

**BOOK OF ZECHARIAH  
GOD USES A HUMAN CONQUEROR-PT 2  
THREE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST TYRE  
ZECHARIAH 9:1-4, 13**

**Introduction**

We said last time that this first portion of *Zechariah 9* actually sketches the conquests of *ALEXANDER the GREAT* in the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. In fact, we are seeing how **GOD** used **ALEXANDER the GREAT** for **HIS** own purposes!

**GOD** is the **ONE WHO ORDAINED** and **ESTABLISHED** **GOVERNMENT**—just as much as **HE ORDAINED** and **ESTABLISHED** **the HOME** and **the CHURCH!** Our **SOVEREIGN GOD** raises up rulers and **HE** brings down rulers—all for **HIS OWN PURPOSES!**

But also understand that **GOD** holds rulers responsible for walking outside of **HIS WAYS** and outside of the boundaries that **HE** has established! That is true even when they bring about what is recorded in **GOD’S WORD!**

**LAST TIME WE SAW THE PROPHECY AGAINST HADRACH, DAMASCUS AND HAMATH.** *Zechariah 9:1* begins with the words “*The burden of the word of the LORD*”. We said that a “*burden*” is “*a threatening prediction, a pronouncement of judgment!*”

So, this weighty message of **JUDGMENT** from the **LORD** is pronounced against **ISRAEL’S** neighbors—including *HADRACH, DAMASCUS* and *HAMATH*.

This particular **BURDEN** or **WEIGHTY WORD** in our text foretells the **JUDGMENT** against this area by the **GREEK** armies under the command of the young **ALEXANDER the GREAT**.

**ALEXANDER** did in fact conquer these on his way south to **EGYPT**. *DAMASCUS* was full of **DARIUS’** riches and became **ALEXANDER’S** headquarters for a time.

[Burns, Ross (2005), *Damascus: A History*, Routledge.]

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**ALEXANDER’S** conquests had an effect to turn “*the eyes of man...toward the LORD*”. So, the eyes of all men, especially all the **TRIBES** of **ISRAEL**, were toward the **LORD**, looking to **HIM** for **DELIVERANCE**.

The catalogue of those on whom the **LORD'S WORD** of **JUDGMENT** is rendered continues in *vs. 2*. “*And Hamath which borders on it;*” As we’ve said, *HAMATH* (which *Amos 6:2* calls “*Hamath the great*”) was north of *DAMASCUS*. *DAMASCUS* and *HAMATH* were both key towns in the land of *HADRACH*.

They both experienced the same fate of destruction by the **MACEDONIAN CONQUEROR**. Having spoken of these two major cities, which represent *SYRIA*, the prophet proceeds to speak of the **capitals of Phoenicia**. (Located in present day *LEBANON*)

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**WE SEE THE JUDGMENT AGAINST TYRUS (OR TYRE) AND ZIDON.**

The cities of “*TYRE*” and “*ZIDON*”, which are in close proximity to one another, are singled out in the latter part of *verse 2*.

*TYRE’S* destruction is particularly emphasized here in *Zechariah 9* and note that this also refers to the destruction brought forth by *ALEXANDER the GREAT* in 332 B.C. (*vs 13*)

Some also believe that *TYRE’S DESTRUCTION* is a prophetic picture of **GOD’S JUDGMENTS** upon the **rich and prideful** nations in the end-times. *TYRE* was an actual wealthy coastal port on the **Mediterranean**, and is a picture of the “*global world*.”

I want us to consider these verses in the context of **SCRIPTURE** and consider “*TYRE*” in a little more detail in order to better understand the historical situation here.

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The most compact word of **JUDGMENT** over **TYRE** is found in *Ezekiel* chapters **26-28**. (Turn to *Ezekiel 26*.) These three chapters contain **GOD'S WRATH upon TYRE** because of both their ill treatment of **ISRAEL** and their attitude toward the destruction of **ISRAEL** by the **CHALDEANS!**

*Read Ezekiel 26:1-2*

Three chapters proclaiming **TYRE'S JUDGMENT** follow, and the message concerning **TYRE** ends with **GOD'S WORDS** in *Ezekiel 28:25-26*.

