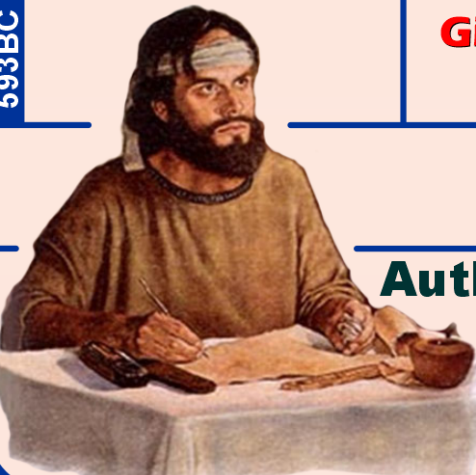


JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS

28

EZEKIEL

BOOK OF EZEKIEL – OUTLINE

INWARD → Personal		OUTWARD ↻ Peoples		ONWARD → Prophetic									
1 — 3		4 — 24		25 — 32		33 — 48							
Ezekiel's Call to Ministry - Ezekiel Birth (623BC) and Ministry Years (593-571BC) 597BC is the 2nd Deportation; Ezekiel taken at age 25 593BC Ezekiel begins Ministry at age 30		Sinfulness of Israel and Fall of Jerusalem - A Disobedient Nation (4-7) - A Departed Glory (8-11) - A Disciplined Nation (12-24) - The Futility of False Optimism (12-19) - The History of Judah's Corruption (20-24)		Judgment on Nations that Opposed Israel - Ammon (25:1-7) - Moab (25:8-11) - Edom (25:12-14) - Philistia (25:15-17) - Tyre (26:1—28:19) - Sidon (28:20-24) - Egypt (29-32)		Restoration of Israel in the Future - Return of Israel to the land (33-39) - Restoration of Israel in the Kingdom (40-48) - Promised Land; Millennial Temple, and the Glory of God							
593BC		Given BEFORE the siege of Jerusalem		587BC		Given DURING the siege of Jerusalem		586BC		Given AFTER the siege of Jerusalem		571BC	
								The City Destroyed 7 Years Prophesying JUDGMENT					
								The City Restored 15 Years Prophesying HOPE					
Author: Ezekiel (“God strengthens”) Place: Babylonia Time: About 22 years (593-571BC)													
Events: 605BC — FIRST Siege upon Israel by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel taken) Ezekiel 17 years old													
597BC — SECOND assault upon Jerusalem (Ezekiel taken) Ezekiel 25 years old													
593BC — Ezekiel at age 30 called by God to testify against Israel Ezekiel 30 years old													
586BC — THIRD assault upon Jerusalem (City & Temple destroyed) Ezekiel 37 years old													

INTRODUCTION: EZEKIEL 28

- **Tyre (lit. “rock”) was the principle city of Phoenicia**
- **When Jerusalem finally fell in 586, the only states that were still resisting the Babylonians were Egypt and Tyre.**
- **The length of this oracle reflects the great significance of Tyre at this time in Israel's history.**



The background of the slide is a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there are dense bushes with bright orange and yellow autumn leaves. A dark wooden fence runs along the bottom left. In the middle ground, a calm blue lake is visible, surrounded by green trees and hills. In the background, there are more mountains under a blue sky with wispy white clouds.

