

# The **TYRE** of Isaiah 23

God sentenced the famous city of Tyre to destruction and cast its memory into the forgotten pages of history for seventy years—“the span of a king’s life” (Isaiah 23:15). “The ‘days of a king’ are a **fixed and unchangeable period**, for which everything is determined by the one sovereign will,” states Keil and Delitzsch. <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/kdo/isaiah-23.html>

Ancient Tyre was a great international maritime commercial centre—a master of trading—a city of power. After their time of sentencing, it will rise up again in the latter days and reappear under the guise of another name—the infamous Great Babylon, which will again, be a great international commercial centre—a master of trading and a city of power! But, “Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour, your doom will come!” (Revelation 18:10)

A study of Isaiah 23 will reveal the greater story of battles in the heavens between God Almighty and His oldest enemy, Satan who has sold his theology to fallen sons of God—his closest allies. The nations on earth are used as pawns by Wickedness to further its agenda, while God works to mold His people, then all nations, into a righteous people loving truth, justice and understanding their glorious calling, planned by God a long time ago.



Isaiah 23 is the companion to Ezekiel 27. Verse one begins with the wailing of the merchants on the ships of Tarshish who see their great city, Tyre destroyed—no house or harbor.

God commands their silence! The chatter of their theology, their wrath and hatred echoed out. Tyre was once a bustling commercial port on the coastline of the Mediterranean. It was an

earthly reflection of the greater and **spiritually powerful heavenly maritime city-centre** situated in **the high seas**—the abode of Wickedness in heaven.

**“O Tyre,”** God 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 were the maritime planners who lured a son of God from God’s headquarters in “Lebanon” to be the mast of their great ship—the one who knew God’s plans, strategies and tactics and could anticipate God’s moves well into the future. They won not just one son of God, but many. **“Who planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, whose merchants are PRINCES, whose traders are renowned in the earth?”** (Isaiah 23:8).

By promising rulership over a kingdom, Wickedness—the bestower of crowns, was able to win the allegiance of many heavenly “princes.” They planned the takeover of both heaven and earth. Satan, once a Guardian angel, and sons of God are at times, identified as “princes” in scripture.

**Jesus referred to Satan as a prince:** **“I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me”** (John 14:30).

**“...you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience”** (Ephesians 2:3).

**In Daniel’s testimony, the spiritual prince over Persia was so strong that the angel, Gabriel needed help from the archangel Michael:** **“But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia”** (Daniel 10:13).

**In addition, Daniel’s testimony refers to yet another spiritual prince, the prince of Greece:** **“He replied, ‘Do you know why I have come? Soon I must return to fight against the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia, and after that the spirit prince of the kingdom of Greece will come’”** (Daniel 10:20).

**God gave these heavenly princes authority over the nations, when He divided the nations on earth and gave them each a different language. These heavenly princes received the nations as their inheritance and God Almighty received the people of Jacob as His inheritance:** **“When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number in his heavenly court. But the LORD’s portion is His people, Jacob His allotted inheritance”** (Deuteronomy 32:8-9).

**Unfortunately, these heavenly princes turned against God Almighty:** **“Then all the trees [princes/leaders] of Eden [God’s government in heaven], the choicest and best of Lebanon [God’s headquarters], all of the trees [leaders] that were well-watered [highly trained and skilled in God’s law and His ways], were consoled in the earth below [imprisoned]”** (Ezekiel 31:16b).

**The Apostle Paul warned Christians about their true enemies:** “For we are **NOT** fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against **evil rulers/princes and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world [who are spiritual], and against evil spirits in the heavenly places**” (Ephesians 6:12).

Wickedness lured the best of the best and built the finest and most robust ship on the high sea (Ezekiel 27:5-11). They built a fortified 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 heavenly abode of Wickedness is ancient, “Is this your city of revelry, **the old, old city,** whose feet have taken her to settle in far-off lands?” (Isaiah 23:7) It will not prevail. When God creates a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1), **there will be no sea—no abode for Wickedness in either heaven or earth.**

Isaiah verifies Revelation 21:1, “The LORD has stretched out his hand **over the sea** and made **its kingdoms tremble**” (Isaiah 23:11). All of the wicked kingdoms on the high seas in heaven will be destroyed. Isaiah is specific, “He has given an order concerning Phoenicia that her fortresses be destroyed. He said, ‘No more of your reveling, O Virgin Daughter of Sidon, now crushed!’” (Isaiah 23:11b-12).

