

EZEKIEL

Please turn in your Bibles to Ezekiel chapter 26 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Keep in mind that last week we began a new section in Ezekiel that deals with the judgment of the nation's that surrounded Jerusalem. This covers Ezekiel chapters 25-32. In this section we see some 16 nations that God's judgment will be poured out upon so that they may know who the Lord is!

In chapters 26-28 Ezekiel is focusing on the judgment of Tyre and this can be broken down as follows. In chapter 26 the focus is the destruction of Tyre. In chapter 27 the focus is the lament over Tyre. And then in chapter 28 we see the fall of the Prince of Tyre and the King of Tyre, which is very interesting as we shall see. It is also interesting to note the accuracy of these prophecies against Tyre and we will see that as we go through this chapter. Then, there are four verses of Ezekiel chapter 28, Ezekiel 28:20-24 that speaks of the judgment against Sidon and the last two verses deal with Israel.

In regards to Tyre, keep in mind that Tyre was located some forty miles north of Israel's northern boundary and it was a seaport city and one of the greatest commercial centers of the time. Of this city we are told the following by J. Vernon McGee. He wrote,

Tyre was the capital of the great Phoenician nation which was famous for its seagoing traders. They plied [worked] the Mediterranean and even went beyond that. We know today that they went around the Pillars of Hercules and the Rock of Gibraltar, and into Great Britain, where they obtained tin. They established a colony in North Africa. Tarshish in Spain was founded by these people. They were great colonizers and went a lot farther than we used to think they did in their explorations.

Tyre was a great and proud city. Hiram, king of Tyre, had been a good friend of David and supplied him with building materials. Solomon and Hiram did not get along as well as David and Hiram had. Apparently Hiram was a great king. But, also, the center of Baal worship was there in Tyre and Sidon. Jezebel, the daughter of a king and former priest, married Ahab, king of Israel, and introduced Baal worship into the northern kingdom.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible, Vol. III, p. 487

So with that sad, let's begin reading in Ezekiel chapter 26 and see what the Lord has for us this evening we study through His Word.

EZEKIEL 26

VERSES 1-14

1. We are given the date of this prophecy, it was in the eleventh year of Jehoiachin's captivity, the siege against Jerusalem by the Babylonians has been going on for about nine months or so at this point.

Now what was the sin that brought God's judgment upon Tyre? Israel never was at war with this nation, so that was not the reason. We are told that the sin of Tyre was her rejoicing over the destruction of Jerusalem, not because she hated them, but because of greed. In Joel 3:5-6 we are told speaking of Tyre, "**Because you have taken My silver and My gold, And have carried into your temples My prized possessions. Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem You have sold to the Greeks, That you may remove them far from their borders.**"

First of all we are told that Tyre profited from the conquest of Judah by Babylon. Secondly, they took slaves from Judah and sold them to the Greeks, making a profit off the people of God. Also, with the destruction of Jerusalem they could no longer be taxed on the goods they transported through Jerusalem. They did rejoice over that.

As I have said, Tyre was about 40 miles north of the borders of Israel, it was a sea coast city. And Tyre dominated the sea routes, but as they transported goods by caravan through Judah to Egypt, they would be taxed. Jerusalem, in a sense, was the gateway to the south, to Egypt, but not any longer. Now they could transport lots of goods southward, and they would be tax free enabling them to make lots of money now that Jerusalem was out of the way. Because of that attitude, God was going to wipe them out as the sea would cover the land!

2. Now as we look at this prophecy of the destruction of Tyre it is amazing! This is so accurate that Peter Stoner, in his book, *Science Speaks*, says that the probability of these things happening by a random chance occurrence is 1 in 400 million! And that drives the critiques of the Bible crazy. They can't understand how this can be.

But for Christians who believes the Bible is the Word of God, and that God is omniscient or all-knowing, this is easy to understand. You see, this is nothing for Him to do and it is easy then for us to believe. It is as Isaiah 42:8-9 says, **"I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."**

And in Isaiah 44:6-8 we read, **“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’”** God knows the beginning from the end and He has told us what has come to pass and there is much prophecy that is future and these things will come to pass!