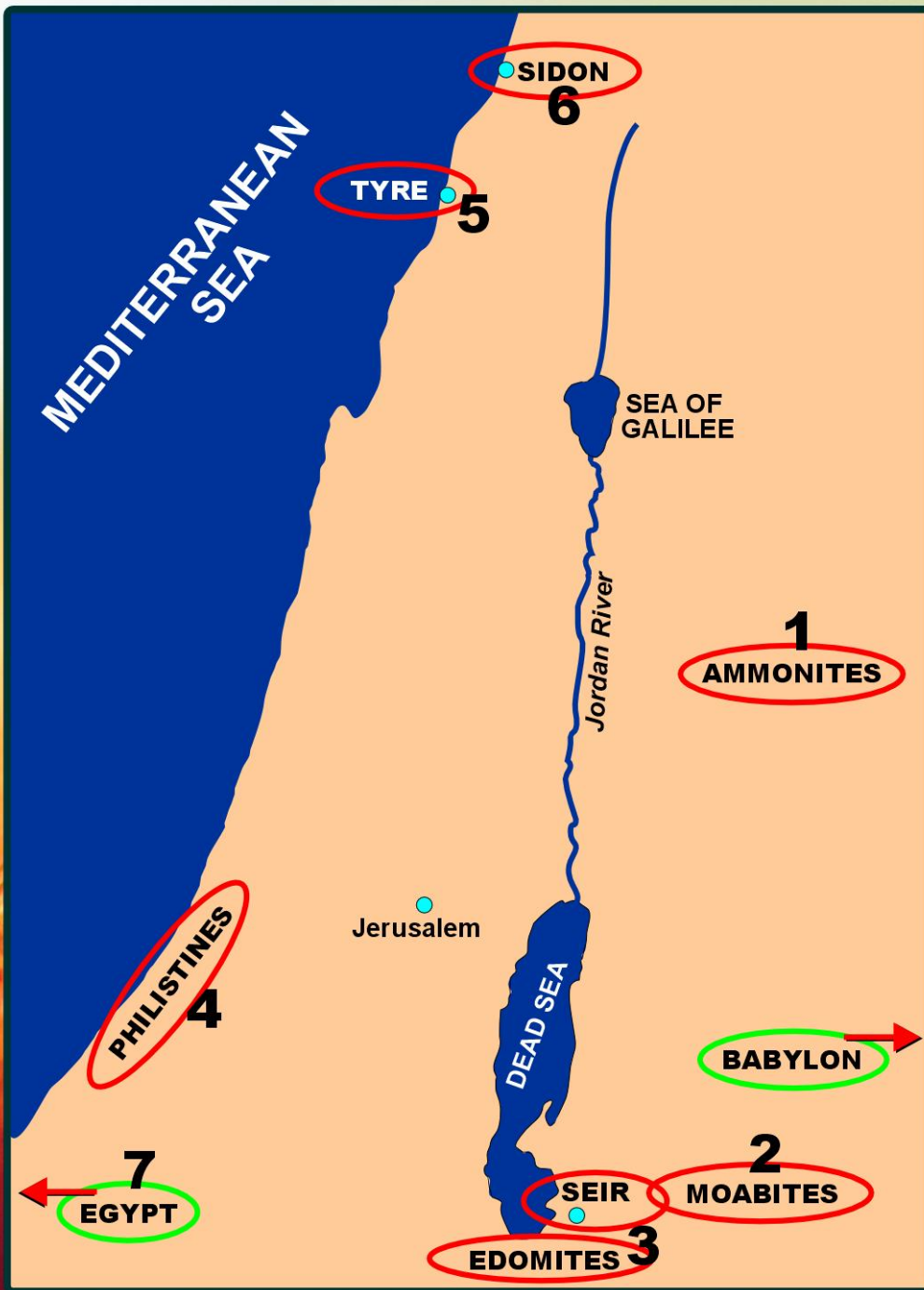
JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS THAT OPPOSED ISRAEL

Ezekiel 25-32



Fall of Tyre's Prince

Ezekiel 28:1-19



FALL OF JERUSALEM AND SURROUNDING NATIONS

CHAPTER

24

Fall of Jerusalem PREDICTED

25

1. Ammon (25:1-7)
2. Moab and Seir (25:8-11)
3. Edom (25:12-14)
4. Philistia (25:15-17)

26-28

5. Tyre (26:1—28:19) [Satan]
6. Sidon (28:20-24)

29-32

7. Egypt (29:1—32:32)

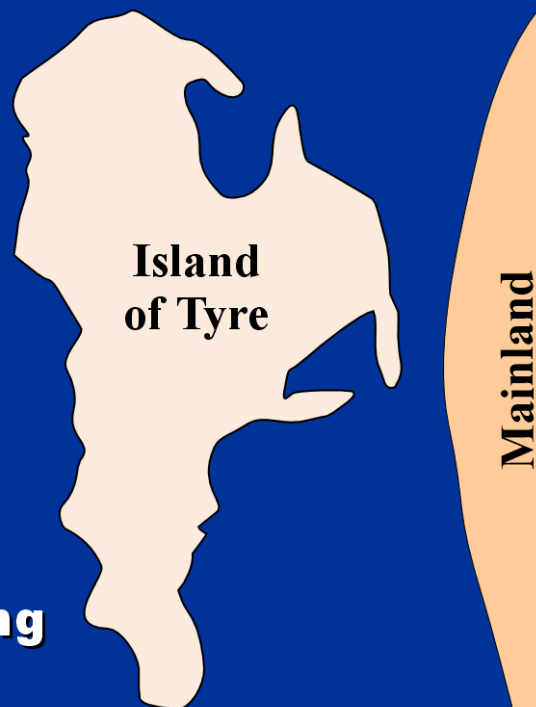
33

Fall of Jerusalem ACCOMPLISHED

Jerusalem Struck Down (33:21-33)

