

Ezekiel 27 is God's funeral song over a city that thought it could never sink.

Tyre was rich, powerful, and admired. It sat on the sea like a perfectly built ship, full of merchandise and surrounded by nations who depended on its trade. Yet God told Ezekiel to "take up a lamentation for Tyre" (Ezekiel 27:2, NKJV), because judgment was coming. In this chapter, the Lord shows us how fragile human glory is—and how dangerous it is to build our identity on anything other than Him.

1. Tyre: The Perfect Ship That Thought It Could Not Sink (Ezekiel 27:1–11)

"O Tyre, you who are situated at the entrance of the sea, merchant of the peoples on many coastlands, thus says the Lord God: 'O Tyre, you have said, "I am perfect in beauty."'" (Ezekiel 27:3, NKJV)

God pictures Tyre as a magnificent ship:

- Perfectly built – "Your borders are in the midst of the seas, your builders have perfected your beauty" (Ezekiel 27:4, NKJV).
- Finest materials – Fir planks, cedars from Lebanon for masts, oaks from Bashan for oars, inlaid benches of ivory, rich linens from Egypt for sails, and blue and purple coverings from distant coasts (Ezekiel 27:5–7).
- Skilled crews – Sailors from Sidon and Arvad, wise pilots from Tyre itself, expert craftsmen from Gebal to keep the ship tight and seaworthy (Ezekiel 27:8–9).
- Strong defenses – Warriors from Persia, Lud, and Put; shields and helmets hung in the city; armed men in its towers (Ezekiel 27:10–11).

Tyre looked unstoppable—militarily secure, commercially dominant, beautifully built. It had convinced itself, "I am perfect in beauty."

That is always dangerous ground. When a person, a ministry, a business, or a nation says in its heart, "We are strong. We are secure. We cannot fall," pride is already doing its work.

2. The World Comes to Shop in Tyre (Ezekiel 27:12–25)

From verse 12 onward, God lists the nations that traded with Tyre and the goods they brought:

- Tarshish (far west) – silver, iron, tin, and lead (Ezekiel 27:12).
- Javan, Tubal, Meshech – slaves and bronze vessels (Ezekiel 27:13).
- The house of Togarmah – horses, horsemen, and mules (Ezekiel 27:14).
- The men of Dedan – ivory and ebony (Ezekiel 27:15).
- Syria – emeralds, purple, embroidered work, fine linen, coral, and rubies (Ezekiel 27:16).
- Judah and the land of Israel – wheat, honey, oil, and balm (Ezekiel 27:17).
- Damascus – wine and white wool (Ezekiel 27:18).
- Arabia and Kedar – lambs, rams, and goats (Ezekiel 27:21).
- Sheba and Raamah – the best spices, precious stones, and gold (Ezekiel 27:22).
- And many more—rich clothes, cedar chests, and every kind of luxury item.

The picture is vivid: the world's wealth flows through Tyre. Kings get richer because of her trade. Ships from distant lands "sing" of Tyre in her markets (Ezekiel 27:25).

If there had been business magazines in those days, Tyre would have been on the cover every year:

- "Most Powerful Trading City"
- "Unmatched Naval Power"
- "The City No One Can Replace"

But the Lord saw something deeper. Tyre's heart was lifted up. Her security and identity were rooted in wealth, beauty, and human skill—not in the living God.

3. The Great Ship Goes Down (Ezekiel 27:26–36)

"Your oarsmen brought you into many waters, but the east wind broke you in the midst of the seas." (Ezekiel 27:26, NKJV)

The "east wind" here points to God's instrument of judgment—Babylon first, and later other nations. The Lord takes this proud "perfect ship" and shows how quickly He can bring it down.

The total loss

"Your riches, wares, and merchandise, your mariners and pilots, your caulkers and merchandisers, all your men of war who are in you, and the entire company which is in your midst, will fall into the midst of the seas on the day of your ruin." (Ezekiel 27:27, NKJV)

Nothing is spared:

- The merchants who made fortunes.
- The sailors and captains who navigated the seas.
- The craftsmen who kept it all running.
- The soldiers who defended it.

In one "day of your ruin," the whole system collapses. The surrounding coastlands shake with the sound of the cry (Ezekiel 27:28). Those who depended on Tyre stand on the shore, stunned, watching the smoke and wreckage.