3. And so let’s examine this incredible prediction in light of the historical events that have taken place. Only a few years after this prophecy was spoken, in 588 B. C., King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians came down, and for some reason they turned from going to Egypt and they headed towards Tyre. The problem the Babylonians encountered was that the people of Tyre were stronger than they thought and they held on for some 13 years. From verses 7-11 we see this spoken of. And after 13 years they finally breached the walls of the city and to their surprise they only found a few soldiers remaining in the city as a decoy as well as those who could not get out of the city.

You see, over a period of time the people and their possessions were moved out of Tyre and onto an island that was off shore about a ½ mile. And the night time exodus that occurred, paid off. The people and the wealth were gone, and for his 13 years of battle the Babylonians got nothing in return. So they destroyed the buildings, the structures and the soldiers who remained, but that was all they got out of this battle. The problem for the Babylonians is that they had no booty or spoils from this battle.

4. As you read these verses you can see that this judgment God is pouring out on Tyre is going to be severe. It speaks of Tyre being flattened - a flat Tyre you might say! Not only that but it also speaks of them not being spared - no spare Tyre either! But this was not fulfilled by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. Nebuchadnezzar did besiege Tyre but just the mainland suburbs and never the island fortress. In fact, it would not be fulfilled for another 243 years or so. History shows us that in 332 B. C. Alexander the Great came on the scene sweeping across the land with the intention of conquering the whole known world, which he did.

And as he came to Tyre he was determined to destroy it. This was a challenge to this great military leader. In verse 3 it speaks of many nations coming down upon Tyre, and that is exactly what took place. As Alexander the Great conquered other nations he put them into his military, made them slaves and used them to defeat Tyre. In this second phase of the destruction of Tyre we see Alexander the Great build a causeway out to this island that was ½ mile off shore using his soldiers and slaves to do the work.

This causeway was ½ mile long and 200 feet wide extending from the mainland to the island. Where did he get all the materials to build this causeway? He took the rubble, the ruins from the city of Tyre that was on the mainland and destroyed by the Babylonians. And he took all these materials, scraping the dust from the land, and pushed them into the sea and he built this ½ mile causeway out to this island that was now the city of Tyre.

The problem for Alexander and his men was that the people of Tyre were using catapults to fling pots of burning naphtha or highly flammable liquid, sulfur and red-hot sand. Thus, to protect his men, Alexander assembled a fleet of over 300 ships to protect them.

After about seven months or so of this he ordered his ships to construct battering rams on them and they forced their way on to the two island harbors. As they broke through the walls eight thousand people were slaughtered, thirty thousand were sold into slavery and later on another two thousand were hung. But the causeway was completed!

5. Now let's look at this idea of "**many nations**" coming against Tyre that is spoken of in verse 3 of Ezekiel chapter 26. Could this be speaking of the many nations that Alexander used to attack Tyre? It could be but it can also be speaking of future attacks against Tyre, probably both apply.

As we have seen Tyre did become a city once again. In fact it became a major Islamic city as Islam was sweeping across the land. And in 1290 A. D. the Crusaders from France, England, and Germany came to take the holy land from the infidels. And they did defeat the Muslims and made Tyre into a Crusader city!

But within a few years the Muslims mounted up their forces and took back the city of Tyre from the Crusaders. And the Muslims were so upset that Christians had overtaken them and used this land for their own purposes, and I use that term "Christian" very loosely when I speak of the Crusaders, that the Muslims dismantled the city. They took every timber, every rock, anything that was left in this city and threw it into the sea. And so, as verse 4 says, nothing is left of Tyre but the dust of the city, just as God had said would take place. That is pretty accurate and there is even more!

6. Now if you go to this area today all you will find is a small fishing village that uses this causeway that Alexander the Great had made to dry their fishing nets upon. It is just as verse 5 and verse 14 says! The strange thing is, the location of this city is ideal to flourish as a big city; it should have been rebuilt again.

