

<Angels with Dirty Faces>

Ezekiel 27:1 – 28:25

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~ The title of this report from our Spiritual Safari may sound facetious; but I assure you this is the most abstemious message you are going to receive from Ezekiel. We began our consideration of the prophecy that Ezekiel pronounced against the city of Tyre in our last report. If you have not read our last report, I suggest you go back and do so now. The judgment against Tyre has been literally fulfilled today. The ruins of Tyre stand as I type this report and as you read it as a remarkable witness to the sheer accuracy of the Word of God. My personal belief is that Babylon in Revelation is a type of Tyre; as Babylon once again becomes the capital of a one-world economy, a one-world government, and a one-world religion during the Great Tribulation period. The prophetic and future Babylon will also be the headquarters of antichrist.

Revelation 18: *11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. 14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all ~*

Tyre was an impressive city of unbridled materialism during its hey-day; just as Paris, Rome, New York, London, Tokyo or Los Angeles is today. Tyre was a thriving commercial center to which merchants from all over the known-world, including Judah and Israel, traded every stock of goods and service imaginable. If you had enough money, you could have bought anything you desired in Tyre – including people. The music played twenty-four hours a day as the people laughed and dined in fine restaurants, shopped in the

best malls, and got drunk on obscenely expensive wines. Of course, Ezekiel was just a captive slave down in Babylon, and had never actually been to Tyre; but, even so, this prophet gives us the lamentation of God against this city several centuries before it fell – and fall it did – never to be rebuilt again to this very day. That makes chapter twenty-seven both extremely sad – and extremely beautiful at the same time. The destruction of Tyre is compared to that of a tragic shipwreck; and the next two chapters constitute the most vivid account of the fall of a heathen nation that we have in the Bible. Keep in mind, though: only one thing brought Tyre to its demise: *PRIDE!* Nothing else....

XXVII

1 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

2 Now, thou son of man, take up a lamentation for Tyrus;

3 And say unto Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, Thus saith the Lord GOD; O Tyrus, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty.

~ The pride and glory of nations – and the pomp, circumstance and ceremony of the inhabitants of any land – will cause it to pass off of the stage of world-power; but not before becoming a third-rate civilization. Today, we see the ruins of lands, and the resulting human wreckage, in country after country – from Babylon to Media-Persia to Italy to France to Greece to England – and the list goes on and on and on – all of them currently third, and even fourth-rate nations. Tyre was an extensive Phoenician kingdom that no one ever dreamed could completely disappear. Well, Ezekiel said it would disappear and – guess what? – God judged it – and it disappeared! Remember, the captive children of Israel in Babylon never cared much for Ezekiel or his message to begin with; but when he gave this prophecy, they wrote him off as having lost his mind.

While a majority of modern Christians believe they are building a kingdom here on earth, God says the day is coming when the stock market will fail, banks will become bankrupt, the world economy will literally stop, trade

will cease, food will not be produced, the water will be contaminated, the sea will die; and everything you possess that once had value will suddenly become as worthless as dust. It was a tragic day when Tyre was judged – but an even more tragic day is coming to the entire world in the future. Now, let's be clear, I see nothing wrong with enjoying our affluent society today; but only until those things become an obsessive religion – which is the case for most people – and then those things become idols in their hearts.

Many people today are learning a pious and pretentious eschatological vocabulary, and have learned that “*religion*” is a bad word; but those who condemn others the loudest for “*religion*” never seem to get around to studying the Bible. There is scant genuine Bible teaching available in the church today. It has become a game played in the name of Christianity; particularly on a forum such as the one I teach on. So-called contemporary Christianity is fractured into self-interest groups, cliques that pat each other on the back while self-congratulating each other – and they label it fellowship. Of course, they'll pull a Bible verse out once in a while in an attempt to trick a nagging consciousness into believing everything is okay with them and the Lord; but it's only simple-minded, pious lip-service – it means nothing in their lives. That's what they did in Tyre; they even did it in Jerusalem – and God destroyed both.

