



Established long ago in the land of merchants, a city-center grew luring traders from all over the world. Ezekiel identified the name of this city of traders. His recorded story is the spoken word of God. “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: A great eagle with powerful wings... came to Lebanon. Taking hold of the top of a cedar, he broke off its topmost shoot [took a member from God’s headquarters in heaven] and carried it away to a land of merchants, where he planted it in a **city of traders**” (Ezekiel 17:2-4).

“He [the great eagle – likely an image of a powerful, heavenly leader with God-given authority] took some of the seed of your land [royal members of the land of Israel] and put it in fertile soil. He planted it like a willow by abundant water, and it sprouted and became a low, spreading vine. Its branches turned toward him, but its roots remained under it” (Ezekiel 17:5, 6a).

God asked, “Do you know what this means?” (Ezekiel 17:11)

He replied to a rebellious nation of people, “The king of Babylon went to Jerusalem and carried off her king and her nobles, bringing them back with him to **Babylon**. Then he took a member of the royal family and made a treaty with him, putting him under oath. He also carried away the leading men of the land, so that the kingdom would be brought low, unable to rise again, surviving only by keeping his treaty” (Ezekiel 17:12-13, 14a).

While the main focus of the scriptures in Ezekiel 17:1-21 describe the treachery of the leaders of the house of Judah attempting to thwart their punishment from God, it too, identifies the name of a city of traders: **Babylon**.

The Apostle John wrote about this great city in Revelation. “O Babylon city of power (Revelation 18:10)... city filled with “cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly

wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men” (Revelation 18:12-13). Such is the glorious description of Babylon. Yet, there is another city that cannot be overlooked; a city with a very long history of trading.

It is the very rich and powerful city situated at the gateway to the sea. It is a “merchant of peoples on many coasts” (Ezekiel 27:3)—the great city of Tyre, a city-center of great wealth.

God spoke of this great city. “O Tyre,” He said. “You say, I am perfect in beauty. Your domain was on the high seas, your builders brought your beauty to perfection” (Ezekiel 27:3). The builders chose the best of the best and built the finest and most robust ship on the sea (Ezekiel 27:5-11). They built a maritime city. “Your home is the seas” and “all the ships of the sea and their sailors came alongside to trade for your wares” (Ezekiel 27:4, 9).

This image is more than a bustling, robust enterprise on the sea, but it also details the list of the most knowledgeable and skilful specialists within this powerful trading center: heavenly leaders who know how to withstand the outside forces of the sea, a heavenly leader from God’s headquarters to provide a bird’s eye view and direction—the mast, strong heavenly beings who can move this enterprise forward—oaks from Bashan, royal heavenly members that keep the enterprise together under stress—cypress wood adorned with ivory, earthly kings and queens who pledge their service, earthly influential members of society who contribute to earthly knowledge bases, skilled earthly members who work to fix the cracks when they appear. The imagery of the various wooden materials identifies the heavenly leaders that are part of this trading enterprise, while the rest of the materials describe the earthly members. This enterprise is a coalition of rogue heavenly rulers, powers, authorities and self-glorifying, self-determined earthly people holding positions of power and authority.

This maritime city also established and maintained an army of mercenary troops. “Men of Persia, Lydia and Put served as soldiers in your army. They hung their shields and helmets on your walls, bringing you splendor. Men of Arvad and Helech manned your walls on every side, men of Gammad were in your towers. They hung their shields around your walls; they brought your beauty to perfection” (Ezekiel 27:10-11). You may wonder why they needed an army and who would be their opposition.

This maritime city was a well fortified, world trading center—a complete package: self-defending, self-reliant, self-determined coalition.

In ancient times, peoples from everywhere traded with Tyre. Tarshish did business. They exchanged silver, iron, tin and lead for their merchandise. Greece, Tubal and Meshech traded slaves and articles of bronze. Men of Beth Togarmah exchanged work horses, war horses and mules. Men of Rhodes traded and paid in ivory tusks and ebony. Aram did business and exchanged turquoise, purple fabric, embroidered work, fine linen, coral and rubies. Judah and Israel exchanged wheat, confections, honey, oil and balm. Damascus traded wine and wool.

Danites and Greeks traded wrought iron, cassia and calamus. Dedan traded saddle blankets. Arabia and all the princes of Kedar traded lambs, rams and goats. The merchants of Sheba and Raamah traded the finest of all kinds of spices, precious stones and gold. Haran, Canneh and Eden and merchants of Sheba, Asshur and Kilmad traded beautiful garments, blue fabric, embroidered work and multicolored rugs with cords twisted and tightly knotted. The ships of Tarshish serve as carriers for your wares. (Ezekiel 27:12-25a).

