, the ruby, topaz, and emerald, the chrysolite, onyx, and jasper, the sapphire, turquoise, and beryl; your settings and mounts were made of gold. On the day you were created they were prepared. I placed you there with an anointed guardian cherub; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked about amidst fiery stones. You were blameless in your behavior from the day you were created, until sin was discovered in you. In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned; so I defiled you and banished you from the mountain of God—the guardian cherub expelled you from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom on account of your splendor. I threw you down to the ground; I placed you before kings, that they might see you. By the multitude of
your iniquities, through the sinfulness of your trade, you desecrated your sanctuaries. So I drew fire out from within you; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth before the eyes of all who saw you. All who know you among the peoples are shocked at you; you have become terrified and will be no more.” (NET)

B. Hamilton further wrote that “Ancient Tyre was the chief eastern Mediterranean port for trade with Egypt, Palestine, Anatolia, Arabia, Babylonia and toward the west as far as Spain.”

1. Tyre consisted of a mainland city on the Phoenician coast and an island port, Hamilton further stated, “about 500 yards offshore”, Fredenburg added.

C. Many nations did indeed come against to Tyre including the Babylonians (whose army consisted of soldiers from many nations. (See Clarke.), Alexander, Antigonus, the Arabs and the Crusaders, Smith wrote.

1. Ezekiel 23:22-27, “Therefore, Oholibah, this is what the sovereign Lord says: Look here, I am about to stir up against you the lovers with whom you were disgusted; I will bring them against you from every side: the Babylonians and all the Chaldeans, Pekod, Shoa, and Koa, and all the Assyrians with them, desirable young men, all of them governors and officials, officers and nobles, all of them riding on horses. They will attack you with weapons, chariots, wagons, and with a huge army; they will array themselves against you on every side with large shields, small shields, and helmets. I will assign them the task of judgment; they will punish you according to their laws. I will direct my jealous anger against you, and they will deal with you in rage. They will cut off your nose and your ears, and your survivors will
die by the sword. They will seize your sons and daughters, and your survivors will be consumed by fire. They will strip your clothes off you and take away your beautiful jewelry. So I will put an end to your obscene conduct and your prostitution which you have practiced in the land of Egypt. You will not seek their help or remember Egypt anymore. (NET)

2. Fredenburg noted that during most of the Old Testament history, Tyre remained on good terms with Israel and Judah.

3. Nebuchadnezzar made Tyre’s king his puppet, vassal, and appointed a Babylonian High Commissioner to guarantee Babylon’s interests in Tyre.

Ezekiel 26:4, They will destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers. I will scrape her soil from her and make her a bare rock. (NET)

I. They will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers; . . .

   A. Destruction of city walls and guard towers were usual objectives of ancient sieges.

II. I will scrape away her rubble and make her a bare rock.

   A. Tyre would be laid bare.

   B. There were two parts to Tyre, one on the mainland which Nebuchadnezzar devastated and a second on an adjacent island which Alexander the Great destroyed.

      1. Alexander built a causeway to the island city with the rubble of the mainland city, in this way scraping the area bare.
Ezekiel 26:5, She will be a place where fishing nets are spread, surrounded by the sea. For I have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord. She will become plunder for the nations, (NET)

I. Out in the sea she will become a place to spread fishnets, . . .

A. Tyre would be reduced from a mighty world trader to a place where fishermen would dry their nets.

B. McGee wrote, “God said it (Tyre) would be a fishing village – not the proud commercial capital – and that is what it is today.”

1. The Pulpit Commentary describes the vacillations of the fortunes of Tyre, at times the city area being populated by only about fifty or sixty poor families during portions of the seventeenth and eighteenth century.

II. for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign Lord.

A. God has spoken! That is the end of the matter.

III. She will become plunder for the nations, . . .

A. Tyre would become spoil for the nations. (See Smith.)

Ezekiel 26:6, and her daughters who are in the field will be slaughtered by the sword. Then they will know that I am the Lord. (NET)

I. and her settlements (daughters) on the mainland will be ravaged by the sword.
A. Smith wrote, “Tyre’s satellite villages would be slain by the sword and McGee identified these settlements as the colonies Tyre established.