EZEKIEL 24-33

- Tyre is built on an island and on the neighboring mainland.
- It developed commercial relations with all parts of the Mediterranean world.
- The ruler then was Ethbaal III (591-572BC).
- The underlying sin of Tyre's king was his pride, which prompted him to view himself as a god.
- The king's claims to deity were false. God said, "You are a man and not a god."
- Babylon defeated Tyre's mainland, but not the island.



EZEKIEL 26-28

Ezekiel prophesied during the Babylonian captivity



**The word of the LORD
came to me again, saying,**

EZEKIEL 28:1



The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, (Ek.28:1)

- **The thought should be observed that Ezekiel received his instructions from the Lord and so his writings are inspired.**



**"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 28:2



"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 (Ek.28:2)

- Ezekiel's third message against Tyre was directed specifically to the ruler of Tyre.**
- This ruler then was Ethbaal III, who ruled from 591-590 to 573-572 B.C.**
- The king's claims to deity were false. God said, You are a man and not a god.**
- The Lord instructed Ezekiel to write a lamentation over Tyre, though presently it was renowned for its seafaring and commercial leadership in the world.**



**(Behold, you are wiser than
Daniel! There is no secret
that can be hidden from you!**

EZEKIEL 28:3



(Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you! (Ek.28:3))

- **The underlying sin of Tyre's king was his pride, which prompted him to view himself as a god.**
- **His claim to deity is referred to again in Ezekiel 28:6, 9.**
- **Evidently in Ezekiel's day the kings of Tyre believed they were divine.**
- **Ethbaal III felt he had wisdom that only a god could possess.**



(Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you! (Ek.28:3))

- **The “Daniel” in view was probably the Prophet Daniel (Ek.14:14, 20).**
- **He had already achieved a reputation for his wisdom in the courts of Nebuchadnezzar (Da.1:19-20; 2:46-49).**
- **The irony was that Ethbaal III felt his wisdom exceeded that of even Daniel who served the country that would ultimately defeat Tyre.**
- **Daniel, who attributed all his wisdom to God (Da.2:27-28), was much wiser than Ethbaal III, who claimed to be a god.**



**With your wisdom and your
understanding You have
gained riches for yourself,
And gathered gold and silver
into your treasuries;**

EZEKIEL 28:4



With your wisdom and your understanding You have gained riches for yourself, And gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; (Ek.28:4)

- **Ethbaal III had been able to use his wisdom and skill to acquire material possessions.**
- **Note that the character of Daniel was the opposite of Ethbaal, though they were both very intelligent.**



**By your great wisdom in trade
you have increased your
riches, And your heart is
lifted up because of your
riches),"**

EZEKIEL 28:5



**By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches,
And your heart is lifted up because of your riches)," (Ek.28:5)**

- **His lucrative trade had produced great wealth, including gold and silver, but it also increased his pride (his heart had grown proud).**
- **It is not uncommon for people today, even Christians, to deify themselves in their own minds when they experience great success.**



**'Therefore thus says the Lord
GOD: "Because you have set
your heart as the heart of a
god,**

EZEKIEL 28:6



'Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god, (Ek.28:6)

- **God announced that because the king had exalted himself in pride the Lord would bring ruthless strangers against him from among other nations.**



**Behold, therefore, I will bring
strangers against you, The
most terrible of the nations;
And they shall draw their
swords against the beauty
of your wisdom, And defile
your splendor.**

EZEKIEL 28:7



Behold, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, The most terrible of the nations; And they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, And defile your splendor. (Ek.28:7)

- **God would not let the pride (Ek.28:2, 5) of Tyre's ruler go unchallenged.**
- **The foreigners whom God would bring against Tyre had already been identified as the Babylonians (Ek.26:7-11).**
- **They would fight against his commercial empire, resist his wisdom, and mar the beauty of Tyre's splendor. Nebuchadnezzar was one of the first of these strangers.**