Keil and Delitzsch comment, "The enumeration of the different peoples, lands, and cities, which carried on trade with Tyre, commences with Tarshish (Tartessus) in the extreme west, then turns to the north, passes through the different lands of Anterior Asia and the Mediterranean to the remotest north-east, and ends by mentioning Tarshish again, to round off the list."
<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/kdo/ezekiel-27.html>

Unable to obtain for themselves or from the other nations, the nations of the earth exchanged their finest that they could grow, produce and manufacture to receive what this unique, fortified coalition offered. It would appear a high price was attached to the merchandise and wares coming out of Tyre.

While the exchange is expressed in material goods, it could also be surmised that a spiritual counter-part also took place. God trades with His faithful people. **"Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding"** (Proverbs 23:23).

Isaiah describes the wealth of the righteous. "The LORD is exalted, for He dwells on high; He has filled Zion with **justice and righteousness**. And He will be the stability of your times, a **wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge**; The **fear of the LORD is his treasure**" (Isaiah 33:5-6).

While God sells truth, wisdom, instruction and understanding, it is likely that the wares sold by Tyre could be falsehood, the ways of Satan, salvation through every other means outside of accepting Christ's sacrifice, and the hidden knowledge in science, medicine and technology that extends physical life, expands the limitations of earth-bound mankind and a means to remain self-glorifying, self-reliant and self-determined.

Christ urged the Laodicean church, "You say, '**I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.**' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. **I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire**, so you can become rich, and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness, and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see" (Revelation 3:17-18).

What the Laodicean church considered as wealth was not wealth in Christ's eyes. They were a naked people without righteousness or knowledge of God's truth.

The great city of Tyre worked in opposition to God Almighty and through Ezekiel, God prophesied their destruction.

“The east wind [God Almighty] will break you to pieces in the heart of the sea. Your wealth, merchandise and wares, your mariners, seamen and shipwrights, your merchants and all your soldiers, and everyone else on board will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck” (Ezekiel 27:26b-27).

The mainland settlements of Tyre, God said would be overthrown and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings—world leader at that time (Ezekiel 26:7-8).

The ruler of the great maritime city of Tyre is doomed. He claims to be a god, but God insists that he will die a mere mortal. This ruler claims to be wise like a god, but God asks whether he is as wise as Daniel? Is there any secret hidden from him? (Ezekiel 28:2-3).

Keil and Delitzsch comment, “The comparison with Daniel refers to the fact that Daniel surpassed all the magi and wise men of Babylon in wisdom through his ability to interpret dreams, since God gave him an insight into the nature and development of the power of the world, such as no human sagacity could have secured.”

<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/kdo/ezekiel-28.html>

And yet, God continued to say, “By your wisdom and understanding you have gained wealth for yourself and amassed gold and silver in your treasuries. By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, and because of your wealth your heart has grown proud. Therefore... Because you think you are wise, as wise as a god, I am going to bring foreigners against you, the most ruthless of nations; they will draw their swords against your beauty and wisdom and **PIERCE YOUR SHINING SPLENDOR. They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die a violent death in the heart of the seas.** Will you then say, ‘I am a god,’ in the presence of those who kill you? **You will be but a man, not a god, in the hands of those who slay you**” (Ezekiel 28:2-9).

This **ruler of Tyre** is not the king of Tyre referred to in the same chapter of Ezekiel 28. This ruler who boasts of being a god is reminiscent of the successor in Daniel 11:21, “He will be succeeded by **a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty.**” Like the successor in Daniel, this ruler does not come from a royal family, but he boasts of having royal blood. As powerful that he believes himself to be, his fate is sealed. The “shining splendor” of the ruler of Tyre will be made common; his glory removed and he will die a violent death in the heart of the sea—the place where rebels prosper.

The king of Tyre described in Ezekiel 28:12-19 is a very powerful leader with great authority. He is the supreme ruler of this wicked maritime city. When God created this king, He made him “the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty” (Ezekiel 28:12). This is a description of Lucifer who became Satan. Until he is thrown down to earth, he remains in Eden, God’s garden—God’s government in heaven. He was adorned with every precious stone and anointed a guardian cherub. He was blameless in his ways from the day he was created till wickedness was found in him (Ezekiel 28:15). **HIS WARES GO FAR AND WIDE. He trades deception and lies. He is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in God’s garden**

[government] of Eden, accusing God's people day and night. The fate of this king remains a future event, as well as the destruction of his maritime city. "Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. **So I threw you to the earth;** I made a spectacle of you before kings... I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more" (Ezekiel 28:17-19).