II. Then they will know that I am the Lord.

A. This is the result of the defeat of Tyre.

Ezekiel 26:7, “For this is what the sovereign Lord says: Take note that I am about to bring King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north, with horses, chariots, and horsemen, an army and hordes of people. (NET)

I. “For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: . . .

A. These disasters which befell Tyre would cause its citizens to know that Yahweh is the only God! (See Smith.)

II. From the north I am going to bring against Tyre Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses and chariots with horsemen and a great army.

A. The mighty Babylonian army under Nebuchadnezzar, king of kings (ruler over many other kings), would come against Tyre with horses, chariots and horsemen.

1. Daniel 2:37, “You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has granted you sovereignty, power, strength, and honor. (NET)

B. Babylon’s major rivals for control over the eastern Mediterranean region were Egypt and Tyre. (See Fredenburg.)

1. Babylon defeated Egypt at Carchemish and now Babylon focused on Tyre.
2. While there were political and historical reasons for Babylon’s attacking Tyre, God’s providence was also clearly active in these events. (See Fredenburg.)

3. Nebuchadnezzar would approach Tyre from the North in keeping with the trade routes/roads.

   a. Jeremiah 1:13-15, The Lord again asked me, “What do you see?” I answered, “I see a pot of boiling water; it is tipped toward us from the north.” Then the Lord said, “This means destruction will break out from the north on all who live in the land. For I will soon summon all the peoples of the kingdoms of the north,” says the Lord. “They will come and their kings will set up their thrones near the entrances of the gates of Jerusalem. They will attack all the walls surrounding it, and all the towns in Judah. (NET)

   b. Ezekiel 38:15, and come from your place, from the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a vast army. (NET)

   c. Ezekiel 21:21-23, For the king of Babylon stands at the fork in the road at the head of the two routes. He looks for omens: He shakes arrows, he consults idols, he examines animal livers. Into his right hand comes the portent for Jerusalem—to set up battering rams, to give the signal for slaughter, to shout out the battle cry, to set up battering rams against the gates, to erect a siege ramp, to build a siege wall. But those in Jerusalem will view it as a false omen. They have sworn solemn oaths, but the
of Babylon will accuse them of violations in order to seize them. (NET)

d. Ezekiel 1:4, As I watched, I noticed a windstorm coming from the north—an enormous cloud, with lightning flashing, such that bright light rimmed it and came from it like glowing amber from the middle of a fire. (NET)

Ezekiel 26:8, He will kill your daughters in the field with the sword. He will build a siege wall against you, erect a siege ramp against you, and raise a great shield against you. (NET)

I. He will ravage your settlements on the mainland with the sword; he will set up siege works against you, build a ramp up to your walls and raise his shields against you.

A. Villages around Tyre would be attacked first after which siege works would be raised against Tyre.

B. The phrase, “raise his shields against you” or “a roof of shield”, “a buckler,” Coffman explained, was a portable light roof covered with military shields, under the protection of which soldiers could deploy their battering rams against an enemy wall.

Ezekiel 26:9, He will direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and tear down your towers with his weapons. (NET)

I. He will direct the blows of his battering rams (engines of war) against your walls and demolish your towers with his weapons.

A. The siege of Tyre would be devastating and designed to demolish/breech the city’s defensive walls and destroy its watch towers.
Ezekiel 26:10, He will cover you with the dust kicked up by his many horses. Your walls will shake from the noise of the horsemen, wheels, and chariots when he enters your gates like those who invade through a city’s broken walls. (NET)

I. His horses will be so many that they will cover you with dust.

   A. Certainly the Babylonian military was the world’s most powerful of that time, but even they would later fall to the Medo-Persians.

II. Your walls will tremble at the noise of the war horses, wagons and chariots when he enters your gates as men enter a city whose walls have been broken through.

   A. The prophecy here is that Nebuchadnezzar would be successful in regard to his conquest of mainland Tyre.

      1. His siege would produce great fear among the people and the city’s walls, with their battering, would literally tremble.

Ezekiel 26:11, With his horses’ hoofs he will trample all your streets. He will kill your people with the sword, and your strong pillars will tumble down to the ground. (NET)

I. The hoofs of his horses will trample all your streets; he will kill your people with the sword, and your strong pillars will fall to the ground.