If you walk through the ruins of the ancient city of Tyre, you won't hear music today, there is no laughter, there are no fine shopping malls or five-star restaurants – and there is no gold or silver to be traded. All you will find are broken pieces of pottery amongst the wreckage and ruins of a great city of which the God of Heaven now says, “*I judged them.*” If you go to Jerusalem today, you will not find the great city of God's witness to the world, either. You won't find milk and honey flowing. No, you'll find the ruins of destruction. They don't even have a temple – the Arab's have the Mosque of Omar which stands on the Temple Mount. They don't worship the True and Living God – the Lord Jesus Christ – they hate Him. They do not believe the Bible is the Word of God. They worship science and education and, as a result, they have no blessing, no peace or safety, and the desert is a wilderness – not blossoming like a rose. There's a message here for us today, friends; I hope you are starting to get it....

4 Thy borders are in the midst of the seas, thy builders have perfected thy beauty.

5 They have made all thy ship boards of fir trees of Senir: they have taken cedars from Lebanon to make masts for thee.

6 Of the oaks of Bashan have they made thine oars; the company of the Ashurites have made thy benches of ivory, brought out of the isles of Chittim.

7 Fine linen with brodered work from Egypt was that which thou spreadest forth to be thy sail; blue and purple from the isles of Elishah was that which covered thee.

8 The inhabitants of Zidon and Arvad were thy mariners: thy wise men, O Tyrus, that were in thee, were thy pilots.

9 The ancients of Gebal and the wise men thereof were in thee thy calkers: all the ships of the sea with their mariners were in thee to occupy thy merchandise.

10 They of Persia and of Lud and of Phut were in thine army, thy men of war: they hanged the shield and helmet in thee; they set forth thy comeliness.

11 The men of Arvad with thine army were upon thy walls round about, and the Gammadims were in thy towers: they hanged their shields upon thy walls round about; they have made thy beauty perfect.

12 Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs.

13 Javan, Tubal, and Meshech, they were thy merchants: they traded the persons of men and vessels of brass in thy market.

14 They of the house of Togarmah traded in thy fairs with horses and horsemen and mules.

15 The men of Dedan were thy merchants; many isles were the merchandise of thine hand: they brought thee for a present horns of ivory and ebony.

16 Syria was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of the wares of thy making: they occupied in thy fairs with emeralds, purple, and broidered work, and fine linen, and coral, and agate.

17 Judah, and the land of Israel, they were thy merchants: they traded in thy market wheat of Minnith, and Pannag, and honey, and oil, and balm.

18 Damascus was thy merchant in the multitude of the wares of thy making, for the multitude of all riches; in the wine of Helbon, and white wool.

19 Dan also and Javan going to and fro occupied in thy fairs: bright iron, cassia, and calamus, were in thy market.

20 Dedan was thy merchant in precious clothes for chariots.

21 Arabia, and all the princes of Kedar, they occupied with thee in lambs, and rams, and goats: in these were they thy merchants.

22 The merchants of Sheba and Raamah, they were thy merchants: they occupied in thy fairs with chief of all spices, and with all precious stones, and gold.

23 Haran, and Canneh, and Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Asshur, and Chilmad, were thy merchants.

24 These were thy merchants in all sorts of things, in blue clothes, and broidered work, and in chests of rich apparel, bound with cords, and made of cedar, among thy merchandise.

25 The ships of Tarshish did sing of thee in thy market: and thou wast replenished, and made very glorious in the midst of the seas.

26 Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the seas.

27 Thy riches, and thy fairs, thy merchandise, thy mariners, and thy pilots, thy calkers, and the occupiers of thy merchandise, and all thy men of war, that are in thee, and in all thy company which is in the midst of thee, shall fall into the midst of the seas in the day of thy ruin.

28 The suburbs shall shake at the sound of the cry of thy pilots.

29 And all that handle the oar, the mariners, and all the pilots of the sea, shall come down from their ships, they shall stand upon the land;

30 And shall cause their voice to be heard against thee, and shall cry bitterly, and shall cast up dust upon their heads, they shall wallow themselves in the ashes:

31 And they shall make themselves utterly bald for thee, and gird them with sackcloth, and they shall weep for thee with bitterness of heart and bitter wailing.

32 And in their wailing they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and lament over thee, saying, What city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea?

33 When thy wares went forth out of the seas, thou filledst many people; thou didst enrich the kings of the earth with the multitude of thy riches and of thy merchandise.

34 In the time when thou shalt be broken by the seas in the depths of the waters thy merchandise and all thy company in the midst of thee shall fall.

35 All the inhabitants of the isles shall be astonished at thee, and their kings shall be sore afraid, they shall be troubled in their countenance.