It has been estimated that the water supply they have in this area, fresh water, is between 10,000 to 1 million gallons of water per day! But, as verse 14 says, “**I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be a place for spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken,’ says the Lord GOD.**”

God declared it and we see it, and the sceptics are going crazy trying to figure out how this can be! But we have no problem understanding this because the Creator of heaven and earth knows the future as if it was the present and He declares it to us with 100% accuracy! Awesome prophecy, don't you just love it?

VERSES 15-21

1. Here we see the coastal neighbors of Tyre, those who depended upon Tyre for their trade and commerce and they are mourning over the destruction of this city. These people will sit in mourning over what was lost, their wealth, their resources.

You see, these nations and cities were looking to Tyre to move their goods, and even after their destruction they were looking for them to return, but God said their destruction would be complete, they would never rise again.

In verse 13 we read, “**I will put an end to the sound of your songs, and the sound of your harps shall be heard no more.**” Tyre was known for its musicians and music, but God pulled the plug on them. You might say it was the day the music died! And you can go to the site of ancient Tyre and see that what God has said has come to pass! This is a vivid object lesson for us to learn from.

Now think about these nations that mourned and why they were so upset. As I have said, they needed Tyre for their own personal gain, their own purposes, but now Tyre was gone and they are lamenting over this. And think about this. They were not mourning for the people that were destroyed but because it affected their lifestyle! The heart of man is truly evil!

2. Please don't misunderstand what I am saying here, don't miss the point. I see commercials for animal cruelty and that is wrong, it is horrible. And we see those on these commercials speak of not harming any creature and yet, I wonder how many of those same people who stand up for animals are for abortion? It is a double standard. You see, children affect the lifestyle of many and thus, they are done away with, they are murdered in the womb!

Also, for us as Christians, what are we placing our hope in? Are we placing our hope in money, jobs, people, toys, programs, things in general, and when they are taken away or fail, do we mourn? I am sure we do but what about the 56,597,034 people who die every year in this world, which is about 155,000 a day? And out of that 155,000 per day who die how many of those people know the Lord?

You see, are we grieved over that or are we grieved because something has been taken away from us? In the end folks, all these things will wither and die, fall apart, rust, and-so-on and the only thing that is important are the lives of men and women and children! Their eternal destiny rests upon knowing Jesus and may we not lose sight of that! Jesus is the source of our joy and apart from Him, nothing will satisfy!

If you are still not sure about that then listen to someone who walked with Jesus, heard Jesus teach, touched Jesus! The apostle John put it this way in I John 1:1-4, **“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”**

You see, that joy is found as we are in fellowship with the Lord. Anything else we look to we will eventually be disappointed in. But in God, He is faithful and true, and the joy He gives to us is unchanging, it is constant! You must choose who you are going to fellowship with, may it be the Lord!

3. Now in verses 19-21 of Ezekiel chapter 26 notice the picture that God is painting for us regarding Tyre. God is saying that this city, these ancient mariners, their fate would be like the sea engulfing them, swallowing them up. Make no mistake about it that is something that seafaring people understood and had a respect for, the power of the seas, and especially those who sailed long ago as well as today. And Ezekiel takes that description even farther when he says their ultimate fate will be the pit, Sheol, the abode for the dead who have died outside of the faith.

Now some may try to argue that this is not speaking of Hell, it is not Sheol but look at the description. They will never be found again! In their pride, in their arrogance God brought them down. And God is using the destruction of Tyre to bring terror to the hearts of other people and nations who are proud and they need to listen and turn to the Lord or their fate will be the same! They will go to the pit of Hell and never be found again, eternally separated from God in the Lake of Fire! No one will be able to find them again in the land of the living!

4. Now as we move into Ezekiel chapter 27 we will be looking at the lament over Tyre! And this section is written in poetic and picturesque fashion. It portrays this commercial and maritime city as a beautiful and strong ship that becomes shipwrecked in a storm and sinks down to the bottom of the sea.

