

“God Reigns” - Isaiah 23:8-18

Ask - “Can you name any nations, kingdoms, or empires that no longer exist?”

Background - Isaiah prophesied primarily to Judah, but he also addressed several other nations. These included Egypt, Ethiopia, Babylon, Arabia, Edom, Damascus, and more. In today’s lesson, we look at his prophecy against Tyre.

“Judgment Against Tyre” - Isaiah 23:8-11

(v8-9) How are the city of Tyre and its people described in this verse? Who had made plans to bring judgment on the city? Research and discuss facts about the ancient city of Tyre.

(v10) God’s judgment will spread over Tyre (the daughter of Tarshish) and the land of Phoenicia like what? What will restrain it? Compare this with the role of the Holy Spirit and the Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:7-8).

(v11) What 3 things has God done in this verse? What did God intend to do to Canaan? Discuss God’s sovereignty over the nations (see Psalm 47:7-8).

THOUGH TYRE WAS A STRONG AND WEALTHY CITY, GOD PLANNED TO OVERTHROW IT. NOTHING WOULD BE ABLE TO PREVENT GOD’S JUDGMENT, AS HE IS SOVEREIGN OVER THE NATIONS.

“Disruption of Shipping” - Isaiah 23:12-14

(v12) What phrase is used to describe Tyre in this verse? What was Sidon? Where would the defeated citizens of Tyre flee and would they find peace there?

(v13) The land of Tyre would become like what other defeated nation? Who would be responsible for destroying both of them?

(v14) What other port city, mentioned in this verse, would be adversely affected by the fall of Tyre? What do we know about Tarshish?

THE FALL OF TYRE WOULD HAVE A DIRECT AND NEGATIVE EFFECT ON SHIPPING AND COMMERCE. TARSHISH WOULD SUFFER AS A RESULT.

“Tyre Would Be Redeemed” - Isaiah 23:15-18

(v15-16) How long would Tyre be forgotten (suffer under judgment)? Tyre is compared to what type of person? What is a harlot?

(v17) What will happen to Tyre at the end of the 70 years? How are Tyre’s

actions like those of a harlot?

(v18) Despite her sinful and materialistic past, what would ultimately happen to the people of Tyre?

TYRE WOULD SUFFER JUDGMENT FOR 70 YEARS. SHE WOULD THEN RETURN TO PRACTICE HER OLD WAYS. HOWEVER, THE LORD WOULD SET HER GAIN APART TO AID THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

Application - God's judgment wasn't exclusively limited to Judah and Israel, but also came against many other nations. Tyre was the leading Mediterranean port city in Phoenicia. It, and numerous other places, experienced the judgment of God. Isaiah prophesied as such. The LORD reigns, and He providentially allows nations to rise and fall according to His will. Though rich and powerful, could the United States be overthrown and/or experience the judgment of God? Discuss.