**They shall throw you down
into the Pit, And you shall
die the death of the slain
In the midst of the seas.**

EZEKIEL 28:8



**They shall throw you down into the Pit, And you shall die
the death of the slain In the midst of the seas. (Ek.28:8)**

- **Ethbaal III was removed from his throne by Nebuchadnezzar in 573-572 B.C. and Baal II was put in his place.**
- **Ethbaal III paid a high price for rebelling against Nebuchadnezzar.**
- **The enemy would slay the king and his city-state.**
- **She would no longer be a great sea power.**



**"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 28:9



"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. (Ek.28:9)

- **When slain by his enemies, it would be evident that he was no god.**
- **This ruler and his city would then not be able to continue to believe that they were superior and all-powerful like a god.**



**You shall die the death of the
uncircumcised By the hand
of aliens; For I have spoken,"
says the Lord GOD.**

EZEKIEL 28:10



You shall die the death of the uncircumcised By the hand of aliens; For I have spoken," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.28:10)

- **Unimpressed with Ethbaal's beauty and wisdom, Babylon would destroy him in a violent way in the heart of the seas (Ek.27:26).**
- **Ethbaal would die the death of the uncircumcised at the hands of foreigners.**



You shall die the death of the uncircumcised By the hand of aliens; For I have spoken," says the Lord GOD. (Ek.28:10)

- **While the Phoenicians practiced circumcision, Ezekiel's words conveyed a meaning that went beyond this cultural practice.**
- **To “die the death of the uncircumcised” meant to die in shame (Ek.32:30; 1Sm.17:26, 36).**
- **This king who claimed to be a god would suffer a common death as a man.**



**Moreover the word of the
LORD came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 28:11



Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.28:11)

- **Ezekiel received instruction from the Lord to lament the king (Heb. *melek*) of Tyre.**



**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.**

EZEKIEL 28:12



**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. (Ek.28:12)**

- **The use of “king” (*melek*) instead of “ruler” (Ek.28:2) was significant.**
- **Ezekiel used the word “king” sparingly.**
- **Apart from King Jehoiachin (Ek.1:2) he did not use the title “king” of any of Israel’s monarchs.**



**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. (Ek.28:12)**

- **The change from “ruler” to “king” was also significant in light of the content of these two prophecies.**
 - **Ezekiel 28:1-10 Ezekiel rebuked the RULER for claiming to be a god, though he was just a man.**
 - **Ezekiel 28:11-19 Ezekiel described the KING in terms that could not apply to a mere man.**



**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. (Ek.28:12)**

- **He had been a guardian cherub (Ek.28:14)**
- **He possessed free access to God's holy mountain (Ek.28:14)**
- **He had been sinless from the time he was created (Ek.28:15).**



**You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone was your
covering: The sardius, topaz, and
diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with
gold. The workmanship of your
timbrels and pipes Was prepared for
you on the day you were created.**

EZEKIEL 28:13



You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. (Ek.28:13)

- **Satan was given an exalted place. He was in Eden, the garden of God.**
- **Satan's beauty matched that of Eden: every precious stone adorned him.**
- **Ezekiel listed nine gemstones in describing Satan's beauty. These were 9 of the 12 kinds of stones worn in the breastplate of Israel's high priest (Ex.28:15-20; 39:10-13).**
- **The precious stones probably symbolized Satan's beauty and high position.**



You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. (Ek.28:13)

3 VIEWS OF THIS PASSAGE

1. Only the human king of Tyre is in view

2. Only Satan is in view

3. Both the human king and Satan are in view

- Under view three the king is the primary referent and that Satan is seen as the power behind his throne.**
- The human king is the subject of the text, however, God makes an illusion to Satan because of the similarities.**



**You were the anointed cherub who
covers; I established you; You were
on the holy mountain of God; You
walked back and forth in the midst
of fiery stones**

EZEKIEL 28:14



You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones (Ek.28:14)

- **Some see this to mean that the human king was cherub-like in that God had allowed him to reign, and he exercised a guarding function over his city-state.**
- **The cherubim (pl. of cherub) were the “inner circle” of angels who had the closest access to God and guarded His holiness (Ek.10:1-14).**
- **Satan also had free access to God’s holy mount, heaven, and he walked among the fiery stones (Ek.28:16).**
- **The Lord was looking beyond the human king of Tyre to the spiritual ruler behind him, namely, Satan (Da.10:13; Mt.16:21-23).**



