

The Terror against Tyre

Text: Isaiah 23:1-18

Date: 6-20-21 @ 10:30 AM

Man can ignore God but only for so long. The church has for the most part chosen not to mourn over sin. Eventually God's patience will run out and man will be forced to face the consequences of their choices.

Truth: No matter how strong a nation's economy is, no matter efficiently its production centers make product, no matter how much wealth is accumulated, failing to trust in the Provider of the wealth will always bring a nation down in judgment.

The Babylonian empire became a dominant military power via corruption and conflict. Meanwhile, Tyre had grown through peaceful means including trade, merchant mariners, and the planting of colonies.

I. Isaiah prophecies of the coming anguish upon Tyre (Isaiah 23:1-8).

Through the advancement of its commercial and economic prowess, Tyre had advanced many kings and leaders around the known world. Its influence had led to many merchants and traders becoming well-respected and honored government leaders. Yet, here the nation stands in economic ruins.

Who has planned the demise of the princes and honored of the earth?

II. Isaiah prophecies that the hand of the Lord is what will bring to naught the pride of Tyre (Isaiah 23:9-12).

The Lord of hosts had planned Tyre's defeat. He had also planned Babylon (14:27) and Egypt's (19:23) defeat.

The word *stain* here then means to make the proud humble by lowering it to a status of common or less than common.

God was in effect taking the pride and wealth of Tyre and rendering it common and profane. That which was for glory was now humbled and lost. God has the power to take the glory of a nation and humble it in a matter of days.

God's will thus is centered on destruction of the wicked and elevation of His people. God's will is not that anyone should perish, so for a time God allows evil men to continue. But in due time and according to His purposes, He acts and brings nations and peoples into subjection. What stands in the way of His will and His decrees will be destroyed. **God's purposes will never fail, for He is truly sovereign.**

III. Isaiah prophecies of the siege of the city (Isa. 23:13-18).

Thus as Assyria did to Babylon, so will Babylon do to Tyre in destroying it through God's hand of judgment.

Why would it be likened to prostitution? Perhaps Isaiah had in mind the Phoenician commerce was equivalent to insatiable desire for fleshly desire and to seek as much gain as humanly possible.

Even so our profit and material gain can make us prideful and we can think that we are responsible for our wealth. God, though, is responsible for providing all that we have.