

Ezekiel Part 34 (Ezekiel 26)

1. Tyre was a principal city of Phoenicia. The name “Tyre” means “rock” and referred to the main fortress that was located on a rock outcropping one-half mile offshore.
2. It was mentioned as a chief city of the Phoenicians by Joshua (19:29).
3. The Egyptians and Assyrians sought to maintain control of Tyre because of its strategic importance as a port city and a military outpost.
4. The ability to withstand some of the greatest armies and commanders in history gave the people a pride and arrogance that made them insensitive to human suffering.
5. This lack of concern is illustrated by the malicious joy of the people of Tyre at the destruction of Jerusalem.
6. **26:1** contains the sixth dated prophecy in the book.
7. **26:2** Judgment of Tyre was due, in part, to the attitude of the people of the city toward news of the destruction of Jerusalem.
8. This phrase represents the animosity the people of Tyre had toward Israel.
9. **26:3–6** God promised to bring six judgments upon Tyre (vv. 3–6).
10. Many nations would “come against” the city (v. 3).
11. This judgment is pictured as unrelenting waves pounding the city.
12. Second, Ezekiel stated evidence of divine opposition to Tyre (v. 3).
13. The emphasis of the text calls attention to the events of judgment as having been divinely orchestrated.
14. Third, the walls of Tyre would be destroyed (v. 4).
15. In spite of all those who fought against Tyre, it was not until its conquest by Alexander the Great that this prophecy was fulfilled. Nevertheless, the prediction did come true.
16. Fourth, God promised that the island fortress would become a pile of rubble that would be scraped away. There would be no trace of the once-invincible city.
17. Only a bare rock where fishermen would dry their nets would mark the spot (v. 4).
18. Fifth, Tyre, known for its commercial and political power, would be an object of plunder for all the nations (v. 5).

19. Sixth, the city on the mainland also would be destroyed and the area ravaged by the sword.
(v. 6)
20. **26:7-14** This passage specifically focuses on Nebuchadnezzar's attack against Tyre.
21. It has already been noted that Nebuchadnezzar launched a campaign against Tyre that lasted for thirteen years.
22. The last two verses refer to something Nebuchadnezzar was not able to accomplish but which did happen later under Alexander.
23. Nebuchadnezzar was called King of Babylon and the "king of kings" (v. 7) who would come with his great army, chariots, and horsemen to battle against Tyre.
24. **26:15-18** The "coastlands" (v. 15) refers to the neighboring states that were vassals of Tyre and therefore depended on the city for their own security.
25. The lament, or funeral song, of v. 18 was preceded by a brief prophetic message that described the shock and fright of these neighboring villages on learning of the fall of Tyre (v. 16).
26. The people's conduct depicted the usual response of a person to the death of a close friend or loved one.
27. These leaders removed their royal garments because of their costliness and adopted other signs of remorse (v. 16).
28. The lament of vv. 17-18 was set in a special poetic meter known as a funeral dirge. This poetic form was used by Ezekiel in 19:1, 14 to describe a funeral lament over the loss of the leaders of Jerusalem.
29. The song here depicted the fear and uncertainty shared by those who were dependent on Tyre's welfare.
30. Those who oppose God must answer to him personally (Num 32:23; Rom 14:10-12).
31. **26:19-21** Having mentioned the funeral, Ezekiel followed with the interment of the "body" of Tyre into the "pit."
32. God promised Tyre would be a desolate, uninhabited place. The depths of the ocean would cover the spot where the city once stood (v. 19).
33. The city would never return to the land of the living, meaning it would never be rebuilt (v. 20).
34. The last two verses of this chapter use a new series of images to convey the concept of judgment. Tyre's trip to the "pit" will not be one that will lead to peace and rest but to a "horrible end" (v. 21).

While the existence of Tyre produced fear of reprisal in all opponents (v. 17), the absence of Tyre would produce the fear of dismay and uncertainty (v. 21). Tyre would disappear from the family of nations forever.