When Satan is thrown down to earth, he will stand on the shore and out of the sea, a beast will rise (Revelation 13:1). This beast is a coalition of rogue spiritual rulers from their heavenly rebel base (the sea) and they will be ready for business.

But they will not be alone. The Apostle John in Revelation describes a second beast that comes out of the earth (Revelation 13:11).

It was King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who overthrew the mainland settlements of the maritime city of Tyre, which "once was" and open trading ceased for a long time. Mainland management shifted hands.

The beast that came up out of the earth has "two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon" (Revelation 13:11). This beast is looking like a Savior but talking like the devil. The earthly members of this beast are religious leaders. Its leader—the false prophet, rises up out of the earth at a critical time. He understands that now their time is short and an open relationship with the great prostitute whose title is "Mystery Babylon the Great, The Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth" and partnership with the beast from out of the sea is critical. "He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and **made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast,** whose **fatal wound had been healed** (Revelation 13:12).

The inhabitants who worship the first beast are not all of the people on earth. They are from two specific groups of earth dwellers. There are three groups on the earth:

1. Those whose **names have not been written** in the Book of Life (Revelation 17:8b). These inhabitants may not be descendants of Adam and Eve. They may be hybrids of their own kind.

The Psalmist identifies earth dwellers who live among the sons of men but belong to another. "Your hand will lay hold on all your enemies; your right hand will seize your foes. At the time of your appearing, you will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger; the LORD will swallow them up in His wrath, and fire will devour them. **Their offspring You will destroy from the earth, and their descendants from AMONG THE SONS OF MEN.** Though they intended evil against You and devised a plot, they will not succeed" (Psalm 21:8-11).

The judgment of these earth dwellers will be similar to Satan's fate; they are tormented forever and have no rest day or night (Revelation 14:11). This insinuates that they are not flesh and blood, for the fate of humans who worship the beast is death by the sword.

"He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And **the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and THEY HAVE NO REST, DAY OR NIGHT, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name**" (Revelation 14:11).

We may be approaching the time, when these earth dwellers become known to us. In summary, it can be said that the rogue heavenly princes, rulers and hybrids on earth will be captured and tormented day and night in the lake of burning sulfur forever.

2. Those whose names have been **blotted out** of the Book of Life because they refuse to repent. This group also includes those who take the mark and worship the image and the beast.

The wicked will be blotted out of the Book of Life. "Let them be **blotted out** of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous" ([Psalm 69:28](#)).

Mankind was promised eternal life before the world began. "This truth gives them confidence that **they have eternal life**, which God—who does not lie—**promised them before the world began**" (Titus 1:2).

Also, the kingdom was prepared for the faithful from the creation. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; **take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world**'" (Matthew 25:34).

The wicked will be blotted out of the Book of Life. "Let them be **blotted out** of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous" (Psalm 69:28).

It is prophesied that the people who take the mark and worship the beast will be killed.

"So the **first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores** came upon **the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image**" (Revelation 16:2).

"... the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had **deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image**. The two of them [the beast and the false prophet] were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. **The rest of them were killed with the sword** that came out of the rider on the horse, and all the **birds gorged themselves on their flesh**" (Revelation 19:20-21).

3. The **righteous** whose names are written in the Book of Life.

“He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. **I will never blot out his name from the book of life**, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels” (Revelation 3:5).

“Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but **ONLY THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB’S BOOK OF LIFE**” (Revelation 21:27) will receive eternal life.

The sea is imagery for the headquarters of all wickedness. When God creates a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1), there will be no sea—no place for wickedness. “The beast, which you saw, once was, **now is not**, and **will come out of the Abyss** and go to his destruction” (Revelation 17:8). This beast, as it was in the time of Apostle John which “now is not” appears to be referring to **not having power on earth** at the time of the Apostle John, but it will receive power again sometime in the near future. The first three beasts of Daniel rose up to power on earth in ancient times and they were overthrown. “The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time” (Daniel 7:12). The fourth terrifying beast in Daniel 7 appears to be the beast that Satan will summon out of the sea. The gap in power that appears after the dethroning of the first three beasts in Daniel, provides insight into the **“now is not”** wording in Revelation 17:8. This gap in power on earth has led mankind to believe that these rogue heavenly entities do not exist. Mankind in the 21st century, has mythicized the ancient gods because they do not see evidence of their existence today. If supernatural evidence has been found, it is under strict secrecy by those who hold the keys. Those who have witnessed supernatural sights have been labelled conspiracy theorists.

Inner earth also known as the Abyss and the “pit” is the prison where over-thrown heavenly rulers are kept. “Then all the trees [rulers] of Eden [God’s heavenly government], the choicest and best of Lebanon [God’s headquarters], all the trees [heavenly rulers] **that were well-watered**, were **CONSOLED IN THE EARTH BELOW**” (Ezekiel 31:16b).