   A. Hamilton and Coffman identified these “strong pillars” as those of the temple dedicated to Melqart/Melkarth (Hercules/Heracles).

      1. One tower was of opal, the other of emerald. Barlow via Coffman and the Pulpit Commentary.

   B. Smith identified these “strong pillars” as the leaders of the city.
Ezekiel 26:12, They will steal your wealth and loot your merchandise. They will tear down your walls and destroy your luxurious homes. Your stones, your trees, and your soil he will throw into the water. (NET)

I. They will plunder your wealth and loot your merchandise; . . .

   A. The riches of this major trading center would be looted, plundered by Nebuchadnezzar and carried away to Babylon.

II. they will break down your walls and demolish your fine houses and throw your stones, timber and rubble into the sea.

   A. Tyre would be left in ruins.

      1. The materials of which the city was built would be dumped into the city, an ironic turn of events as it was from the sea Tyre had obtained its great wealth.

Ezekiel 26:13, I will silence the noise of your songs; the sound of your harps will be heard no more. (NET)

I. I will put an end to your noisy songs, and the music of our harps will be heard no more.

   A. Here the reference is to noisy songs of jubilation at Jerusalem’s fall. (Fredenburg)

      1. Amos 5:23-25, Take away from me your noisy songs; I don’t want to hear the music of your stringed instruments. Justice must flow like torrents of water, righteous actions like a stream that never dries up. You did not bring me sacrifices and grain offerings during the
forty years you spent in the wilderness, family of Israel. (NET)

Ezekiel 26:14, I will make you a bare rock; you will be a place where fishing nets are spread. You will never be built again, for I, the Lord, have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord. (NET)

I. I will make you a bare rock, and you will become a place to spread fishnets.

A. This, Coffman wrote, was literally fulfilled in regard to the continental city of Tyre. That part of the city that lay on the rocky island recovered after a lapse of seventy years, as predicted by the prophet Isaiah.

1. Isaiah 23:17-18, At the end of seventy years the Lord will revive Tyre. She will start making money again by selling her services to all the earth’s kingdoms. Her profits and earnings will be set apart for the Lord. They will not be stored up or accumulated, for her profits will be given to those who live in the Lord’s presence and will be used to purchase large quantities of food and beautiful clothes. (NET)

II. You will never be rebuilt, for I the Lord have spoken, declares the Sovereign Lord.

A. The statement, “You will never be rebuilt,” was true in that Tyre never regained its power and influence it enjoyed before Nebuchadnezzar devastated the city.

1. Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre in 585 BCE, but withdrew in 572 BCE without breaching its walls. (See Hamilton.)
a. Ezekiel 29:17-19, In the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon made his army labor hard against Tyre. Every head was rubbed bald and every shoulder rubbed bare; yet he and his army received no wages from Tyre for the work he carried out against it. Therefore this is what the sovereign Lord says: Look, I am about to give the land of Egypt to King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon. He will carry off her wealth, capture her loot, and seize her plunder; it will be his army’s wages. (NET)

b. Zechariah 9:3-4, Tyre built herself a fortification and piled up silver like dust and gold like the mud of the streets! 4 Nevertheless the Lord will evict her and shove her fortifications into the sea—she will be consumed by fire. (NET)

2. Smith wrote, “Nebuchadnezzar besieged Tyre for some thirteen years (598 – 585 B.C.). He destroyed the mainland city, but was not able to conquer the island fortress.”

3. Nebuchadnezzar formed a treaty in 572 B.C. with Tyre’s ruler, Baal II, that brought hostilities to an end with a Babylonian governor as co-regent. (Fredenburg)

4. Alexander the Great in 332 BCE captured the city after a seven month siege. (Smith and Fredenburg)

a. Still Tyre survived and was a great maritime trading center in Roman times.
b. The actual city destroyed by Alexander was not rebuilt. The ruins of the old city were used to build a causeway to the island city. (See McGee.)