As we look at this chapter it can be broken down into 3 sections. In Ezekiel 27:1-9 we see that Tyre is described as a beautiful ship and it speaks of her past glory. Then, in Ezekiel 27:10-25 we see all of the nations she traded her merchandise with and those that were there to aid her. And then we will conclude this chapter in Ezekiel 27:26-36 as we look at the catastrophic shipwreck of Tyre, her destruction by God. Keep that in mind as we read through this chapter.

EZEKIEL 27**VERSES 1-9**

1. Look at the description of Tyre. It is likened to a beautiful ship that was constructed with materials from all over the world! They were not military ships but merchant ships that transported merchandise all over the world! Not only was this ship built solid, but it had repair men on board to fix any leaks or problems that might spring up while they are sailing on the seas. (Ezekiel 27:9). They also hired people to come in to do the work, to row the giant oars to propel the ship. (Ezekiel 27:8). But their own people, the people of Tyre were in control of their destiny, they were the pilots of this ship and their lives or so they thought!

We also need to keep in mind after reading Ezekiel chapter 26 that Tyre had not been destroyed. It was in 588 B. C. that the Babylonians attempted and failed to wipe them out and then, some 243 years later Alexander the Great completed the task with one final destruction occurring in sometime after 1290 A. D. by the Muslims that finally put this city to rest.

And yet, when you read this, their destruction was so certain that God calls for them to issue forth a funeral dirge for Tyre as if it already happened. That is what this chapter is all about? Why would God put their destruction as if it already happened? Because what God says will come to pass, you can take that to the bank!

2. And here is that issue of pride that comes in. We see that in verses 3-7 of Ezekiel chapter 27. They saw themselves as strong, as powerful, as wealthy. And this is all described by the illustration of a ship, which is interesting when you consider this city was a maritime community. As I have said, this ship was put together beautifully. The wood they used was strong, beautiful and resilient. The oars that were made could cut through any sea with ease. And the sails they made could guide them wherever they wanted to go, near or far!

Now as you read of how they saw themselves the one thing that comes to mind for me and I would think for you is this issue of ***PRIDE!*** Many nations have been brought down, destroyed by this thing we call pride. And all pride really is, when you think about it, is a sense of superiority, seeing yourself as something you are not. And anyone who is filled with pride has no room for God!

Proverbs 26:12 says this, “**Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.**” Why is that so? Because self-conceit or pride in a person blinds them to their sense of need for God and in God’s eyes they are worse than a fool. At least he may see his weakness, the fool, and see his need for God and turn towards Him; there is a little hope in the fool but nothing in the person who sees himself as wise!

We were all there at one time. We did not see our need for God. We were in control of our own lives or so we thought. And the thing that kept us thinking that way was pride!

Not only that but pride keeps people from receiving the truths of God's Word. Remember in Jeremiah chapter 43, as Jeremiah tried to warn those who were not taken captive to Babylon not to flee down to Egypt but to remain in the land of Israel. He was telling them this was God's will for them. But we read in Jeremiah chapter 43, beginning in verse 1, **“Now it happened, when Jeremiah had stopped speaking to all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, all these words, that Azariah the son of Hoshaiiah, Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men spoke, saying to Jeremiah, ‘You speak falsely! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, “Do not go to Egypt to dwell there.” But Baruch the son of Neriah has set you against us, to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they may put us to death or carry us away captive to Babylon.”**” Jeremiah 43:1-3.

Now what is the main reason they came to this conclusion? I will give you a little clue; it is just one word, five letters. It was ***PRIDE*** that caused them to come to this conclusion, they were not wrong or so they thought. Look at what verse 2 says, **“all the proud men spoke”**

Pride is a terrible thing because it causes people to do things that are contrary to the will and the Word of God. And how many today are in cults, false religious systems and they refuse Jesus because of pride, they know they are right, they just feel it!

May we be wise and follow what John said in Revelation 1:3, **“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”** Make no mistake about it; ***PRIDE*** truly blinds us to the things of God because we tend to think we know better. It truly is an ***“I”*** problem!

