

Ezekiel 28 pulls back the curtain on two levels at once. First, it exposes a proud human ruler in Tyre who imagined himself to be a god. Then, in the second half, it goes even deeper and gives us one of the clearest pictures in Scripture of Satan's original pride and fall. The chapter ends with a brief word about Sidon and a promise of hope for God's people.

All of it presses the same question into our hearts: Who is really God in my life—me, or the Lord?

1. The Proud Prince of Tyre: A Man Who Thought He Was God (Ezekiel 28:1–10)

“The word of the Lord came to me again, saying, ‘Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Because your heart is lifted up, and you say, “I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, in the midst of the seas,” yet you are a man, and not a god, though you set your heart as the heart of a god...”’”’ (Ezekiel 28:1–2, NKJV)

Tyre's ruler did not just act like a big shot—he claimed a godlike position. He sat in a powerful sea fortress, ruled a wealthy trade empire, and convinced himself he was untouchable. God acknowledges his real abilities:

*“With your wisdom and your understanding you have gained riches for yourself, and gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; by your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches.”
(Ezekiel 28:4–5, NKJV)*

His gifts and skill were real. His problem was what he did with them.

Instead of humbly receiving them as gifts from God, he used them as fuel for self-exaltation. Riches, power, and success did not make him thankful; they made him proud.

So God says:

*“Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god, behold, therefore I will bring strangers against you, the most terrible of the nations... They shall bring you down to the pit, and you shall die the death of the slain in the midst of the seas. Will you still say before him who slays you, “I am a god”? But you shall be a man, and not a god, in the hand of him who slays you.”’
(Ezekiel 28:6–9, NKJV)*

When judgment came, all his talk of being divine would vanish. At the end of the day, he would die like any other man.

Practical application

This is not just about an ancient king; it confronts us:

- We may never say out loud, “I am a god,” but we can live as if we run our own universe.
- Success, influence, or money can quietly whisper, “You do not really need to depend on God.”

The Lord is not against wisdom, hard work, or even wealth. He is against trusting those things instead of Him.

“If riches increase, do not set your heart on them.” (Psalm 62:10, NKJV)

Question to consider:

Where have you let success, comfort, or ability convince you that you can run your life without daily dependence on the Lord?

2. Pulling Back the Curtain: From the King of Tyre to Satan Himself (Ezekiel 28:11–19)

In verse eleven, the focus shifts. The language goes far beyond anything that could apply to a merely human king.

“Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord God: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering... You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God... You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.”’”
(Ezekiel 28:11–15, NKJV)

No earthly king of Tyre was in Eden. No human ruler was ever an “anointed cherub who covers.” Here, God is speaking past the earthly throne to the spiritual power behind it—to Satan himself.

What we learn about Satan

1. He was created, not eternal.

“You were created.” (Ezekiel 28:15, NKJV)

Satan is powerful, but he is **not** God’s equal or opposite. He is a creature, originally made by God.

2. He was originally glorious.

“Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty,” surrounded by precious stones, close to the throne of God. He had great privilege and honor.

3. He fell through pride and self-exaltation.

“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.” (Ezekiel 28:17, NKJV)

This lines up with what we see in Isaiah:

“For you have said in your heart:

‘I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.” (Isaiah 14:13–14, NKJV)

The same heart as the prince of Tyre, only at a cosmic level: “I will be like God.”

4. His end is certain.

“Therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth... you shall be no more forever.” (Ezekiel 28:18–19, NKJV)

Satan’s activity is real and dangerous, but temporary. God will not let rebellion stand forever.

Practical application

- The pattern of Satan’s fall—beauty, wisdom, privilege leading to pride—is a warning to us.
- When we begin to treat our gifts as reasons to exalt ourselves instead of opportunities to worship and serve, we are walking the same path.
- Spiritual warfare is real, but we must remember: Satan is strong, yet he is a defeated, created being.

At the cross, Jesus shed His blood to deal with our sin and to break the grip of the devil. His resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord. We do not fight from a place of fear; we stand in the victory of Christ.

“...that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” (Hebrews 2:14–15, NKJV)

3. Judgment on Sidon and Hope for God’s People (Ezekiel 28:20–26)

After addressing Tyre and the spiritual power behind it, the Lord turns to Sidon:

“Behold, I am against you, O Sidon; I will be glorified in your midst; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I execute judgments in her and am hallowed in her. For I will send pestilence upon her, and blood in her streets...” (Ezekiel 28:22–23, NKJV)

Sidon, another coastal city, had also opposed God’s people. God promises that His judgment will show that He alone is the Lord.

Then, in the closing verses, He gives a word of hope for Israel:

“Thus says the Lord God: ‘When I have gathered the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and am hallowed in them in the sight of the Gentiles, then they will dwell in their own land which I gave to My servant Jacob. And they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely... Then they shall know that I am the Lord their God.’” (Ezekiel 28:25–26, NKJV)

God is not only a God of judgment; He is a God of restoration. He disciplines, but He does not forget His people. The Lord who brings down proud empires is the same Lord who gathers and restores.

In Christ, this hope is widened. God is gathering a people from Israel and from the nations, bringing them into one family through the gospel. And we look ahead to the day when His people will dwell securely in His presence forever, in the new creation, free from every enemy.

A Challenge for Believers

Ezekiel 28 presses several searching questions on those who follow Jesus:

1. Where is pride hiding in my life?

- In my gifts?
- In my position?
- In my knowledge or experiences?

Ask the Lord to show you where your heart has been “lifted up.”

2. What do I do with my success?

- Do I see it as a platform to glorify Christ and serve others?
- Or as a reason to sit in my own little “throne,” calling the shots?

3. Who is really Lord, practically speaking?

We may confess Jesus as Lord with our mouths, but our schedules, priorities, and reactions under pressure reveal who is functionally running the show.

The antidote to pride is not pretending we have no talent or gifts; it is remembering where they came from and why they were given. Jesus humbled Himself, even to the point of the cross. When we walk with Him, He calls us to the same humility.

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6, NKJV)

If the Spirit is touching an area of pride in your life today, do not brush it off. Bring it to the Lord. Confess it honestly. Ask Him to reshape your heart so that everything you are and have points back to Him.

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

You may not call yourself a god, but if you are honest, you may recognize the same root issue Ezekiel 28 exposes: wanting to sit on the throne of your own life.

The Bible calls that sin—living as if you are in charge, while ignoring the God who made you. That sin separates us from Him and brings judgment.

But here is the good news:

- God did not leave us to die in our pride and rebellion.
- Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, came into this world, lived a sinless life, and went to the cross.
- When He shed His blood on the cross, He took the judgment we deserve, paying the price for our sin.
- On the third day, He rose from the dead. His resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

Because of what Jesus has done, you do not have to be crushed under judgment like the proud prince of Tyre. You can be forgiven, restored, and brought into a living relationship with God.

If you sense the Lord speaking to your heart, you can respond to Him right now. There is no magic formula, but you might pray something like this:

“Lord Jesus, I admit that I have sinned and tried to run my own life. I have been proud and self-reliant instead of trusting 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 my self-rule and I give my life to You. Please forgive me, cleanse me, and make me new. Teach me to follow You from this day forward.”

If you truly turn to Him, He will not turn you away. He is able to forgive your past, change your heart, and anchor your life in something far more solid than wealth, power, or human strength.

May we learn from Ezekiel 28 not to trust in our own greatness, but to bow before the One who alone is worthy—and to live in the freedom and hope that come through Jesus Christ.