**You were perfect in your ways
from the day you were created,
Till iniquity was found in you.**

EZEKIEL 28:15



You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. (Ek.28:15)

- **Some think Ezekiel was describing Ethbaal III in highly poetic language, comparing him with Adam (both had great potential, but sinned; both were judged, etc.).**
- **But some of the language does not apply to Adam.**
- **Adam was not a guardian cherub and did not have free access to the mountain of God.**
- **Satan was the model of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.**



You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. (Ek.28:15)

- **As originally created by God, Satan was blameless till wickedness was found in him and he sinned.**
- **In Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 a king (of Tyre or Babylon) is the object of the prophecy.**
- **A literal interpretation of these “kings” is possible and, therefore, preferable.**



**By the abundance of your trading You
became filled with violence within,
And you sinned; Therefore I cast you
as a profane thing Out of the mountain
of God; And I destroyed you, O
covering cherub, From the midst of
the fiery stones.**

EZEKIEL 28:16



By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. (Ek.28:16)

- **The descriptions in Ek.28:13 and 28:16 do not fit the first man in the Garden of Eden.**
- **When Adam sinned he was not cast from the mountain of God to the earth (Ek.28:16-17), and no nations existed to be appalled at his fall (28:19).**
- **The switch from “ruler” to “king” and his allusions to the Garden of Eden do imply that the individual being described was more than human.**
- **The best explanation is that Ezekiel was describing Satan who was the true “king” of Tyre, the one motivating the human “ruler” of Tyre.**



By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. (Ek.28:16)

- **Satan was in the Garden of Eden (Ge.3:1-7), and his chief sin was pride (1Tm.3:6).**
- **Satan also had access to God's presence (Jb.1:6-12).**
- **Tyre was motivated by the same sin as Satan, and would suffer the same fate.**



By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. (Ek.28:16)

- **Ezekiel described the beauty and perfection of Satan as God originally created him (Ek.28:12-15).**
- **As with all God's Creation, Satan was a perfectly created being. He was one of the crowning achievements in God's angelic realm.**
- **The sin that corrupted Satan was self-generated.**



**Your heart was lifted up because of
your beauty; You corrupted your
wisdom for the sake of your splendor;
I cast you to the ground, I laid you
before kings, That they might gaze
at you.**

EZEKIEL 28:17



Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. (Ek.28:17)

- **Created blameless, his sin was pride (1Tm.3:6) because of his beauty.**
- **Satan spoiled his wisdom because of his splendor (Ethbaal's similar problem, Ek.28:1-2, 5, 7).**
- **God had brought Ethbaal down from his exalted position to the level of other ordinary people.**
- **He had also demonstrated His humiliation before the king's peers, other kings, that they might observe and learn.**



**You defiled your sanctuaries By the
multitude of your iniquities, By the
iniquity of your trading; Therefore I
brought fire from your midst; It
devoured you, And I turned you to
ashes upon the earth In the sight of
all who saw you.**

EZEKIEL 28:18



**You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading;
Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the
earth In the sight of all who saw you. (Ek.28:18)**

- **Satan's pride led to his fall and judgment.**
- **Though Ezekiel presented the fall of Satan as a single act, it actually occurred in stages.**
- **Satan's initial judgment was his expulsion from the position of God's anointed cherub before His throne.**



You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. (Ek.28:18)

- **God expelled him from the mount of God (heaven, Ek.28:14, 16).**
- **Satan was cast from God's government in heaven (Lk.10:18) but was still allowed access to God (Jb.1:6-12; Zc.3:1-2).**
- **During Daniel's 70th Week Satan will be cast from heaven and restricted to the earth (Rv.12:7-13).**
- **At the beginning of the Millennium he will be in the bottomless pit (Rv.20:1-3).**
- **After the Millennial kingdom he will be release briefly, but will be cast into the lake of fire forever (Rv.20:10).**



**All who knew you among the
peoples are astonished at you;
You have become a horror,
And shall be no more forever.**

EZEKIEL 28:19



All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever. (Ek.28:19)

- **Though Ezekiel was describing the “ultimate” ruler of Tyre, Satan, the purpose of the lament was to speak of the city’s destruction.**
- **Ezekiel began to blend the characteristics of the satanic king with the human ruler.**
- **Satan would be cast to the earth (Ek.28:17), and the king of Tyre would also be cast down before other kings, his enemies.**





