

ISAIAH 23

Introduction

“Tyre (which means “The Rock”) was a famous Phoenician city noted for her commercial enterprises, great wealth and materialism. Tyre was so well-known that she was called a “market place of nations,” and her traders and merchants were so celebrated that they were equated with the princes and the “honorable of the earth.” (UI Pg. 204)



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FRANCE

ITALY

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TURKEY

ASSYRIA

BABYLONIA

ISRAEL

EGYPT

JUDAH

Mediterranean Sea

Tarshish?

Nineveh

Joppa

Gath-hepher

Jerusalem

THE FLIGHT

THE MISSION

Tarshish ☆

An unknown port city in the Western region of the Mediterranean (1:3), i.e. in the opposite direction to Nineveh.

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The Assyrian king (3:6)

The great fish (1:17)

Joppa ☆

A port city in Judah (1:3), where Jonah disobeyed and boarded a ship for Tarshish.

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Nineveh ☆

"That great city" (1:2), namely the capital of Assyria and home to 120,000 of Israel's enemies (as well as many cattle). Also, the mission destination of Jonah.

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The Temple (2:4,7)

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ISAIAH 23

Verses 1-14 Poetry
Verse 15 Prose
Verse 16 Poetry
Verse 17 & 18 Prose

Verse 1

The Burden of Tyre:

Howl, ye ships of Tarshish! (Possibly, port in Spain)

For (Tyre) is laid waste, so that there is no house and no entering in.
(stripped of warehouse and wharf)

Verse 2

(On their way) from the Land of Chittim (Cyprus),
It is revealed to them.

Be still, ye inhabitants of the Isle_(s),
Thou, whom the Merchants of Sidon, that pass over the sea,
have replenished.

Verse 3

The (grain) of Shihor, was her source of revenue.
The harvest of the river (Nile), was her source of revenue and
she (became) a (market) of nations.

Verse 4

Be thou ashamed, O Sidon, for the sea hath spoken; even the strength of the sea, saying:

I travail not, nor bring forth children,
Neither do I nourish up young men, nor bring up virgins.

(Children, young men, virgins – Signify the establishment of new outlying ports. No new trade can be established when the old is destroyed. The city of Sidon will be like a woman who can't give birth to sons and daughters. It will feel dismayed and ashamed.)

Verse 5

(When) the report concerning (Tyre reaches) Egypt,
(They shall) be sorely pained at the report.

Verse 6

Pass ye over to Tarshish,
Howl, ye inhabitants of the Isle_(s)!

Verse 7

Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days?
Her own feet carried her afar off to sojourn. (settle other lands)

Verse 8

Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the “Crowning City”?
Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, whose merchants
are princes; whose traffickers are the honorable of the
earth?

Verse 9

The Lord of Hosts hath proposed it:

To stain the pride of all glory, (glorious things - people)
To bring into contempt all the honorable (celebrities) of the earth.

(Pride should be in the Lord – Not in successes or created items. Isa. 13:3 Per Bro. Gileadi)

Verse 10

(Overflow) thy land like the river (Nile), O Daughter of Tarshish,
There is no more (harbor), O Daughter of Tarshish.

Verse 11

(The Lord will) stretch his hand over the Sea (Tyre) and shake
kingdoms,
(He will give) a command against The Merchant City (Tyre),
to destroy the strongholds (ports of haven) thereof.

Verse 12 (And)

He will say:

“Thou shalt no more rejoice (frolic), O thou oppressed
(ravaged) virgin,
“Thou shalt no more rejoice, O thou Daughter of Sidon.”

Verse 13

Arise, pass over to Chittim, there thou shalt have no rest.
Arise, pass over to the Land of the Chaldeans, they who founded
Tyre for shipping, there thou shalt have no rest.

(Was it not) the Assyrians who set up the (observatories) thereof,
They (exposed its fortifications) and they brought it to ruins.

Verse 14

Howl, ye ships of Tarshish!
Your strength (haven) is laid waste. (No harbor for war ships to return to)

Verse 15

It shall come to pass in that day:

Tyre shall be forgotten **seventy years**;
according to the days of one king,
After the end of **seventy years**,
Tyre shall sing as the harlot.

Verse 16



Take an harp, go about the city,
Thou harlot that hast been forgotten.



Take a lyre, go about the town,
O forgotten harlot.



Play skillfully: sing song after song,
That you may be remembered.

(This was apparently a well-known song)

- Verse 17 (And) **It shall come to pass after the end of seventy years,
that the Lord will visit Tyre:**
- (and) She shall return to her hire,
(and) She shall commit fornication (hire herself out) with all the
kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.
- Verse 18 (And) Her merchandise and her hire shall be Holiness (consecrated) to the Lord.
Her merchandise shall not be treasured (hoarded), nor laid up.
- Verse 19 (For)
(and) Her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the Lord,
Her merchandise shall be to eat sufficiently and for durable
clothing.

(At some future time – Seventy Years here is a symbolic number – 70 being part of 7 which stands for “a time period” that is perfect/complete – God’s Time - Immeasurable Time – Whenever a number is multiplied by 10 it means that a spiritual concept is brought to the world - Tyre’s goods and treasures will be used in Zion for righteous purposes - See Hag. 2: 6-9, Psa. 45:12, Isa. 60: 5-7)

Numbers and Their Symbolic Meaning

One = Unity/Sovereignty/God
Two = Division/Trouble, can also mean Unity (as in marriage)
Three = Trinity/Perfection
Four = Earth/Creation
Five = Grace
Six = Sin/Man
Seven = Divine Perfection/Complete/Eternal- Unending
Eight = Resurrection/New Beginning
Nine = Judgement
Ten = World Number (worldly government, control of world)
Eleven = Incomplete/Sinful
Twelve = Governmental Perfection (Godly Government)
Forty = Generation/Judgment/Trial
Fifty = Freedom/Joy/Jubilee
Seventy = Lifespan/Perfect World Government