This prophecy shows that the **LORD** had not lost sight of **HIS PEOPLE!** Let me remind you that one day **GOD** will judge **ALL** the **NATIONS** in accordance with their attitude toward and treatment of **ISRAEL!**

The **NATIONS** that desire to harm **ISRAEL** will perish, but the remnant of believing **JEWS, GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE**, will remain for eternity. (Look at *Daniel 7:18, 27*)

The **WORD OF GOD** stands as firm as a rock and will remain for all eternity! The **NATIONS** may grit their teeth, but all enmity against **GOD** and **HIS PEOPLE** will fail on account of this **WORD!**

Someone wrote these words in connection with the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001:  
*"It should shake us up that it becomes clearer and clearer how closely the world-wide terrorist threat is connected with a tiny land which is not even as large as the state of New York and has far less inhabitants. The fact that Israel is continually being made the center of world politics is hardly to be explained rationally. And when it is revealed that the desired peace ultimately fails over the existence of Israel, the great union of states against terror could very quickly turn against Israel!" (Cf. Zechariah 12:3).*

A careful reading of *Ezekiel 26:1-14* explains that **TYRE** was a city in

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**LEBANON**, situated on the **MEDITERRANEAN SEA**. The city was well known as the world trade center of that time. Trade routes from *southern Arabia* to the *Orient* passed through **TYRE**.

All shipping traffic in the **MEDITERRANEAN**, the gigantic fleet of *Phoenician* ships, was concentrated in **TYRE**. There the wares were loaded and brought to *Europe*, among other places.

The *Phoenicians* possessed the colony of *Tarshish* in *Spain*, which we know from the **BOOK OF JONAH**. The entire *Mediterranean* trade was controlled by the city of **TYRE**.

In the beginning, **TYRE** was on friendly terms with **ISRAEL**. **King Hiram** of **TYRE** sent carpenters, bricklayers, and cedar wood to build **DAVID** a house. (*2 Samuel 5:11; 1 Chronicles 14:1*)

Later on he supported the building of **SOLOMON'S TEMPLE** by providing both wood and laborers. (*1 Kings 5; 2 Chronicles 2*)

The mariners of **TYRE** also helped to steer **SOLOMON'S** ships, which means they were very well acquainted with the sea and very advanced with regard to sailing.

Both **ISAIAH** and **EZEKIEL** describe **PROPHETICALLY** the complete downfall of **TYRE** while it was in its heyday.

So, why did **TYRE** have to fall? Especially since she had never warred against **ISRAEL** and had been friendly with both **KING DAVID** and **KING SOLOMON**.

**LET'S NOTICE THREE ACCUSATIONS LEVELED AGAINST TYRE IN THE SCRIPTURES:**

**I. ACCUSATION #1 – TYRE DELIVERED UP THE WHOLE**

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**CAPTIVITY TO EDOM AND REMEMBERED NOT THE  
BROTHERLY COVENANT! (*Amos 1:9*)**

Here we see that this is speaking of how they were guilty of buying and selling the prisoners the *PHILISTINES* took in their plundering of **GOD'S PEOPLE** being only interested in economic profit. (*Amos 1:6; Joel 3:4-7*)

The **BROTHERLY COVENANT** spoken of here is believed to be referring to the previous treaty between **HIRAM** (King of *TYRE*) and **SOLOMON**. (*1 Kings 5*)

*TYRE* terminated her friendship with **ISRAEL** for that of the **PHILISTINES**. Does that sound familiar?

Today, **ISRAEL** is being made to suffer for the sake of the **PALESTINIANS**. Many nations have called for an economic boycott toward **ISRAEL** until **ISRAEL** returns certain lands to the **PALESTINIANS**.