5. Tyre is presently a flourishing city in Lebanon.

B. This is an example of partial fulfillment of prophecy.

1. Ezekiel 29:17-18, In the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: 18 “Son of man, King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon made his army labor hard against Tyre. Every head was rubbed bald and every shoulder rubbed bare; yet he and his army received no wages from Tyre for the work he carried out against it. (NET)

C. Fredenburg gave six principles to help us understand problems of this kind.

1. Scriptures recognized this problem.

2. Scriptures must be allowed to speak for themselves.

3. Suspend judgment until more information is available that may help our understanding of the passage.

4. Elements of this prophecy were fulfilled.

5. This category of prophecy is not addressed in such passage as:

a. Deuteronomy 13:1-5, Suppose a prophet or one who foretells by dreams should appear among you and show you a sign or wonder, and the sign or wonder should come to pass concerning what he
said to you, namely, “Let us follow other gods”—
gods whom you have not previously known—“and
let us serve them.” You must not listen to the words
of that prophet or dreamer, for the Lord your God
will be testing you to see if you love him with all
your mind and being. You must follow the Lord
your God and revere only him; and you must
observe his commandments, obey him, serve him,
and remain loyal to him. As for that prophet or
dreamer, he must be executed because he
encouraged rebellion against the Lord your God
who brought you from the land of Egypt, redeeming
you from that place of slavery, and because he has
tried to entice you from the way the Lord your God
has commanded you to go. In this way you must
purge out evil from within. (NET)

b. Deuteronomy 18:21-22, Now if you say to
yourselves, ‘How can we tell that a message is not
from the Lord?’—whenever a prophet speaks in my
name and the prediction is not fulfilled, then I have
not spoken it; the prophet has presumed to speak it,
so you need not fear him.” (NET)

6. Conditions may have changed, as in the case of Jonah and
Ninevah, which caused God to alter this original prophecy.

a. Jonah 3:4, 9, When Jonah began to enter the city
one day’s walk, he announced, “At the end of forty
days, Nineveh will be overthrown!” The people of
Nineveh believed in God, and they declared a fast
and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least
of them. When the news reached the king of
Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his
royal robe, put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. He
issued a proclamation and said, “In Nineveh, by the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, cattle or sheep, is to taste anything; they must not eat and they must not drink water. Every person and animal must put on sackcloth and must cry earnestly to God, and everyone must turn from their evil way of living and from the violence that they do. Who knows? Perhaps God might be willing to change his mind and relent and turn from his fierce anger so that we might not die.” (NET)

b. Jeremiah 18:1-12, The Lord said to Jeremiah: “Go down at once to the potter’s house. I will speak to you further there.” So I went down to the potter’s house and found him working at his wheel. Now and then there would be something wrong with the pot he was molding from the clay with his hands. So he would rework the clay into another kind of pot as he saw fit. Then the Lord said to me, “I, the Lord, say: ‘O nation of Israel, can I not deal with you as this potter deals with the clay? In my hands, you, O nation of Israel, are just like the clay in this potter’s hand.’ There are times, Jeremiah, when I threaten to uproot, tear down, and destroy a nation or kingdom. But if that nation I threatened stops doing wrong, I will cancel the destruction I intended to do to it. And there are times when I promise to build up and establish a nation or kingdom. But if that nation does what displeases me and does not obey me, then I will cancel the good I promised to do to it. So now, tell the people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem this: The Lord says, ‘I am preparing to bring disaster on you! I am making plans to punish you. So, every one of you, stop the evil things you have been doing. Correct the way you have been
living and do what is right.’ But they just keep saying, ‘We do not care what you say! We will do whatever we want to do! We will continue to behave wickedly and stubbornly!’”  (NET)

Ezekiel 26:15, “This is what the sovereign Lord says to Tyre: Oh, how the coastlands will shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, at the massive slaughter in your midst!  (NET)

I. “This is what the Sovereign Lord says to Tyre: . . .  

A. What the Sovereign Lord says is absolutely true and totally dependable, accurate!

II. Will not the coastlands (isles) tremble at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan and the slaughter takes place in you?

A. The aftermath of Tyre’s defeat will cause great consternation for Tyre, but also for all of its neighbors as well.  (See Hamilton.)

1. These neighboring villages were economically, militarily and politically dependent on Tyre.

2. The Pulpit Commentary states the “coastlands” probably include all the Mediterranean settlements of the Tyrians, possibly also those in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf. The news of the fall of Tyre was to spread far and wide.

