

Ezekiel 26 records a powerful and sobering message: God brings down proud nations, and He remembers how people respond when His own people are judged. Tyre, a wealthy seaport city, thought it would profit from Jerusalem's fall. Instead, it became an example of how quickly human glory can disappear when it stands in pride against God.

1. The Timing and the Target (Ezekiel 26:1–3)

“And it came to pass in the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, that the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, because Tyre has said against Jerusalem, “Aha! She is broken who was the gateway of the peoples; now she is turned over to me; I shall be filled; she is laid waste.” Therefore thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up.”’” (Ezekiel 26:1–3, NKJV)

This prophecy comes in the eleventh year of King Zedekiah's reign—586 B.C.—the very year Jerusalem fell to Babylon. While Jerusalem burned, Tyre watched and celebrated. Instead of weeping over Judah's fall, Tyre said, “Aha! This is my chance. Their ruin will be my gain.”

God responds: “I am against you, O Tyre.” Notice why: not just because Tyre was wealthy, but because Tyre rejoiced over Jerusalem's devastation and expected to profit from it. God also promises that many nations will come against Tyre, like wave after wave breaking on the shore.

There is a principle here that still stands:

God takes seriously how we respond when others—especially His people—are disciplined or humbled. Love “does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:6, NKJV).

2. Nebuchadnezzar's Siege: The First Wave (Ezekiel 26:4–11)

“And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for spreading nets in the midst of the sea... For thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I will bring against Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon... He will slay with the sword your daughter villages in the fields; he will heap up a siege mound against you... With the hooves of his horses he will trample all your streets...’” (Ezekiel 26:4–7, 10–11, NKJV, condensed)

First, God introduces Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, as the one who will begin Tyre's downfall:

- “He will...”
- “He shall...”
- “He will slay...”

The pronoun is singular. Nebuchadnezzar will attack Tyre, destroy the mainland city, and bring its “daughter villages” under the sword.

History tells us he did exactly that. One year after this prophecy, Babylon began a prolonged siege against Tyre. Because Tyre was a coastal city with a powerful fleet, Babylon could not completely cut

off supplies from the sea. Over thirteen years, the mainland portion of Tyre was destroyed, but most of the population and treasures shifted to an island fortress about half a mile offshore.

Nebuchadnezzar's victory was real—but incomplete. He broke the mainland city, but he did not fully plunder Tyre or erase it from the map.

God had said more was coming.

3. “They Shall...” – The Second Wave and the Bizarre Detail (Ezekiel 26:12–14)

“They will plunder your riches and pillage your merchandise; they will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses; and they will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water. I will put an end to the sound of your songs... I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the Lord have spoken,” says the Lord God. (Ezekiel 26:12–14, NKJV)

Now the pronoun shifts from “he” to “they.” God said at the start that many nations would come against Tyre (verse 3). Nebuchadnezzar was the first wave; later nations would complete the judgment.

The prophecy becomes extremely specific:

- They will plunder Tyre's riches.
- They will tear down her walls and houses.
- They will throw her stones, timbers, and even her soil into the sea.
- The city will be scraped like bare rock and become a place for fishermen to spread their nets.
- It will never be rebuilt in that original location.

Centuries later, Alexander the Great marched toward Persia but feared leaving a strong, unconquered naval base behind him. When Tyre refused to surrender, he decided to take the island fortress. To do it, he built a massive causeway from the mainland to the island—using the **ruins** of old Tyre.

He literally scraped up the stones, timbers, and dust of the mainland city and dumped them into the sea to build his land bridge. With that causeway and a combined sea and land attack, he took Tyre and made it a ruin that terrified the surrounding nations.

Today, the original site of mainland Tyre is barren rock along the shore. The exact boundaries of the old city are no longer traceable. Fishermen still spread their nets there. A modern town called Tyre exists nearby, but not on the original mainland site—and the ancient city has never been rebuilt.

God had said, *“For I the Lord have spoken it,”* and history confirms that He did exactly what He said.

4. The Ripple Effect: The Nations Tremble (Ezekiel 26:15–18)

“Thus says the Lord God to Tyre: ‘Will the coastlands not shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded cry, when the slaughter is made in the midst of you? Then all the princes of the sea will come down from their thrones, lay aside their robes, and take off their embroidered garments; they will clothe themselves with trembling... and be astonished at you. And they will take up a lamentation for you, and say to you: “How you have perished, O one inhabited by seafaring men, O renowned city, who was strong at sea...!”’” (Ezekiel 26:15–17, NKJV)

Tyre was a world-class seaport—a commercial powerhouse, famous and feared. When it fell, the surrounding coastal cities were shocked. The merchants and rulers who had admired Tyre were suddenly stripped of their confidence. If Tyre could go down, anyone could.