36 The merchants among the people shall hiss at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt be any more.

XXVIII

1 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

3 Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee:

4 With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures:

5 By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches:

6 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God;

~ Ezekiel constantly reminds us this is not his opinion. This is the Word of the Lord being spoken. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus refused the kingdom's that the devil offered Him – and they were Satan's to give. Satan is the god of this world today, and he is the prince of power of the air; whether we like it or not. He might offer them to you. Satan set his heart as the heart of God; and Tyre was Satan's headquarters in that day. In Scripture, the Prince of Tyre is a type of the devil. In this historical passage, we are informed and given knowledge and wisdom concerning the origin of the highest being God ever created: Lucifer; Son of the Morning – the Day Star. Satan was an angel – the mightiest of the entire angelic host.

While the devil may be limited in his worldly territory today, according to Scripture, his demonic power and dominion are not limited in any form or fashion on this earth. Frankly, the world today has a complete misconception of Satan, who he is, and what he does.

Whitaker Chambers was the chief editor of Life Magazine many decades ago. He wrote an article on the devil that went something like this: “... *when the Age of Reason began, Satan went underground. His strategy now is to make men think he doesn't even exist; and although theologians are now discovering him anew, he never had it so good! Throughout most of Christian history, the devil was real and personal, and never far from the minds of men. Today, he has retreated into the realm of a myth, and is a joke to most people. Recently, however, philosophers have seen him roaming the earth, and have identified him as the same old Prince of Evil*”.... and Chambers goes on to name prominent philosophers of his day that apparently agreed, and he continued to describe a party at which the devil was worshipped by famous and powerful people.

So, we live in a day when Satan has accomplished two remarkable tricks: (1) he has *unbelievers* believing that he doesn't even exist and (2) he has *believers* believing that they can defeat him in the name of Jesus. Unfortunately, Satan is the exact opposite of what men think he is. The devil doesn't want to be God, per se, he wants to be *LIKE* God; not necessarily opposed to God, and certainly not different from God. That's the reason why the devil is the biggest promoter of religion in the church. The devil loves to be religious. Satan will *HELP* you get religious. Satan isn't on skid row. Satan isn't in the bar with the drunks – and he isn't in prison, either; because those people are already his. No, he has an office in *YOUR* church, with a seat in the front pew – right next to yours – every Sunday morning.

Verses one and two of this chapter present a picture of antichrist. This is humanism carried-out to the inth degree. The sin of man ultimately leads to the man of sin. God says Satan is “*wiser than Daniel.*” Well, the King of Tyre, King Hiram, was no fool. Hiram, King of Tyre, controlled the money market in that day. They were so smart as businessmen in Tyre that they became arrogant and profanely proud. That's when they set their hearts as

the heart of God. Satan was as smart as one could possibly be without being God. These first ten verses are a vivid picture of antichrist in the Old Testament; and that picture is further developed in the New Testament, as all opposition to God gathers around to worship the devil....

7 Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness.

8 They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas.

9 Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee.

10 Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

~ So, we are to take up a lamentation to Satan. There are two things said about the devil that are literally contrary to every mental picture mankind has about him today. First, Satan seals up the sum, and is full of wisdom. No man can match the devil in complete wit or wisdom. No man is going to outsmart Satan. Some people say, "... *the devil made me do it.*" Well, maybe – but I doubt it – because Satan doesn't even have time for most people today. Satan doesn't care about you being nice, or giving vast amounts of money to feed baby orphans. He doesn't care if you play church. Satan doesn't care if you quote mindless Christian memes all day long, or endlessly spout Christian clichés – and he doesn't even care if you grab a Bible verse here and there, and tell other people about how wonderful Jesus is. No, my friends, the devil only cares about *ONE* thing and *ONE* thing only: preventing you from a proper, correct and complete

comprehension of sound doctrine through a competent, educated, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led Bible study. Nothing else. Period. Full stop.

God *O-N-L-Y* speaks to us in His Word; nowhere else. If you are dreaming up ideas, and claiming God is speaking to you, or if you are seeing visions of God, then the devil is laughing in your face. Satan transforms himself into an angel of light; and you'll never know the difference. That's the devil in your dreams; and you think it is God. The devil gave you that "vision" – which is not Biblical – but you lean on your own understanding according to your own little standard of goodness. When the devil has you thinking God is speaking to you outside of the Bible, then his mission is accomplished – you're his, my beloved. When Satan gets you there, then you will proceed to wreck your life all by yourself. That's when you will realize that you only have yourself to blame. You won't even find Satan at that point, because he will be indwelling you – and you will erroneously mistake Satan to be the Holy Spirit....

