

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
GOD USES A HUMAN CONQUEROR-PT 3
GOD'S MESSAGE OF JUDGMENT TO TYRE
ZECHARIAH 9:3-4, 13; EZEKIEL 26:1-21

Introduction

Let me remind you of what we've seen thus far in *Zechariah 9*.

In our first message from this Chapter, **WE SAW THE PROPHECY AGAINST HADRACH, DAMASCUS AND HAMATH. *Zechariah 9:1-2a*** begins with the words "The *burden of the word of the LORD*". A "*burden*" is "*a threatening prediction, a pronouncement of judgment!*"

In our second message from this Chapter, **WE SAW THE JUDGMENT PRONOUNCED AGAINST TYRUS (OR TYRE) AND ZIDON and THREE ACCUSATIONS for which the JUDGMENT would come!** (*Zechariah 9:2b-4*)

1. **They Delivered Up The Whole Captivity To EDOM and Remembered Not The Brotherly Covenant.** (*Amos 1:9*)
2. **TYRE Saw Herself As A Rival Of JERUSALEM, The City of GOD.** (*Ezekiel 26:2; Joel 3:4-6*)
3. **The King Of Tyre And His People Were Bursting With Pride And Arrogance.** (*Ezekiel 28:1-19*)

The most compact word of **JUDGMENT** over *TYRE* is found in *Ezekiel 26-28* which contain **GOD'S WRATH upon TYRE** because of its **ill treatment** of *ISRAEL* and its **attitude** toward the destruction of *ISRAEL* by the *CHALDEANS!*

Ezekiel 26-28 proclaim **TYRE'S JUDGMENT** and the **LORD's** message concerning *TYRE* ends with **HIS WORDS** in *Ezekiel 28:25-26*.

Understand that this prophecy against **TYRE** 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!**

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The **NATIONS** that desire to harm **ISRAEL** will be brought low, but the **REMNANT** of **BELIEVING JEWS, GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE,** will be **EXALTED** for all eternity. (*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 **HIS WORD!**

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

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

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GOD'S MESSAGE OF JUDGMENT TO TYRE. (*Zechariah 9:3-4*)
The **FIRST PART** of the **MESSAGE** of **JUDGMENT** to *TYRE* describes how the catastrophe comes over the city through the nations in phases. (*Ezekiel 26:3-6*)

The **SECOND PART** describes the attack by the **BABYLONIANS** under **NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** (*Ezekiel 26:7-11*)

The **THIRD PART** describes the attack by **GREECE.** (*Ezekiel 26:12-14*)

The detail in which **GOD'S PROPHECIES** have been **FULFILLED** over the centuries becomes apparent:

Isaiah 46:9-13—"Remember the former things of old: for I am God...Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure...I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it"

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**I. HISTORY SHOWS THAT NEBUCHADNEZZAR
ATTACKED TYRE!**

The **BABYLONIANS** went to work against **TYRE** ten years after the **ASSYRIANS** attacked **TYRE**. **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** came to **TYRE** and besieged it in **585 B.C.**, one year after **JERUSALEM** fell, and shortly after **TYRE** had mocked **JERUSALEM** and rejoiced at her fall.

Understand that the city was practically invincible. The siege lasted for **thirteen years**, until **TYRE** was finally destroyed in **572 B.C.**

But when **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** broke into the city, he found out that the inhabitants had fled to an island about a half mile away.

They had gotten away with almost all of their riches and had built a new city. **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** was forced to give up because he had no fleet. *Ezekiel 26:7-11* was fulfilled through **NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S** attack, but further prophecies in *EZEKIEL 26:12 and forward* were not fulfilled at that time.

The **BABYLONIAN** warriors had given thirteen years of military service and hardly had any pay to show for it. This is also described in *Ezekiel 29:17-20*.

**II. HISTORY SHOWS THAT THE GREEKS BECAME
EXECUTORS OF GOD'S JUDGMENT! (Zechariah 9:13)**
JUDGMENT came upon **TYRE** continuously:

Ezekiel 26:3 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up"

TYRE was finally destroyed and the **WORD OF GOD** fulfilled. The **PERSIANS** came in **539 B.C.** After they conquered the **BABYLONIAN EMPIRE**, they also conquered **TYRE**.

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A king of **CYPRUS** fought against the new city of **TYRE** in **370 B.C.**

ALEXANDER THE GREAT finally came from **GREECE** in **332 B.C.** and he fulfilled the still outstanding **PROPHECY OF GOD** almost 250 years after **NEBUCHADNEZZAR**.

In order to conquer **TYRE**, **ALEXANDER** built a dam or causeway from the mainland. It was half a mile long, 65 yards wide, and up to 220 yards deep in places.

For the causeway, he used the remains of **TYRE**, such as the walls, stones, wood, earth, debris and even the dust: (*Ezekiel 26:12, 14*)

History tells us that **ALEXANDER THE GREAT** conquered **TYRE** after seven months; 30,000 people were sold as slaves, 2,000 men were crucified and 8,000 others were killed. The **BIBLE** is always **FULFILLED!**

The pronouns "*he*" and "*his*" in *Ezekiel 26:7-11* refer to **NEBUCHADNEZZAR**. Yet, in *Ezekiel 26:12*, the pronoun is changed to "*they*," which refers to the **GREEKS**. We can only stand amazed at the precision of **GOD'S WORD!**

GOD'S PROPHECIES were literally **FULFILLED**. Ancient **TYRE** had become a bare rock and was never rebuilt. Actually, ancient **TYRE** is hardly identifiable by archaeologists. (*Ezekiel 26:21*)

The surrounding nations were so shocked by what the **GREEKS** did to **TYRE** that they voluntarily surrendered to **ALEXANDER**: *Ezekiel 26:18—"Now shall the isles tremble in the day of thy fall; yea, the isles that are in the sea shall be troubled at thy departure."*

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However, we must note that **EZEKIEL'S PROPHECY** sounds like one continual **PROPHECY**, as if **JUDGMENT** upon **TYRE** would be fulfilled within a few years and all at one time.