Ezekiel 26:16, “This is what the sovereign Lord says to Tyre: Oh, how the coastlands will shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, at the massive slaughter in your midst!  (NET)

I. Then all the (merchants) princes of the coast will step down from their thrones and lay aside their robe and take off their embroidered garments.
A. The rulers of the neighboring villages along with their citizenry deeply mourned their lamentable situation.

1. “The source of their power, wealth, and glory had dried up. They were, therefore, downgraded and humiliated,” Coffman wrote.

B. The “Princes” were the merchant princes who, by their maritime endeavors, had brought great wealth to the city.

1. They had now been defeated and returned to poverty.

2. The embroidered garments woven with gold and silver were now laid aside and replaced with garments of mourning. (The Pulpit Commentary)

II. Clothed with terror, they will sit on the ground, trembling every moment, appalled at you.

A. Those spheres of influence of Tyre’s success would, upon the fall of Tyre, dress themselves with terror, sit on the ground trembling constantly, appalled at what had happened to mighty Tyre!

Ezekiel 26:17, They will sing this lament over you: “‘How you have perished—you have vanished from the seas, O renowned city, once mighty in the sea, she and her inhabitants, who spread their terror! (NET)

I. Then they will take up a lament concerning you and say to you: . . .

A. The people who had depended on Tyre took up a lament for their benefactor now that it had been destroyed.
B. A “lament” expresses deep grief. A lament is a crying aloud as a form of mourning expressing grief. (Youngblood) A “lament” is an expression of sorrow, mourning or regret, a dirge, elegy, or wailing. (Webster) an “elegy” is a song of mourning, a poem expressing sorrow while “a dirge” is a song or hymn of grief or lamentation. (Webster)

II. “‘How you are destroyed, O city of renown peopled by men of the sea!

A. Tyre had been populated by people who, as maritime merchants, obtained their wealth from the sea as traders.

B. Now this great people, the Phoenicians, had been destroyed.

III. You were a power in the seas; you and your citizens; you put your terror on all who lived there.

A. Coffman further wrote, “The heartless old slave traders of Tyre had been the terror of mankind.”

B. The Pulpit Commentary noted that the people of coastlands/isles do not exult in their deliverance, but mourned over the adversities which befell Tyre.

Ezekiel 26:18, Now the coastlands will tremble on the day of your fall; the coastlands by the sea will be terrified by your passing.’ (NET)

I. Now the coastlands tremble on the day of your fall; the islands of the sea are terrified at your collapse!

A. The effects of Tyre’s fall radiated around the Mediterranean Sea affecting many people who depended on Tyre for their support sustenance.
Ezekiel 26:19, “For this is what the sovereign Lord says: When I make you desolate like the uninhabited cities, when I bring up the deep over you and the surging waters overwhelm you, (NET)

I. “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: . . .

   A. The importance of this fact is made clear by its being repeated six times in this chapter of only twenty-one verses.

II. When I make you a desolate city, like cities no longer inhabited, and when I bring the ocean depths over you and its vast waters cover you, . . .

   A. The Pulpit Commentary concludes, “The picture of desolation is completed. The sea washes over the bare rock that was once covered with the palaces of the merchant princes.”

Ezekiel 26:20, then I will bring you down to bygone people, to be with those who descend to the Pit. I will make you live in the lower parts of the earth, among the primeval ruins, with those who descend to the Pit, so that you will not be inhabited or stand in the land of the living. (NET)

I. Then I will bring you down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of long ago.

   A. Hamilton suggested this is a reference to the ancient view held by those who lived in the ancient Near East that the universe was three-tiered, viz., the subterranean world, the earth and the sky.

      1. The “pit” refers to “the abode of the dead.” (See Smith.) Sheol the pit, refers to Hades, the unseen world of the dead. (The Pulpit Commentary)
2. There Tyre would join other people and civilizations of long before. (See Smith.)

   a. Smith wrote, “Tyre would disappear from the land of the living – from the stage of history – and never be found again.”

   b. This passage presents the “Pit” (Sheol) as a place from which there is no return.

   c. Coffman wrote, “Tyre is here compared to the dead who are placed in their tombs and then are heard no more in the land of the living.”