God Almighty is taking down the rebel princes in the heavens, one by one.

“Son of man, wail for the hordes of Egypt and **CONSIGN TO THE EARTH BELOW** both her and the daughters of the mighty nations, **with those who go down to the PIT (ABYSS)**... Assyria is there... Elam is there... Meshech and Tubal are there... Pharaoh is there... Edom is there... All the princes of the north and all the Sidonians are there... (Ezekiel 32).

The three beasts before the rise of the fourth still exist today imprisoned in the Abyss. “The other beasts were stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time” (Daniel 7:12).

The ten horns on the beast out of the sea are ten kings. God had promised His members of His holy court, rulership over the nations as their inheritance. They were given the authority to teach mankind the ways of God. God’s inheritance are the people of Israel (Deuteronomy 32:8-

9). Unfortunately, all of the members of His holy court have rebelled. Not all members have received their rulership. These will be given rulership during the end times, of which they will give all their power to the beast that comes out of the sea. “The ten horns you saw are **ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom [only God can award kingship]**, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers” (Revelation 17:12-14).

The events that take place while these powers rule the earth, will be like no other time. It will be a time of great distress and it will never happen again.

"Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise and **there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time...**" (Daniel 12:1).

The “great prostitute” will prove to be the finest trading center on earth. Her merchandise and wares are rare and viewed as riches by the merchants who act as distributors for the buyers. “The merchants were the world’s great men. By your [Babylon’s] magic spell all the nations were led astray” (Revelation 18:23b).

The beast of the earth establishes and enforces a new law that prohibits anyone from buying or selling unless they have the mark of the beast of the sea (Revelation 13:17). Blood allegiance to this new coalition will be mandatory.

Possibly, the cities of traders may have been a hub of learning in the heavens at one time. But, since iniquity was found, these cities are centers of confusion and chaos selling products of deception, lies, and misinformation that has generated the drive for self-reliance, self-direction and self-glory both in heaven and on earth.

We are living in a time where the big events still remain on the horizon—on a close horizon. Regardless of the power they wield, prophesy states that the cities of Tyre and Babylon will fall. "Moreover, in their wailing they will take up a lamentation for you and lament over you: ‘Who is like Tyre, like her who is silent in the midst of the sea? When your wares went out from the seas, you satisfied many peoples; With the abundance of your wealth and your merchandise you enriched the kings of earth. Now that you are broken by the seas in the depths of the waters, your merchandise and all your company have fallen in the midst of you’” (Ezekiel 27:32-36).

Babylon too, sent her merchants out to sea—that place where wickedness resides to bring back ideas and knowledge in every area of science, medicine, business, and the arts that became their desired riches. God will bring this city down. “Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim. ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ They will

throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: 'Woe, Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!' (Revelation 18:17-18). The details of the army of this city are unclear, regardless, they prove to be powerless against God. Her victims, however, are those who opposed her merchandise and wares.

To the faithful and humble people of God Almighty, Jesus Christ says, "Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you... in her was found the blood of the prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth" (Revelation 18:20, 24).

God Almighty, our Creator urges mankind to buy from Him. Christ has paid the price. Accept his payment and live. "Come, all of you who thirst, come to the waters; and you without money, come, **buy, and eat!** Come, **buy wine and milk, WITHOUT MONEY AND WITHOUT COST!**" (Isaiah 55:1)

REMEMBER:

"The **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and **SELLS all that he has and BUYS that field**. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding **one pearl of great value**, he went and **SOLD all that he had and BOUGHT it**" (Matthew 13:44-46).

IN SUMMARY:

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But **store up for yourselves treasures in HEAVEN**, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

DON'T EVER FORGET:

"But **where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?**
Man does not know its value, nor is it found in the land of the living.
The deep says, 'It is not in me!'; And the sea says, 'It is not with me.'

Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it, nor can silver be weighed as its price.

It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx, or sapphire.

Gold or glass cannot equal it, nor can it be exchanged for articles of fine gold.

"Coral and crystal are not to be mentioned;

And the acquisition of wisdom is above that of pearls.

The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold.

Where then does wisdom come from?

Where does understanding dwell?

It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds of the air.
Destruction and Death say, 'Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.'

God understands the way to it
And He alone knows where it dwells,
for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.
When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters,
When he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderstorm,
Then he looked at wisdom and appraised it;
He confirmed it and tested it.
And he said to man, '**THE FEAR OF THE LORD—THAT IS WISDOM,**
AND TO SHUN EVIL IS UNDERSTANDING'
(Job 28:12-28).

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich. Thank you to Keil and Delitzsch for their commentary.