In Revelation 18, when God judges the final world commercial system, the same kind of lament rises from the merchants of the earth. They stand at a distance, weeping over the collapse of the system that once made them rich.

God is reminding us: no economic power, no marketplace, and no commercial empire is secure if it lifts itself up in pride and forgets Him.

5. A City That Vanishes (Ezekiel 26:19–21)

“For thus says the Lord God: ‘When I make you a desolate city, like cities that are not inhabited... when I bring you down with those who descend into the Pit... that you may not be inhabited... I will make you a terror, and you shall be no more; though you are sought for, you will never be found again,’ says the Lord God.” (Ezekiel 26:19–21, NKJV)

God’s final word over Tyre’s original site is chilling:

- “You shall be no more.”
- “Though you are sought for, you will never be found again.”

The ancient mainland city is gone. The geography is there—but the city as it once stood is lost, scraped away. God’s Word has outlasted Tyre’s walls, wealth, and reputation.

Practical Application for Us Today

Ezekiel 26 is not just about an ancient port city. It exposes issues of the heart that still matter:

1. Rejoicing in someone else’s downfall

Tyre said, *“Aha! She is broken... I shall be filled.”* (Ezekiel 26:2, NKJV)

When someone falls—especially someone who has hurt us or a group we disagree with—do we quietly celebrate? Do we think, “Now this works for my benefit”?

God is not pleased when we gloat over another’s judgment or failure. Humility weeps over sin and its consequences, even when discipline is deserved.

2. Trusting in wealth, skill, and position

Tyre had:

- A strong navy
- Strategic location
- Great wealth
- International reputation

Yet when God's hand moved, none of that could save her. Our job title, our savings, our influence, or our reputation cannot protect us from the consequences of pride and rebellion.

3. Forgetting that God keeps His Word

God said, *"I the Lord have spoken it"* (Ezekiel 26:14, NKJV). Centuries later, history lined up with His word down to the details of rocks, timbers, and soil thrown into the sea.

When God speaks of salvation, judgment, righteousness, and eternity, He is just as precise and just as faithful.

A Challenge for Believers

If you belong to Jesus, Ezekiel 26 challenges you to ask some honest questions:

- Do I harbor satisfaction when someone who opposed me suffers?
- Do I secretly think that my security lies in money, position, or connections rather than in the Lord?
- Am I living as if this world's systems are permanent, or as if God's kingdom is the only lasting one?

The Lord calls His people to:

- Grieve over sin, not gloat over judgment.
- Hold possessions loosely, not cling to them as our life.
- Trust in His Word, not in human systems.

Remember, Jesus shed His blood on the cross to save us not only from the penalty of sin, but also from the pride, envy, and worldliness that can take root in our hearts. His resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord, and He calls us to live as people who belong to a different kingdom—a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

An Invitation to Those Who Do Not Yet Know Jesus

Tyre is a picture of what happens when a nation or a person stands in pride, rejoices in others' ruin, and trusts in wealth and power instead of God. Eventually, the wave of judgment reaches their shore.

The message of the Bible is not just judgment—it is rescue.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into this world, lived a sinless life, and willingly went to the cross. When He shed His blood, He paid the price for our sins. When He rose again from the dead, He showed clearly that He is God, Savior, and Lord. He offers forgiveness, new life, and eternal hope to anyone who turns to Him in faith.

You do not have to stand before God in your own strength, your own goodness, or your own record. You can stand in the grace of Jesus Christ.

If you sense God tugging at your heart, you can respond to Him even now. You might pray something like this:

“Lord Jesus, I know I have sinned. I have trusted in myself and in this world instead of You. I believe that You shed Your blood on the cross to save me and that You rose from the dead. I confess that You are God, Savior, and Lord. I turn from my sin and I give my life to You. Please forgive me, cleanse me, and make me new. Teach me to follow You.”

The words themselves are not magic, but if this is the sincere desire of your heart, He hears you. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

May we, as God's people, take Ezekiel 26 to heart—refusing to rejoice in others' ruin, refusing to trust in temporary systems, and choosing instead to walk humbly with the God who speaks truth, keeps His Word, and has given us life through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.