The mourners

"They will take up a lamentation for you, and lament over you, 'What city is like Tyre, destroyed in the midst of the sea?'" (Ezekiel 27:32, NKJV)

The merchants and mariners respond with dramatic grief:

- They come down from their ships and stand on the shore.
- They cry bitterly.
- They throw dust on their heads.
- They put on sackcloth.
- They shave their heads in mourning (Ezekiel 27:29–31).

But notice what they are weeping over: not sin, but loss of profit. They are broken-hearted that the “golden city” that enriched them is gone. Their lament is very similar to the cry over the fall of the last-days commercial system in Revelation 18: “What is like this great city?”—when no one buys their merchandise anymore.

Tyre becomes “a terror, and shall be no more forever” (Ezekiel 27:36, NKJV). The Lord has the last word.

4. What This Says to Us Today

Ezekiel 27 is not just ancient economic history. It is a mirror that shows where our trust really lies.

A. The danger of finding our identity in success

Tyre said, “I am perfect in beauty.” Today we might say:

- “Look at my career.”
- “Look at my portfolio.”
- “Look at my ministry numbers.”
- “Look at my network, my skills, my reputation.”

None of those things are evil in themselves. The problem comes when our heart quietly whispers, “This is who I am. This is what makes me secure.”

God is not threatened by beauty, creativity, or success. But He is opposed to pride and self-sufficiency. When we begin to trust the “ship” more than the One who rules the seas, we are moving toward the shoals of judgment.

B. The illusion of economic security

Tyre looked untouchable. It controlled key trade routes, had a strong navy, and international partnerships. But in God’s timing, an “east wind” broke it in the midst of the seas.

In our world, markets rise and fall, systems shift, and what seems permanent can vanish quickly. Scripture does not call us to fear, but it does call us to wisdom:

“Do not trust in oppression, nor vainly hope in robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.” (Psalm 62:10, NKJV)

It is not wrong to plan, to work hard, or to handle resources well. But it is deadly to build our hope on them. Only the Lord is unshakeable.

C. The tragedy of worldly sorrow

The merchants and sailors wept over Tyre—but their sorrow was earthly. They were not grieved over sin, idolatry, or pride; they were grieved over economic loss.

There is still a difference between:

- Worldly sorrow – “I am sad I lost what I loved.”
- Godly sorrow – “I am grieved that I have sinned against God and misplaced my trust.”

Godly sorrow leads us to repentance, to turn back to the Lord. Worldly sorrow just longs for the old comforts to return.

A Challenge for Believers

If you belong to Jesus, Ezekiel 27 presses some important questions into our hearts:

1. Where are you finding your identity?
Is it rooted in Christ, or in what you own, what you do, or what others think of you?
2. How are you using the “ship” God has given you?
Your abilities, resources, and opportunities are gifts. Are they tools for His glory and the good of others, or mainly platforms for self?
3. Are you more shaken by financial threats than by spiritual danger?
Many of us are more alarmed by a market crash than by a cold heart, a drifting soul, or a compromised testimony.

This chapter invites us to realign our hearts:

- To treat success as a stewardship, not a god.
- To hold wealth and status with an open hand.
- To live as people whose security is anchored in the Lord, not in the shifting systems of this world.

Jesus shed His blood on the cross to save us not only from the guilt of sin, but also from the empty way of life that centers on self, status, and stuff. His resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord—and that He alone is worthy of our ultimate trust.

An Invitation to Those Who Have Not Yet Given Their Life to Jesus

Tyre is a warning: a city that trusted in its own greatness, loved its merchandise, and did business with the whole world—but had no room for humble dependence on God.

You might not be a merchant prince, but the same principle applies. You can have:

- Success
- Reputation
- Comfort
- Influence

...and still be far from God.

The Bible tells us that all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Our problem is not just outward behavior; it is a heart that wants to live independent of our Creator.

But God has not left us there. In love, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world. Jesus lived a sinless life and then went to the cross willingly. When He shed His blood, He paid the price for our sins. He took our judgment so we could be forgiven. And when He rose from the dead, He showed clearly that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

Because of His death and resurrection:

- Your past can be forgiven.
- Your heart can be made new.
- Your life can be anchored in something eternal, not in things that will one day sink like Tyre.

If you sense God calling you, you can respond to Him right now. You might pray something like this:

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

The prayer itself does not save you—Jesus does. But if you truly turn to Him and trust Him, He will hear you and receive you.

May this chapter remind us that every human “ship,” no matter how beautiful and powerful, is temporary—but those who trust in the Lord stand on a foundation that cannot be shaken.