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## **SUNDAY SERMON**

**Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church**

**Willow, Alaska**

**Date: June 03, 2018**

**Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 27:1-36**

**Text: Ezekiel 27:1-36**

**Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – Lamentation for Tyre**

In the preceding chapter 26, we considered the record of the desolation of great Tyre. You will recall that two great principles were considered in connection with this chapter and the destruction of that great, beautiful, and proud city. We remembered God's promise to Abram when he called him from his home in Ur of the Chaldees:

**Genesis 12:1-3** *Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: **And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee:** and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

We also saw the judgment pronounced of the LORD on the perpetual enemies of Israel in chapter 25. Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistia had all spoken against Judah and Israel and were, therefore, judged of the LORD.

We have seen, through the centuries, the rise and fall of nations who have cursed and persecuted the Israelites, the descendants of

Abraham. Secondly, we need to consider that Tyre was a very rich, pompous and proud city.

Someone has rightly said, "Pride is a five letter with "I" in the middle!"

**Proverbs 11:2** *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

**Proverbs 16:18** *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

**Proverbs 18:12** *Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.*

**Proverbs 29:23** *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

**Isaiah 2:11-12** *The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:*

**Matthew 23:12** *And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*

**1 Corinthians 10:12** *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

Now we come to study the 27<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ezekiel which records the great lamentation for Tyre. You will recall that we read this in your hearing last time. What is a lament or lamentation? It is a passionate expression of grief; mourning and regret. Can we imagine the sorrow and regret which came on those who saw the sudden total and

catastrophic destruction of this wonderful, proud, beautiful city? And why? Because so many of the mourners were in collusion with it! They had been merchandisers with her and benefited greatly from the great array of products which came through that awesome port city.

- **TYRE'S PRIDE, BEAUTY, BUILDERS, AND HELPERS (Verses 1-11).**

***1 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying, 2 Now, thou son of man, take up a lamentation for Tyrus;***

Compose an funeral song, and sing it; make a mournful noise, and deliver out a funeral ode; such mournful women, made at funerals, in which they said all they could in praise of the dead, and made very doleful lamentations for them: this the prophet was to do in a prophetic manner, for the confirmation of what was prophesied of by him; and it may teach us, that even wicked men are to be pitied, when in distress and in such calamity.

***3 And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty.***

**And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea,** -- Of the Mediterranean sea; at the eastern part of it, not above half a mile from the continent; and so fit for a seaport, and a harbor for shipping; In the very same way, the

antitype of Tyre, the great whore who sits on many waters, Rev. 17:1.

**which art a merchant of the people for many isles;** -- the inhabitants of many isles brought their produce to Tyre; who took them off their hands, or sold them for them to others. (It is rightly said that the "middle man" is the one who really increases in wealth.) These merchandisers came from several quarters to trade with her in her markets; and who supplied other isles and countries with all sorts of commodities, for which they either resorted to her, or she sent by ships unto them; so commercial Babylon of the Revelation is represented as the seat of merchandise.

**Revelation 18:7 (KJV)** *How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.*

**thus saith the Lord God, O Tyrus, thou hast said;** -- in thine heart, in the pride of it, and with thy mouth, praising and commending thyself; which is not right:

**I am of perfect beauty:** -- All this reminds us of the braggarts of Lucifer and of Nebuchadnezzar who viewed great Babylon and said, "...Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" (Dan. 4:30)

As Tyre looked about, she could see that she was built on a good foundation, a rock; surrounded with walls and towers; the streets arranged in order, and filled with goodly houses; having

a good harbor for shipping, and being a mart for all manner of merchandise, Jerusalem being destroyed, Tyre assumes her character – at least in her mind's eye.

**Psalm 48:2 (KJV)** *Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*

***4 Thy borders are in the midst of the seas, thy builders have perfected thy beauty.***

Tyre, in agreement with her unique position at and in the sea, separated by a strait of half a mile from the mainland, is described as a ship built of the best material, and manned with the best mariners and the most skillful pilots.

***5 They have made all thy ship boards of fir trees of Senir: they have taken cedars from Lebanon to make masts for thee.***

Fir-trees (or, cypress) of Senir - The name by which the Amorites knew Mount Hermon. Cypress or the firs of Mt. Hermon are almost indestructible and will not rot. The cedars of Lebanon are extolled throughout the scripture for their massive size, beauty, and strength – these made the masts for the ships to hold up the sails.

***6 Of the oaks of Bashan have they made thine oars; the company of the Ashurites have made thy benches of ivory, brought out of the isles of Chittim.***

**Bashan**--celebrated for its oaks, as Lebanon was for its cedars. We read of them often in reference to strong men and leaders metaphorically in the scripture. Oak was their rowing instruments – the oars. I cannot ascertain the identity of the

Ashurites – the they prepared benches of ivory. Can you imagine? On Tyre's ships? Ivory has to come from a living creature such as an elephant or walrus.