3. Now as we move into Ezekiel 27:10-25 we see all of the nations she traded her merchandise with and those that were there to aid her.

VERSES 10-25

1. Now we see all the nations they traded with, even Judah was involved. And not only was Tyre wealthy, but they fed the material appetite of these other nations. It was a good relationship as both parties prospered, receiving the things they wanted. Some of the merchandise they traded was: gold, silver, iron, tin, lead, precious stones, *people*, animals, spices and garments. Their ships were like a floating Walmart or Sears store. And things were going so well, but it was now time to pay the piper. God's longsuffering was over and His judgment was going to fall!

2. Now as you read of what they traded in it should sound familiar. You see, there is a last day's commercial center that is called Babylon and we read of this in Revelation chapter 18. Look at what we are told beginning in verse 9 as we see another ship that is going to sink, **“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’ And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: *merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’ They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’”*** Revelation 18:9-19.

We have not changed much and we did not learn the lesson. Look at what people put their trust in, look at what they are lusting after. I was amazed at the Super Bowl commercials this year, not for content but for cost. It cost these companies to advertise for 30 seconds 4 million dollars! And the reason they do it is because merchandise sells and it sells big time! They are not going to lose money doing these commercials and thus, they go after people to make them covet what they are selling, even if they don't need it!

And just like Tyre, just like commercial Babylon here in Revelation chapter 18, it will be brought down and for commercial Babylon, in just one hour all that people placed their hopes, their joy, their life in will be destroyed, it will be gone. They placed their life upon shifting sand and when the sand shifts they will have nothing to stand upon. Place your life upon the Rock, Jesus Christ and you will not be shaken when this world is shaken!

3. And the next 11 verses of Ezekiel chapter 27, verses 26-36 look at the catastrophic shipwreck of Tyre, her destruction by God.

VERSES 26-36

1. Again we see the picture of a ship that represents Tyre. And it was a strong ship, a mighty ship, a wealthy ship that other nations looked to. Not only was this a strong ship but they also hired the best mercenary army that money could buy to protect them and their wealth! Again, they were sailors not warriors and thus, they looked to others to protect them.

They traveled near and far on the sea's until one day a violent east wind came and sunk their ship. In the place she felt so secure, the sea's, became her graveyard. Now traveling can be very dangerous on the Mediterranean Sea, especially during the fall and winter months when the winds can be unpredictable. And an east wind can blow a ship far away from the coast and out into the middle of the Mediterranean Sea where there was little hope for survival or can cause you to crash into land.

But I don't believe this is a literal east wind but I think it represents the Babylonians who came from the east and besieged the city of Tyre beginning in 588 B. C. and it continued on for 13 years. Tyre was going down into the sea like a sinking ship.

Now when you look at what they had acquired, when you see what they had it all looked so good, so well planned out. But in the end, this ship was sunk, Tyre was destroyed! They placed their security, their lives in something that could not help them and make no mistake about that, people do that today!

Who are you putting your trust in? Who are you looking to for protection? Do you think you are the master of your destiny? If you do, ***LOOK OUT!*** Proverbs 16:18 says, "**Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.**" There is only One we should be putting our trust in, there is only One who we should be coming to for protection and that is the Lord!

2. Now as you look at verses 28-32 of Ezekiel chapter 27 you see all the nations and people that prospered from her and now that Tyre is destroyed, they will mourn her death. And once again this is not because the people of Tyre are gone, but the merchandise, the business, the things they enjoyed for so long has been taken away from them. And for that reason they will mourn over Tyre's destruction. Again, you read the destruction of commercial Babylon in Revelation chapter 18 and you see the same thought, the same idea. Not mourning over the death of the people but that they can't buy what they want anymore!

And this same thought continues on in verses 33-36 of Ezekiel chapter 27. God is going to destroy Tyre, the destruction will be complete, they will not rise again. And we see the fulfillment of that prophecy today, Tyre is no more.