But there were various **FULFILLMENTS** before the main **FULFILLMENT** actually took place. Again, **250 yrs** passed between **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** and **ALEXANDER THE GREAT**.

When **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** departed, the people of **TYRE** might have thought they got away with it with **EZEKIEL'S MESSAGE** from the **LORD** not being literally **FULFILLED**.

But the **LORD'S PROPHECY** had to be and eventually was **FULFILLED** completely, only it took place in phases:
Isa. 46:10 "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure"

III. SO, WHAT ARE WE TO TAKE AWAY FROM THIS? WHAT IS THE MESSAGE FOR OUR DAY?

TYRE is a picture that can very easily apply to many of the **NATIONS** of the end-times, including our own. Even the free world is characterized by **power, knowledge and pride**.

Just as **SATAN** developed his power within a willing **TYRE**, he will develop his power in all the **NATIONS** of the end-times against the **LORD'S PEOPLE, ISRAEL!**

So, let's observe at least **FOUR THINGS**.

FIRST: End-time **JUDGMENTS** predicted by **GOD** will come upon the **GENTILE NATIONS** like waves! (*Ezekiel 26:3*).
Haggai 2:6-7 says: "For thus saith the **LORD** of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; **And I will shake all nations.**"

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JESUS described *deception, wars, the rising of one nation against another, disease, famines and earthquakes* as "*...the beginning of sorrows*" (*Matthew 24:4-8*)

More and more the **NATIONS** have an increasing **hatred for ISRAEL!** There is an increase of **lawlessness** in our world! There is **great distress** at every turn! There is a **great shaking of heaven and earth** that appears to be leading us up to the very threshold of the **END-TIME JUDGMENTS** of the **TRIBULATION** period!

The waves of **JUDGMENT** will come upon this world with increasing severity. *Luke 21:25* applies in this connection: "*...and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.*"

SECOND: We should come to see that **GOD** is **LORD** through **HIS JUDGMENTS!**
(*Ezekiel 26:6; 28:23-24*—"...they shall know that I am the **LORD**.")

GOD has brought cities, nations and empires to their downfall throughout history in order to establish **HIS TESTIMONY**. **HE** has had kings appointed and dethroned — **PHARAOH** in **EGYPT**, **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** in **BABYLON** and **CYRUS** in **PERSIA**.

Even **GOG**, from the land of **MAGOG**, will be led by **GOD** to the mountains of **ISRAEL** in order to be destroyed!

All this is so that this world will realize that there is one **GOD!** **GOD** says in: *Isaiah 46:9-10*—"I am God and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done,"

THIRD: The **GOD OF ISRAEL** does not allow **HIS PEOPLE** to perish.

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After **GOD** ended **HIS MESSAGE** of **JUDGMENT** to **SYRIA**, **TYRE** and the **PHILISTINES** in *Zechariah 9*, we read of **ISRAEL** in *Zechariah 9:14-17*.

We know that **SATAN** will release his **RAGE** in a **FLOOD OF WAVES** against the **JEWISH PEOPLE** in the **END-TIMES** (*Revelation 12:15 onward*). He and those he works in want to exterminate **ISRAEL**, **GOD'S HOLY TESTIMONY** on earth! But he (and they) will never achieve this!

FOURTH: Every person should surrender his or her rebellious heart to **GOD'S offer of salvation!**

Isaiah 46:12-13—"Hearken unto me, ye stout-hearted, that are far from righteousness: I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry"

GOD tells us to whom we should listen, and where our safety lies in these troubled times: "*Hearken unto me...*"

HE also tells us where we stand by nature: Far from His righteousness, "*ye...that are far from righteousness.*"

The **LORD** doesn't leave us where we are. **HE** tells us that **HE** has done everything so that we do not have to remain as we are: "*I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off.*"

HE did this in the **REDEEMING DEATH** and **RESURRECTION** of **JESUS CHRIST**. Those who grasp this **BY FAITH** will experience that **HIS SALVATION** never comes too late: "*...my salvation shall not tarry.*"

The people of **TYRE** had stubborn hearts where **GOD** was concerned.

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They felt safe, they thought they had everything they needed and they were proud and arrogant. **SATAN** dwelt within the walls of **TYRE** and had his way with the city's inhabitants. The people of the city were deceived into a false sense of security. They thought they didn't need **GOD** and only thought of an increase in material things. **SATAN** won their hearts and made them rebellious.

Unfortunately, that's the case with many today! **Being ruled by greed, selfishness and pride, living only for self!** Those who do not **SURRENDER** to **JESUS CHRIST** will perish!

There are only two possibilities where their life is concerned: They can be like **DANIEL**, who used his wisdom, intelligence and position for **GOD** and **HIS CAUSE**, or they can be like the **KING OF TYRE**, who only used his wisdom for the things of this world and excluded **GOD** from his life!

Ezekiel 28:3-4—"Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures"

Mankind can put themselves at the disposal of the **TRUE GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH**, or they can serve the god of this world.

Make sure that you have made the right choice in your own life!