3. However, Jesus revealed the rest of the story.

   a. 2 Timothy 1:10, but now made visible through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus. He has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel! (NET)

II. I will make you dwell in the earth below, as in ancient ruins, with those who go down to the pit, and . . .

   A. The Pulpit Commentary suggests that the people of the coastlands believed the dead went to that abode of the departed located below the surface of the earth.

III. you will not return or take your place in the land of the living.

   A. Tyre’s destruction was permanent.

   1. Psalm 88:3-7, For my life is filled with troubles and I am ready to enter Sheol. They treat me like those who descend into the grave. I am like a helpless man, adrift
among the dead, like corpses lying in the grave, whom you remember no more, and who are cut off from your power. You place me in the lowest regions of the Pit, in the dark places, in the watery depths. Your anger bears down on me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. (Selah) (NET)

Ezekiel 26:21, I will bring terrors on you, and you will be no more! Though you are sought after, you will never be found again, declares the sovereign Lord.” (NET)

I. I will bring you to a horrible end and you will be no more.

A. To say the least, Tyre, the great maritime giant of old, is no more.

1. Tyre will brought to sudden death. Tyre would be destroyed. (See The Pulpit Commentary.)

II. You will be sought, but you will never again be found, declares the Sovereign Lord.”

A. “The glory of man-made kingdoms fades, but the Lord’s kingdom endures forever.” (See Smith.)

B. Coffman wrote, “This prophecy of the total disappearance of Tyre was literally fulfilled in the disappearance of the continental city of Tyre. While the insular Tyre afterwards attained some distinction, the ancient continental city never recovered from her ruin.”

C. Please observe the last words of this chapter are, “declares the Sovereign Lord!” . . . and so it is.

Conclusion:
I. Clarke observed that Tyre was a place of some consequence in the time of the Apostle Paul and a church had been established there.

A. Acts 21:2-7, We found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, went aboard, and put out to sea. After we sighted Cyprus and left it behind on our port side, we sailed on to Syria and put in at Tyre, because the ship was to unload its cargo there. After we located the disciples, we stayed there seven days. They repeatedly told Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem. When our time was over, we left and went on our way. All of them, with their wives and children, accompanied us outside of the city. After kneeling down on the beach and praying, we said farewell to one another. Then we went aboard the ship, and they returned to their own homes. We continued the voyage from Tyre and arrived at Ptolemais, and when we had greeted the brothers, we stayed with them for one day. (NET)

II. Ezekiel was very careful to speak exactly what God commanded him to say to the people, a thing which must be done today by all who profess to be ministers or teachers of the Word.

A. Ezekiel made it perfectly clear that what he was telling them was God’s Word, not his.

B. Scriptures:

1. Ezekiel 26:1, In the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: (NET)

2. Ezekiel 26:3, therefore this is what the sovereign Lord says: Look, I am against you, O Tyre! I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves. (NET)
3. Ezekiel 26:5, She will be a place where fishing nets are spread, surrounded by the sea. For I have spoken, declares the sovereign Lord. She will become plunder for the nations, (NET)

4. Ezekiel 26:7, “For this is what the sovereign Lord says: Take note that I am about to bring King Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north, with horses, chariots, and horsemen, an army and hordes of people. (NET)

5. Ezekiel 26:15, “This is what the sovereign Lord says to Tyre: Oh, how the coastlands will shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, at the massive slaughter in your midst! (NET)

6. Ezekiel 26:19, “For this is what the sovereign Lord says: When I make you desolate like the uninhabited cities, when I bring up the deep over you and the surging waters overwhelm you, (NET)
Questions

on

Ezekiel 26:1-21

(Questions based on NIV text.)

1. Give as much information about Tyre as you can. __________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

2. Into what four sections, according to Coffman, can Ezekiel 26 be divided? ______________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

3. The prophetic messages against _____________, _____________,
   _____________, and the _____________ were comparatively
   _____________ while the _____________ _____________ against
   _____________ covers _____________ _____________.

4. What accounts for the difference in the length of these prophetic
   messages? __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
5. On what five occasions/ dates did the word of the Lord come to Ezekiel? (See Ezekiel 1-26.)