And again, notice the reason the people are upset over Tyre's destruction, because their goods, their merchandise, their toys have been taken away. Look at Ezekiel 27:33-34 once again as we see what brought them happiness and then when it was taken away great sadness. We are told, **“When your wares went out by sea, You satisfied many people; You enriched the kings of the earth With your many luxury goods and your merchandise. But you are broken by the seas in the depths of the waters; Your merchandise and the entire company will fall in your midst.”**

Can you imagine a people being so cold, so callous, so heartless? Before you answer that, do a heart check and see how you respond when someone takes something away from you! Also, in these last days, listen to what we are told these days will be like and see if Paul nails it. He said in II Timothy 3:1-5, **“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”**

What do these 18 characteristics stem from? What we started out with, *SELF-LOVE!* That is why we are to deny self, crucify the flesh because if you don't, you open yourself up to these other characteristics being manifested in your life. Now, as you read through these things, are they an indication that we are living in the last days, that the Lord's return is getting closer? I believe they are! It is as Jesus said in Matthew 24:12, **“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”** When you see how cold people are to the things that they are doing or are being done to others, what Jesus was speaking of us upon us!

3. J. Vernon McGee sums this this chapter up for us like this. He wrote,

As I walked through the ruins of Tyre I heard no music nor laughter. I could not see the buildings or the gold and silver. All I saw were broken pieces of pottery and the wreck and ruin of what had once been a great city. And the God of heaven says, “I judged you.” There must be a message in this picture of Tyre for our day and generation.

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible, Vol. III, p. 490

I believe there is a message for us. People's lives are already broken like broken pieces of pottery. And what is pottery made of? It is made of clay. What is man made up of? Man is also made of clay, the elements that are found in clay.

And Christ has come to take our broken lives and put them back together again like only He can do! If you refuse to come to Christ then He will judge you and the destruction will be devastating and eternal!

4. As we move into chapter 28 this evening we see the fall of the Prince of Tyre and the King of Tyre, which is very interesting as we shall see. And as we conclude this chapter, the four verses of Ezekiel chapter 28, Ezekiel 28:20-24 speak of the judgment against Sidon and the last two verses deal with Israel.

EZEKIEL 28

VERSES 1-10

1. This judgment is not just against Tyre but against its leader, the Prince of Tyre. I believe this is speaking of Ethbaal III. And in the prosperity of his city he thought of himself as a god. And I think that is the key, he thought he was a god, but the Lord tells him he is just a man, not a god! In fact, he thought of himself as smart as Daniel. The issue here is pride and it will lead to his fall, his destruction. I will share with you in a few minutes who I think this is a picture of.

2. Now this brings me to an important point and something that Satan deceived Eve with and he continues to deceive people today – we can be like God! That is a New Age teaching and yet it has come into the church. We are not God, never have been and never will be. It is not that we forgot we are God, which again is foolish to even think of but as the Lord said to the prince of Tyre, **“But you shall be a man, and not a god, In the hand of him who slays you.”** Ezekiel 28:9.

And with the seeker sensitive churches, the purpose driven churches, and now the emerging church, we are seeing this promoted. We have talked about this before so I am just going to share a short synopsis of what is going on so you get the idea that this is in the church and people are buying into it!

Let me show you how America’s pastor is leading people into New Age teaching and the people love it! You may have heard of and you may even have read Rick Warren’s book, *The Purpose Driven Life*. In the book Rick has one of his main themes of “hope” and “purpose.”

What is interesting to me is that he cites Dr. Bernie Siegel, who is a veteran New Age leader and he even has a spirit-guide named George. I wonder if George is curious, if so then of course, he would be Curious George! I know, sorry. But if you are going to buy into this lie then don’t be surprised what this demon named George will tell you and where he will lead you!

Now here is the problem. Rick quotes Ephesians 4:6 from the New Century Version and it conveys the idea that God is “in” everything, which is foundational to New Age teaching. The NCV has this verse like this, “He rules everything and is everywhere and is in everything.”

Compare that to the KJV, “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” You see, very different! Not only that, but Rick tells us regarding God, that the Bible says, “He rules everything and is everywhere and is in everything.” (Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*, p. 88). I am sorry, but check out New Age teaching and that is foundational, as I have said!