***7 Fine linen with brodered work from Egypt was that which thou spreadest forth to be thy sail; blue and purple from the isles of Elishah was that which covered thee.***

The finest materials for the sails of the ships – fine linen from Egypt embroidered in blue and purple. How beautiful – and how vain?

***8 The inhabitants of Zidon and Arvad were thy mariners: thy wise men, O Tyrus, that were in thee, were thy pilots.***

**Arvad**--a small island and city near Phoenicia, now called *Ruad*: its inhabitants are still noted for seafaring habits. These were wise in the way of guiding vessels so they did not crash into underwater mountains and objects.

***9 The ancients of Gebal and the wise men thereof were in thee thy calkers: all the ships of the sea with their mariners were in thee to occupy thy merchandise.***

**Gebal**--a Phoenician city and region between Beirut and Tripolis, famed for skilled workmen. These were calkers (the strengtheners of thy breaches) who made sure the ships' holes and cracks were filled and waterproof. **Occupy thy merchandise.** -- Ships from all parts were in her harbors, which brought goods into her, and carried goods out of her, by way of merchandise.

**10 They of Persia and of Lud and of Phut were in thine army, thy men of war: they hanged the shield and helmet in thee; they set forth thy comeliness.**

**11 The men of Arvad with thine army were upon thy walls round about, and the Gammadims were in thy towers: they hanged their shields upon thy walls round about; they have made thy beauty perfect.**

- **TYRE'S MERCHANTS (Verse 12-24)**

**12 Tarshish<sup>1</sup> was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver<sup>1</sup>, iron<sup>2</sup>, tin<sup>3</sup>, and lead<sup>4</sup>, they traded in thy fairs.**

**13 Javan<sup>2</sup>, Tubal<sup>3</sup>, and Meshech<sup>4</sup>, they were thy merchants: they traded the persons of men<sup>5</sup> and vessels of brass<sup>6</sup> in thy market.**

**14 They of the house of Togarmah<sup>5</sup> traded in thy fairs with horses<sup>7</sup> and horsemen<sup>8</sup> and mules<sup>9</sup>.**

**15 The men of Dedan<sup>6</sup> were thy merchants; many isles were the merchandise of thine hand: they brought thee for a present horns of ivory and ebony<sup>10</sup>.**

**16 Syria<sup>7</sup> was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of the wares of thy making: they occupied in thy fairs with emeralds<sup>11</sup>, purple<sup>12</sup>, and broidered work<sup>13</sup>, and fine linen<sup>14</sup>, and coral<sup>15</sup>, and agate<sup>16</sup>.**

**17 Judah<sup>8</sup>, and the land of Israel<sup>9</sup>, they were thy merchants: they traded in thy market *wheat<sup>17</sup> of Minnith<sup>10</sup>, and Pannag<sup>11</sup>, and honey<sup>18</sup>, and oil<sup>19</sup>, and balm<sup>20</sup>.***

**18 Damascus<sup>12</sup> was thy merchant in the multitude of the wares of thy making, for the multitude of all riches; in the *wine<sup>21</sup> of Helbon<sup>13</sup>, and white wool<sup>22</sup>.***

**19 Dan<sup>14</sup> also and Javan<sup>15</sup> going to and fro occupied in thy fairs: *bright iron<sup>23</sup>, cassia<sup>24</sup>, and calamus<sup>25</sup>, were in thy market.***

**20 Dedan<sup>16</sup> was thy merchant in *precious clothes for chariots<sup>26</sup>.***

**21 Arabia<sup>17</sup>, and all the princes of Kedar<sup>18</sup>, they occupied with thee in *lambs<sup>27</sup>, and rams<sup>28</sup>, and goats<sup>29</sup>: in these were they thy merchants.***

**22 The merchants of Sheba<sup>19</sup> and Raamah<sup>20</sup>, they were thy merchants: they occupied in thy fairs with *chief of all spices<sup>30</sup>, and with all precious stones<sup>31</sup>, and gold<sup>32</sup>.***

**23 Haran<sup>21</sup>, and Canneh<sup>22</sup>, and Eden<sup>23</sup>, the merchants of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad, were thy merchants.**

**24 These were thy merchants in all sorts of things, *in blue clothes<sup>33</sup>, and broidered work<sup>34</sup>, and in chests of rich apparel, bound with cords, and made of cedar<sup>35</sup>, among thy merchandise.***

Exactly 23 merchants are named as associated with Tyre. The Bible number 23 is associated with death. Exactly 35 items are listed as merchandise in which the consumers hoped – and 35 is the bible number for hope either false or true hope.