Prophecy Against Sidon

Ezekiel 28:20-24

**Then the word of the LORD
came to me, saying,**

EZEKIEL 28:20



Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (Ek.28:20)

- **The word of the Lord came to Ezekiel, so this is not Ezekiel's message.**
- **Another oracle concerning Sidon, Tyre's neighbor about 20 miles to the north, came to the prophet from the Lord.**
- **God may have condemned Sidon because of its close association with Tyre, though it was responsible for its own actions.**



**Son of man, set your face toward
Sidon, and prophesy against her,**

EZEKIEL 28:21



Son of man, set your face toward Sidon, and prophesy against her, (Ek.28:21)

- **This judgment against Sidon begins the same way as the oracles against Tyre.**
- **Sidon, a sister city of Tyre (Je.25:22; 47:4; Jl.3:4; Zc.9:2; Lk.6:17; 10:13-14), was 20 miles farther up the Mediterranean coast.**
- **Because of their close association, Ezekiel may have used this same introductory formula to link the two cities in judgment.**
- **Sidon was so closely allied with Tyre that perhaps Ezekiel felt it unnecessary to cite the same sins.**



**and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD:
"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.**

EZEKIEL 28:22



and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "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. (Ek.28:22)

- **Sidon had violated God's holy character and He would not allow her sin to remain unpunished.**
- **God would gain glory within Sidon and show Himself holy.**
- **The people would know that Yahweh was the only true God when He judged Sidon and thus manifested His holiness.**



**For I will send pestilence upon her,
And blood in her streets; The
wounded shall be judged in her
midst By the sword against her on
every side; Then they shall know
that I am the LORD.**

EZEKIEL 28:23



**For I will send pestilence upon her, And blood in her streets;
The wounded shall be judged in her midst By the sword against
her on every side; Then they shall know that I am the LORD. (Ek.28:23)**

- **God's judgment would be by a plague, blood in the streets, and the sword.**
- **Many of Sidon's people would die in her streets (6:11-12; 14:21).**
- **This would teach the Sidonians that God is the Lord.**



**"And there shall no longer be a
pricking brier or a painful thorn
for the house of Israel from
among all who are around them,
who despise them. Then they
shall know that I am the Lord
GOD."**

EZEKIEL 28:24



"And there shall no longer be a pricking brier or a painful thorn for the house of Israel from among all who are around them, who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the Lord GOD." (Ek.28:24)

- **The judgment on Sidon would have two results:**
 - (1) It would force the Sidonians to acknowledge God's righteous character — They will know that I am the Lord**
 - (2) The judgment would remove an obstacle to Israel's walk with God.**
- **Their malicious neighbors with their wicked influence on Israel had been like a pain in Israel's side (painful briars and sharp thorns).**
- **The sinful practices of Baal worship had entered Israel through "Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians" (1Ki.16:31).**





Israel Gathered in Security

Ezekiel 28:25-26

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.

EZEKIEL 28:25



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. (Ek.28:25)

- **The Lord also promised to re-gather His people to their land and to manifest His holiness in them.**
- **As God would reveal His holiness by destroying Sidon (Ek.28:22), so He would reveal His holiness by rescuing Israel from the nations.**
- **Israel is unique among all nations because God had established His covenant with her.**
- **Israel will live in her own land, because God has given it to Jacob (Ge.12:7; 26:3; 35:12).**



And they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely, when I execute judgments on all those around them who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God.

EZEKIEL 28:26



And they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely, when I execute judgments on all those around them who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God. (Ek.28:26)

- **God punished Israel for her sin, but He has not abandoned her.**
- **Though all nations would be punished, only Israel was promised a restoration of fellowship.**
- **After the Babylonian Captivity, some Israelites did go back to the land (Nh.1:3) but they did not live there in safety.**
- **When God finally punishes Israel's enemies and blesses His Chosen People, they will recognize their Lord. They will know that He is the Lord their God.**



And they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely, when I execute judgments on all those around them who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God. (Ek.28:26)

- **The Jews have never yet lived safely in their own land.**
- **Fulfillment awaits the return of Jesus Christ and His Millennial Kingdom.**



JUDGMENT ON GENTILE NATIONS

28

EZEKIEL