Also, in *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren quotes Eugene Peterson’s Bible version or I should say abomination more than any other Bible version. What is wrong with that, what is wrong with *The Message*? Listen carefully,

One of the many examples of the New Age implications of *The Message* is seen in Eugene Peterson’s paraphrasing of the Lord’s Prayer. Where most translations read “in earth, as it is in heaven,” Peterson inserts the occult/New Age phrase “as above, so below.” The significance of this mystical occult saying is seen clearly in *As Above, So Below*, a book published in 1992 by the editors of *New Age* journal. Chief editor Ronald S. Miller describes how the occult/magical saying “as above, so below” conveys the “fundamental truth about the universe” – the teaching that “we are all one” because God is “immanent” or within” everyone and everything.

- Warren Smith, *A “Wonderful” Deception*, p. 18

Now let me tie this into another topic that is very New Age and is coming into the church today. Listen to the definition of this phrase, “as above, so below.” We are told,

This phrase comes from the beginning of The Emerald Tablet and embraces the entire system of traditional and modern magic which was inscribed upon the tablet in cryptic wording by Hermes Trismegistus. The significance of this phrase is that it is believed to hold the key to all mysteries. All systems of magic are claimed to function by this formula. “‘That which is above is the same as that which is below’ . . . The universe is the same as God, God is the same as man.”

- As Above, So Below” (http://www.themystica.com/mystica/articles/a/below_above.html)

Do you see what is being said here? It is saying that we are God because God is in everything! How can that be? Those New Age bookstores are not around anymore, they don't have to be. These books are in Christian bookstores and they are selling like hotcakes! I truly believe that the world, including the so-called Christian church or I should say apostate church will go, they will come to believe they are god or part of the god consciousness, they will be and are being deceived right now and it will open the door to the One-World Religion because if we are all god then we are all one!

Listen carefully to what God's Word has to say about this. In Isaiah 44:6-7, verses we have read this evening already but are important, and we are told, **"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, let them show these to them.'"** I think that closes the door on us being God because there is only One God who is manifested in three distinct persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit!

And think about this, God will not share His glory with anyone, as He says in Isaiah 42:8-9, **"I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."** Thus, those who think they are God, they will be brought down like men because that is what they are, not God!

3. Now God asks the Prince of Tyre if he is smarter than Daniel, who was a captive in Babylon, and of course he was not. You see, the Prince of Tyre was relying on human wisdom while Daniel relied on the wisdom that was from God.

In fact, before Daniel reveals to the King of Babylon his dream and the interpretation of that dream, he says, **“Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, ‘The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these.’”** Daniel 2:27-28. You see, it was the all-knowing God that revealed these things to Daniel, not his own human wisdom or understanding.

4. Now we have been talking about the prince of Tyre but now the focus is going to be the King of Tyre. This is the power behind the Prince of Tyre. Now I believe that this Prince of Tyre is a type of the Antichrist and that is interesting to me because, as we are going to see, The King of Tyre is not speaking of a human figure, the King of Tyre was Satan himself! And we know that the Antichrist will be worshiped as god just as the Prince of Tyre desired and thought of himself as!

VERSES 11-19

1. Now some like to say that this is speaking of the King of Tyre but when you look at the description there is no way that it fits. Thus, they say, “The language is poetic, and highly figurative.” (James E. Smith, An Exegetical Commentary on EZEKIEL, pp. 174). I disagree with that line of reasoning and I will show you why.

As you come to verse 14 of Ezekiel chapter 28 you see that this person or creature that is described is called the anointed Cherub, in other words, an angelic being. And when Lucifer was created, he was beautiful, perfect in beauty. Then where did all these ideas of Lucifer or Satan being some grotesque monster come from? Some came from the Middle Ages with its origins back in Greek mythology. In the temple of Apollo in Pergamos, there is a description of the god Pan or Bacchus. He is the god of pleasure. And he is described as having horns; from his waist down he is represented as a goat. And then Dante painted a picture of Satan with all those grotesque features, but that is not the way he was created or looks.

