

EZEKIEL 24:1-32:32 | THE BABYLONIAN WAR – A PARABLE

EZEKIEL 24:1-27 | BABYLON AGAINST JERUSALEM

EZEKIEL 25:1-17 | AMMONITES AND OTHER NATIONS

- Verses 1-7 – Ammon
 - Verses 1-3 – The charge against the Ammonites: they said **Aha, against my sanctuary...and against the land...and against the house of Judah.**
 - The word **Aha** is translated from אַחָא [he-ach], which has no clear definition. It is an interjection, more of a sound than a word. In fact, the sound of *aha* is found in almost every language. Only the context can define it. It's range of meaning can be skepticism, surprise, relief, discovery, and even mockery (in its "ha" form).
 - Contextually, the Ammonites celebrated (and did nothing to aid) the people of God **when they went into captivity**, referring to the captivity of those like Ezekiel and Daniel.
 - Verses 4-5 - The Punishment - Ammon would become **a possession of the men of the east**. Furthermore, the city of **Rabbah** (modern day Amman) would become **a stable for camels** and the people would become **a couchingplace for flocks**.
 - Verse 6 - the charge against the Ammonites, part 2: rejoicing with the enemies of Israel.
 - Verse 7 - The punishment, part 2 - God's hand would be upon them, and God **will cause thee to perish** and **destroy** the Ammonites.
 - Note that though the capital city of Jordan is Amman, the Ammonites were mostly destroyed under Nebuchadnezzar and the remainder later absorbed into Middle Eastern populations. There is not a discernable Ammonite people today.
- Verses 8-11 - Moab and Seir
 - Seir is the land of the Edomites, just north of Moab, the land of the Moabites.
 - They were incriminated for not designating the **house of Judah** as different and separate from **all the heathen** (v. 8).
 - The punishment: the **men of the east** (v. 10) will conquer them, along **with the Ammonites**.
 - Note that the greatest punishment in verses 8-11 is to the Moabites. The land of Seir is included in the next section on the Edomites, who lived in Seir.
- Verses 12-14 - Edom
 - The indictment on Edom was that they had **dealt against the house of Judah** (v. 12).
 - Because of this, the land would be **desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword** (v. 13) which would be **by the hand of my people Israel** (v. 14).
 - This destruction is likely eschatological (see Numbers 24:17-19).
 - The only historical fulfillment with potential was hundreds of years later, under the Maccabees (see 2 Maccabees 10:16-17). Interestingly, it is the attack on Edom at the time of the Maccabees that gave rise to Herod the Great (an Idumean).
- Verses 15-17 - The Philistines
 - The indictment: the Philistines **have taken vengeance with a despiteful heart** to destroy the land of Israel.

- The punishment: the destruction of the Philistines. Note that **the Cherethims** were a tribe of the Philistines.
- Nebuchadnezzar later conquered the entire region and the Philistines ceased to exist as an identifiable people group.

EZEKIEL 26:1-28:26 | TYRE AND SIDON

EZEKIEL 26:1-28:19 | TYRE

EZEKIEL 26:1-27:36 | THE CITY OF TYRE

- Verses 26:1-14 – The destruction of Tyre
 - Verses 1-2 - The **eleventh year** is approximately 588 B.C., less than two years prior to the destruction of Jerusalem. By this year, Jerusalem was a shell of her former self, and had no sovereignty. Tyre (north of modern Israel) rejoiced that **she is laid waste**.
 - Verses 3-6 - the promised destruction of Tyre. Isaiah prophesied this event several hundred years earlier (Is. 23:1). Josephus mentions the destruction of Tyre in *Antiquities of the Jews*, X, 11, 1.
 - Verses 7-14 - the promised destruction of verses 3-6 is now described in more detail. Babylon will invade (vv. 7-8), destroy (vv. 9-13) and leave desolate (v. 14).
 - Note that in verse 7 Nebuchadnezzar is spelled **Nebuchadrezzar**. This is also found in Ezekiel 29:18, 19, and 30:10. For more information, see note in *The Companion Bible* for Daniel 1. Also, from Bryan Ross, *The King James Bible in America* (Dispensational Publishing House, 2019), “In 1611, when the KJB was first published there was no standard or agreed upon orthography as to how English words should be spelled.”
- Verses 26:15-21 – The lamentation over the destruction of Tyre
 - Verses 15-21 - While there is a “modern Tyre,” the ancient city of Tyre was an island city off the coast of modern Tyre. The description in these verses aligns with original island city/state of Tyre.
 - The problem is this passage, however, is that it has never really been fulfilled. The verses promise that Tyre will be buried in the sea (v. 19) and **never be found again**. Since Tyre is a modern city, we have only a few possibilities:
 - Ezekiel was not inspired (at least in this particular prophecy). Such would be the response of those who do not trust the Word of God.
 - The modern city of Tyre is at a different location and just has the same name. While this is possible, it was Alexander the Great who destroyed the city and left it desolate beyond recognition, and this would have been hundreds of years after Nebuchadnezzar, in opposition to verse 7. Furthermore, the archaeological evidence seems to support the idea that modern Tyre is built upon ancient Tyre, and the island is now part of the mainland due to the causeway built by Alexander the Great.
 - That a change of prophecies begins in verse 19, and that verses 19-21 refer to a future, yet unfulfilled prophecy. This, in my opinion, is supported by the text and aligns with what we know of history. Some textual evidence: Verse 3 speaks of the **many nations** that will **come up against thee**. It is these nations that will

destroy the walls (v. 4). In verse 7, it is the **king of Babylon** that will destroy the city and the **abundance of his horses** (v. 10) will be used to destroy. God is certainly behind this work and accomplishing this work, as seen in verses 13-14, but He is using others to accomplish His work. But in verse 19 there is a textual shift beginning with the introductory words, **For thus saith the Lord God** (v. 19). From this point everything is in the first person singular. Furthermore, the word **When** (v. 19 twice, v. 20 once) seems to indicate a *different time* than the time of the previously described destruction.

- Verses 27:1-32 –
 - The **word of the Lord** to Ezekiel included a **lamentation for Tyrus**. The Hebrew word translated **lamentation** does not require *sadness* as much as *memory*.
 - The Lord requires Ezekiel to “sing a song” (in effect) that reminds the world of the riches (even opulence) of the city.
- Verses 27:33-36 –
 - Concluding the song, Ezekiel talks about what was (**thy wares went forth out of the seas** - v. 33) and what will be (**thou shalt be broken...** - v. 34). The world **shall be astonished** and the **kings shall be sore afraid** (v. 35).
 - Why such length to discuss the death of Tyre? My speculation: *Tyre is a type of the devils system*. What makes me build that speculation?
 - First, the length of time spent on her destruction.
 - Second, the discussion of the King of Tyre, in the next chapter. Stay tuned!