**Proverbs 11:7 (KJV)** *When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.*

**The Rich Man whose land gave him great increase and wealth: Luke 12:19-21 (KJV)** *And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*

- **TYRE WAS THE SONG OF THE SHIPMEN (Verse 25).**

**25 The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas.**

**The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in market,** -- The ships of the sea in general; for Tarshish is used for the sea; these from all parts came to Tyre with their different kinds of wares, the product of their country from whence they came, and, finding a good market for them at Tyre, spoke greatly in her praise.

**and thou wast replenished;** -- with goods from all parts, with everything for their necessity, convenience, pleasure, and delight, and to carry on a traffic with all nations.

**and made very glorious in the midst of the seas;** -- with great riches, stately towers and buildings. Here ends the account of Tyre's greatness; next follows her ruin and destruction in this great lament for her.

- **TYRE'S SUDDEN DESTRUCTION – WAILING OF THE MERCHANTS (Verses 26-36).** Herein is the sorrowful song of all those attached and associated with the pride of Tyre – whose hope for gain is now lost and they know it cannot be regained in their lifetime. The goods for which their souls lusted are now all lost to them! Their spirit is broken and their hopes are dashed! All that is left is the mournful cry coming from the lips that once rejoiced greatly in these things.

***26 ¶ Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the seas.***

***27 Thy riches, and thy fairs, thy merchandise, thy mariners, and thy pilots, thy calkers, and the occupiers of thy merchandise, and all thy men of war, that are in thee, and in all thy company which is in the midst of thee, shall fall into the midst of the seas in the day of thy ruin.***

***28 The suburbs shall shake at the sound of the cry of thy pilots.***

***29 And all that handle the oar, the mariners, and all the pilots of the sea, shall come down from their ships, they shall stand upon the land; 30 And shall cause their voice to be heard against thee, and shall cry bitterly, and shall cast up dust upon their heads, they shall wallow themselves in the ashes: 31 And they shall make themselves utterly bald for thee, and gird them with sackcloth, and they shall weep for thee with bitterness of heart and bitter wailing.***

**32 And in their wailing they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and lament over thee, saying, What city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea?**

**33 When thy wares went forth out of the seas, thou filledst many people; thou didst enrich the kings of the earth with the multitude of thy riches and of thy merchandise.**

**34 In the time when thou shalt be broken by the seas in the depths of the waters thy merchandise and all thy company in the midst of thee shall fall.**

**35 All the inhabitants of the isles shall be astonished at thee, and their kings shall be sore afraid, they shall be troubled in their countenance.**

**36 The merchants among the people shall hiss at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt be any more.**

- **APPLICATION**

Riches are not wrong in themselves – but it is the **LOVE of money** which is the root of all evil. Money is but a medium by which we exchange it for THINGS which our souls lust after.

Let us not be as the rich man whose ground brought forth plentifully – who sought for a place to heap up. This is not good for God's children, for it is given to the wicked to heap up and not to us:

**Ecclesiastes 2:26 (KJV)** *For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of*

*spirit.*

When the LORD has chosen to bless us with wealth and prosperity, let us consider that we trust not in silver and gold, for they soon get themselves wings. REMEMBER, beloved, it is the LORD GOD alone who gives us power to get wealth. Some are cursed with the love of money but never have the power to acquire wealth – for it is the LORD GOD who gives men power to get wealth. Indeed, as we have seen, God gives to the sinner travail to gather and heap up. And our wealth is best used in providing for our **NEEDS**, and the needs of the **POOR SAINTS**, AND the **SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL**.

Let us always be careful to give praise to the God of Heaven who richly gives us ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. Truly, for life under the sun, while we wait for our change to come, we are best served by this principle:

**Ecclesiastes 3:11-13 (KJV)** *He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. **I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.***

Consider how men see themselves with their pride of accomplishments – beautiful things, strong and swift bodies, rich and wonderful attainments, places and positions of renown (looked up to by the masses). The most of these know not that they are blind, wretched, proud and pompous – dead in trespasses and in sins (though they be thought well of by the onlooking world). These go in in their pride and

arrogance giving no thought of God in whom they live and move and have their being. But God sees differently – for He looks on the heart. And what does he see in EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD?

**Psalm 14:1-3 (KJV)** The fool hath said in his heart, *There is* no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is* none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and* seek God. They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is* none that doeth good, no, not one.

**Romans 3:9-19 (KJV)** What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

So, we cry to those of you who hear! Look to the blessed son of the Living God who came into the world to save sinners. All who believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ have everlasting life and the

forgiveness of sins.

**John 3:36 (KJV)** He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

**John 5:24 (KJV) [Jesus said]** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Humble yourself! Bow before the LORD and cry to him for mercy! As the dying thief did when he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom!” Jesus heard him – had mercy on him – and took him to paradise that very day.