In knowing that we must be wise for Satan is a master of deception. Paul reminds us of this very thing in II Corinthians 11:13-15 where he tells us, **“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”**

We also need to keep in mind that Lucifer or Satan is a created being, not the brother of Jesus! Also, in verse 13 of Ezekiel chapter 28 we see that Lucifer may have been the worship leader in heaven! And it is not that he just could play the pipes and timbrels but he was one. Out of his voice came this beautiful music. He was the worship leader of heaven. He was an instrument of worship. And as we have seen in our study in the book of Revelation, heaven is filled with praise and worship music unto the Lord. But when he rebelled against God, Satan took the thing that was used to worship God by and perverted it.

Music is a powerful tool that affects people's lives. It will either bring them to heaven or to the pit of Hell. You see, Satan now gets people into all kinds of immoral activities, lifestyles through music. But with Godly words, the music can bring people out of the pit of Hell and into heaven. What are you listening to?

2. Now as you look at verses 14-17 of Ezekiel chapter 28 you get the idea of why Lucifer or Satan fell, ***PRIDE!*** This perfect creation of God became proud of his beauty. He saw himself as something special. And in Isaiah chapter 14 we see a parallel passage to what Ezekiel is speaking on. Beginning in verse 12 we read, **“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’”** Isaiah 14:12-14.

Those five **“I will”** statements brought Lucifer, the light bearer, the shining one, down to the pit of Hell and he became Satan, destroyer, the dragon, the Devil, that serpent of old. His appearance hasn't changed only his actions! And Isaiah continues on by saying in verse 15, **“Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, Who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?’”** Isaiah 14:15-17.

This creature that has destroyed so many lives, who we often give so much credit to, we will be amazed at. He is still beautiful; he does not look harmful or grotesque. And yet, look at what this one fallen angel has done because people are willing to listen to his lies. Not only that, but he was able to get 1/3 of the angels to rebel with him against God.

And make no mistake about it; he will be cast into the Lake of Fire one day. His time is short and thus, he is going to destroy as many lives as he can before the judgment of God falls upon him. As the Lord said in Ezekiel 28:19, “**And you shall be no more forever.**”

3. In verse 18 of Ezekiel chapter 28 we see this word, “**training**” and it speaks of, “to go about from one to another.” In other words Satan goes around sowing his seed of destruction and lies to people, and many buy into it and receive it. We tend to feel today that we have the right to do what we want. We say things like, “Nobody is going to tell me what to do!” Or “I’m in charge of my own life!” It is a lifestyle that says, “No restrictions!” or “Total freedom!” And what they don’t realize is that Satan has placed them in total bondage! And the pride that caused Satan to fall will do the same to us if we buy into his lies. Don’t forget, the middle letter in “pride” is “P”!

VERSES 20-24

1. Now God is going to pronounce judgment upon Sidon, a sister city of Tyre which was some 20 miles farther up the Mediterranean coast. Interestingly enough, the sinful practices of Baal worship were introduced into Israel through the wife of King Ahab. Her name was Jezebel, and she was the daughter of Ethbaal King of the Sidonians. (I Kings 16:31)

Now the Scriptures tell us that Tyre was completely destroyed and it would not be raised up again, which we can see today. But for Sidon, they were not going to be completely destroyed, and they weren't. Sidon is still in existence today as a town in Lebanon!

VERSES 25-26

1. This speaks of Israel dwelling safely in the land and that they will know the Lord. Do we see that today? Yes Israel is back in the land once again but they are not dwelling safely and the nation as a whole doesn't know the Lord. But there is coming a day when they will, in the Kingdom Age, a time of future restoration and blessings as Jesus rules and reigns on this earth for 1,000 years. And the nation of Israel will recognize Jesus as their Messiah.

What a great way to end our study this evening, with Jesus ruling and reigning on the throne of David in Jerusalem. But don't wait for that day to come, He can rule and reign in your life today if you would only humble yourself and surrender to Him!