6. From what beginning point was each of these dates calculated?

7. When was Jerusalem destroyed? How many years before or after the destruction of Jerusalem did each of the other five dates occur?

8. What is the significance of the designation, “Son of man,” in references to Ezekiel and to Jesus?
9. What offenses did Tyre commit against Jerusalem and Judah? 
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

10. How did God punish Tyre for these offenses? 
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

11. How many times in Ezekiel 26 is the expression, “. . . this is what the Sovereign Lord says,” used? What is the significance of this fact? How important is it in our lives and in the work of Ezekiel? 
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

12. __________________ was the __________________ for ____________ from ____________, ____________, ____________, and ____________, toward the ______________ as far as ____________.

__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
14. Tyre consisted of two parts. Describe each part. ________________  

15. Many nations came in waves against Tyre including the _________  
        _________, _________ the _________, _________ the  
        _________, the _________ the _________, and the _________.

16. From Nebuchadnezzar to Alexander the Great, what damage was  
inflicted on each section of Tyre? ________________________________  

17. There were _________ _________ to _________, one  
on the _________ which _________ devastated and a  
_______ on an _________ _________ which _________  
the _________ _________.
18. The _____________ of _____________ would be _____________ and her _____________ _____________ down. Tyre would have her _____________ _____________ away and Tyre would be made a _____________ _____________.

19. ___________ ___________ a ___________ to the _____________ ___________ with the ___________ of the ___________ ___________ _____________ the area _____________.

20. Compare Tyre at its peak with Tyre at its lowest point. _____________

21. “___________ have _____________, declares the _____________ ___________. ___________ has _____________! That is the _____________ of the _____________.

22. How were settlements which had depended on Tyre affected by Tyre’s fall?

23. How did the disasters which befell Tyre and its satellite settlements cause them to know that Yahweh is God? Wouldn’t you have thought these disasters would have caused them to rebel against God?
24. Why did Nebuchadnezzar attack Tyre? _______________________

25. Why is it said that Nebuchadnezzar attacked Tyre from the North when Babylon was actually East of Tyre? _______________________

26. What is meant by the expression, “He (Nebuchadnezzar) . . . will raise his shields against you?” _______________________

27. What are “battering rams” (engines of war) and how did they work? _______________________

28. Distinguish between Tyre’s “walls” and “towers.” ________________
29. Why can it be said that the Babylonian military was the world’s most powerful at that time?

30. According to verse 8-15, what would happen to Tyre?

31. Identify the “strong pillars” of verse 11.

32. Identify the “noisy songs” of verse 13.
33. According to verse 14, the Sovereign Lord declares that Tyre would never be rebuilt. What problems does this prophecy present? __________

34. What six principles did Fredenburg give to help us understand problems of this kind? __________________________

35. Identify “coastlands (isles)” as used in verse 16. ________________
36. Why were these “coastlands” gravely upset, terrified by Tyre’s fall, collapse? ________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

37. Who were the “(merchant) princes” mentioned in verse 16? How were they affected by Tyre’s destruction. ________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

38. Define “lament.” ________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

39. How was “men of the sea” an appropriate designation for the people of Tyre? ________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

40. Why would people with whom Tyre did business fear them? ______
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
41. The Pulpit Commentary concluded, “The picture of ___________ is ___________. The ___________ ___________ over the ___________ ___________ that was once covered with the ___________ of the ___________ ___________.”

42. Identify “pit” and “people of long ago” as used in verse 20. _______

43. Coffman wrote, “_____________ is here compared to the ___________ who are placed in their ___________ and then are ___________ no more in the ___________ of the ___________.”

44. To what ancient belief does the statement, “I will make you dwell in the earth below,” refer? _______

45. In regard to Tyre, what does “. . . you will not return or take your place in the land of the living,” mean? _______
46. God said of Tyre, “I will bring you to a ______________________
__________________ and you will be __________________ ____________.”

47. Explain how and when the statement of Question 46 was fulfilled. ____________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

49. ___________ was very careful and ______________ ________
what _____________ _____________ him to say to the _____________
a thing which must be done by _____________ who _____________ to
be _____________ or _____________ of the _____________.

50. What do God’s dealings with Tyre tell us about God’s nature and
how we may expect God to deal with us if we reject him? _____________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________