13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

~ The second thing said of Satan in the Word of God that is contrary to mankind's misconception of him is that he is perfect in beauty. Don't kid yourselves, friends, Satan is *SO* much smarter than you are; and he is also the most beautiful creature God ever made. All of this is directly contrary to the world's thinking about the devil. Very few people understand the depths of how deceived mankind truly is. Verse thirteen is not the vegetative Garden of Adam in Eden; this is the Garden of Eden of God in Heaven. Apparently God has His Own Garden that emulates Eden, but is made of precious stones. Well, Satan was covered – clothed, if you will – with those precious stones; just as Adam and Eve covered themselves in fig leaves. Every precious stone was Satan's covering. Interestingly, these stones are the same stones that the breastplate of the high priests garment was made out of in Exodus chapter twenty-eight verse fifteen; and they are the stones found in the New Jerusalem in Revelation chapter twenty-one –

which becomes the new habitation of the church. Those are the only three places these stones are mentioned in the entire Word of God, by the way; one of them being in connection with Satan who had these stones as a covering, because he was in the presence of God Almighty. Turn that over in your mind a few times and see what you come up with.

Moreover, Satan was a living musical instrument. The devil is always pleasant to look at, nice to hold and handle, and easy to listen to. Some so-called Christians spend *ALL DAY* listening to "*Christian music*" that is objectively a Satanic distraction filling their minds. Candidly, I believe that when Satan fell from Heaven, he landed right in the choir loft! Music is the devil's forte; it's what he does best. Music is what the devil is all about, my friends; and music originated in the Bible in the progeny of Cain. As we read on now, verse fourteen says he was the anointed cherub that covereth. That means he belonged to the highest order of creation. The devil was the *protector* of the throne of God Almighty. I think Satan had unprecedented access to God and God's government, and a more extensive dominion than any other creature has ever had. The "*holy mountain of God*" speaks of God's government and the "*stones of fire*" speak of God's judgment....

14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

~ This is where everything went wrong for Satan: iniquity was found in him. That iniquity was pride – nothing else. Satan was a complete creature; but none of us can say we are complete today. We all have inadequacy, needs, and frustrations in this life. Apparently, Satan lost his position of power quickly after being created; although this time frame could span millions – or trillions – of years. Judgment is now pronounced on the devil; but only to a limited-degree at this time. We're going to see Satan go from the stones of fire to the lake of fire – and that will be a most intriguing study; but it will have to wait until we get there in Scripture – or I could easily write one hundred more reports on this subject alone. Frankly, I wish I could do that.

Remember, sin originated in Heaven; sin did not begin on this earth – and we find repeated statements concerning fire throughout the Bible – all of them connected to Satan in some form or fashion.

In the interest of a complete Bible study, I will add this, as we close this report: we live in a universe today that is a consuming fire. Our universe is a raging furnace. The subject is a remarkable pursuit for those who are interested. The sun releases enough hydrogen to explode the earth multiple times every second. Further, our little sun is nothing compared to some of the great galaxies that are being discovered. Then, beyond that, are even more galaxies; and they are all built like little atoms, revolving around a center, and they're all filled with *fire*. It is quite interesting to examine the connection of fire and this creature called Satan, and understanding that his judgment is such. Well, Satan says to you today, through the things of the world, "... you're okay. You're smart. You're clever. You're a good citizen. You really don't need this ridiculous Spiritual Safari Bible teaching. You're alright with God. YOU DON'T NEED HIM!" ~

16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

20 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

21 Son of man, set thy face against Zidon, and prophesy against it,

22 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Zidon; and I will be glorified in the midst of thee: and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall have executed judgments in her, and shall be sanctified in her.

23 For I will send into her pestilence, and blood into her streets; and the wounded shall be judged in the midst of her by the sword upon her on every side; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

24 And there shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor any grieving thorn of all that are round about them, that despised them; and they shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

25 Thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered, and shall be sanctified in them in the sight of the heathen, then shall they dwell in their land that I have given to my servant Jacob ~

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