**ISRAEL** is under constant, enormous pressure to make more and more concessions and to give up more and more land!

And let's not forget that a great number of missiles which are constantly being shot at **JEWISH** territories without the world helping with anything but criticism of **GOD'S PEOPLE**!

By the way, **GOD** judged *TYRE* for some of the same things that our own nation is now guilty of.

**II. ACCUSATION #2 – TYRE SAW HERSELF AS A RIVAL OF**

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**JERUSALEM THE CITY OF GOD!**

When **BABYLON** destroyed **JERUSALEM** under **Nebuchadnezzar's** rule in 586 B.C., *TYRE* rejoiced!

*Ezekiel 26:2* records *TYRUS* mocking **ISRAEL** saying: "*Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste*"

The reason for their joy over **ISRAEL'S** misfortune was that they profited from the downfall of **JUDAH**. (*Joel 3:4-6*)

**JERUSALEM** lay on the trade route from south to north. So, she also played an important role as the "*...gates of the people.*"

**JERUSALEM'S** collapse meant more custom duty for *TYRE* on products coming from **ARABIA** to the north and east: "*She is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste.*"

If there were no **JERUSALEM**, more would take place in *TYRE*! *TYRE* could extend her markets! *TYRE* was controlled by her greed!

*TYRE* trusted in her economic power and strength! (*Ezekiel 27:3-4*)

Today, in our world economy, almost all decisions are made on the basis of economic advantage!

No one seems to ask what **GOD** has to say! People are **PRO-ISRAEL** if it is to their economic or diplomatic advantage, but they turn against the country as soon as it appears to be not in their economic or diplomatic interest.

**III. ACCUSATION #3: THE KING OF TYRE AND HIS PEOPLE**

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**WERE BURSTING WITH PRIDE AND ARROGANCE!**

In this they resembled the character of **SATAN!**

In *Ezekiel 28:1-19*, **TYRE** is accused of becoming **PROUD** of her **KNOWLEDGE**. In this context, **TYRE** illustrates **SATAN'S** fall. Actually, he is identified with **TYRE**. **SATAN** ruled the world system at that time from within the city walls of **TYRE**.

This example shows that while the nations strive after **riches, power, and knowledge**, they open themselves up to be led more by **SATAN** than by **GOD!** This sounds very much like what is taking place in our world today!

The **WORD OF GOD** as a measure for human relationships is constantly being rejected, and has been replaced by money! Well, who is behind that way of thinking? Who is behind the New World Order or globalization? I think we know the answer to that!

**PAUL** warned about covetousness in *Colossians 3:6* where he speaks of "... *covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience*"

**All sins ultimately culminate in COVETOUSNESS.**  
**COVETOUSNESS** is the main form of **IDOLATRY** in our day that brings **GOD'S JUDGMENT!** **JAMES** wrote *James 5:3*— "*Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.*"

As **TYRE** is put on par with **SATAN'S** character and actions in *Ezekiel 28*, it becomes clear that the sin associated with this city has not ended.

It continues through many other nations and will until the **LORD**

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comes back!

**SECURITY, RICHES, and INTELLECTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS** seem to count so much today—these make mankind so **PROUD!**

In most cases, they lead to **FORSAKING GOD, HIS WORD AND HIS PEOPLE**. Earthly splendors are usually in **SATAN'S** service and are offered by him to deceive mankind (*Luke 4:5-8*).

**SATAN** is the invisible ruler over all the world system and worldly glitter, which leads to **PRIDE**. *Revelation 13* explains how the economy (buying and selling) will become the means of the **ANTICHRIST'S** control.

In politics, normally only that which brings **ADVANTAGE, SECURITY, and MONEY** count, even at the cost of others (for instance, at **ISRAEL'S** cost, or that of the unborn baby, the old or the sick).

**Conclusion**

So, we see these three accusations against **TYRE!**

Next time, **LORD** willing, we will see what it cost **TYRE** as we will look at **THE MESSAGE OF JUDGMENT TO TYRE AND HOW THE LORD CARRIED THE JUDGMENT OUT!**