“Wail, you ships of Tarshish; your fortress is destroyed!” (Isaiah 23:14)

God described the humiliation of the fallen heavenly princes who allied with the king of Tyre. “Then all **the princes of the seacoast will step down from their thrones** and lay aside their robes and take off their embroidered garments. **Clothed with terror,** they will sit on the ground, **trembling every moment,** appalled at you [Tyre]. Then, they will take up a lament concerning you and say to you:

‘How you have perished, O inhabited one, from the seas, O renowned city, which was mighty on the sea, she and her inhabitants, who imposed her terror on all her inhabitants!’” (Ezekiel 26:16-18)

God responded, “When I make you a desolate city, like cities no longer inhabited, and when I bring the ocean depths over you and its vast waters cover you, then I will bring you down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of long ago. **I will make you dwell in the earth below, as in ancient ruins, with those who go down to the pit,** and you will not return or take your place in the land of the living. I will bring you to a horrible end and you will be no more. You will be sought, but you will never again be found” (Ezekiel 26:16-21).

Wickedness promised the heavenly princes a crown, but their rulership was short-lived. God has imprisoned them in the “pit” [sheol—inner earth]. These princes were once seated in the highest heavens, but now, they have been brought down to the lowest and darkest place in existence. Another heavenly battle mirrored through a city they ruled on earth.

**The fate of Wickedness is sealed: “In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below. They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days” (Isaiah 24:21-22).**

Though this fortified, robust trading centre conducted business with great success, “She became the marketplace of the nations” (Isaiah 23:3); it cannot withstand the all-powerful strength of the Creator God. God uses Wickedness to test and try His creation and God is not yet finished. The latter days will see the return of this bustling enterprise and the people on earth will be astonished, like the Apostle John, “When I saw her [Babylon], I was greatly astonished” (Revelation 17:6b). From the outside, Babylon will appear to be a marvel.

Earthly kingdoms are but a poor reflection of the great and mighty power of the heavenly kingdoms. For seventy years, this heavenly city-centre of trade will be forgotten, “the span of a king’s life” (Isaiah 23:15). This time period is not literal to earth’s time, but likely refers to a measurement of heavenly time. “At the end of these seventy years, it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the prostitute:

‘Take up a harp, walk through the city, O prostitute forgotten;  
play the harp well, sing many a song, so that you will be remembered’” (Isaiah 23:15b-16).

The song of a prostitute is a song declaring her rulership as a queen, someone of strategic importance. In the latter days, Babylon will sing, “I sit as a queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn” (Revelation 18:7b). She is ecstatic that princes, rogue sons of God from heaven who are part of the beast coalition from the sea, are intimate with her. She rides them all in her glory. She is “dressed in purple and scarlet, and glitters with gold, precious stones and pearls... This title was written on her forehead:

MYSTERY  
BABYLON THE GREAT  
THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES  
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH  
(Revelation 17:4-5).

She is convinced that the power she now holds will be eternal. “I am [eternal], and there is none besides me. I will never be a widow or suffer the loss of children” (Isaiah 47:8b). Mankind is her children and she lavishly rewards the obedient, while killing the disobedient. “The waters you saw, **where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages**” (Revelation 17:15). She sits on “waters”—not as vast as the “sea,” but still the image God uses as a place of Wickedness. She is a religious institution selling her theology to the world. They are confident that they will overthrow the Almighty God and rule both heaven and earth.

The ancient Tyre is now 21<sup>st</sup> century Babylon conducting a thriving business with the nations on earth. They are trading their wares: mystery science and magic, alien technology, avatar wonders that forward the evolution of man into a form of spirituality with a promise of eternal life

bundled into the worship of these gods and obedience to their ways. In exchange, the cost is high. Mankind is forced to give her the most precious and opulent of produce and production on earth: “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). Some are willing to trade their soul for the wares she sells. Her plan is to cripple mankind, while she lives in luxury.

This marriage of Babylon and the beast from the sea appears invincible. Certainly, the nations of the world feel powerless for they say, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?” (Revelation 13:4b)

Wickedness is a team of crafty experts in deceit, lying, twisting the truth, thievery, murdering, self-glorifying entities imaged through the various roles all part of successful trading across the sea [wickedness].

“Men of Sidon and Arvad were your **oarsmen**; your skilled men, O Tyre, were aboard as your **seamen**, Veteran craftsmen of Gebal were on board as **shipwrights** to caulk your seams. All the **ships of the sea** and their **sailors** came alongside to trade for your wares” (Ezekiel 27:8-9).

“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!” (Revelation 18:17-19)

The sea is the image God uses to describe the abode of Wickedness. Everyone who is skilful in wickedness is imaged as a seafaring tradesman.

The arrival of this immense heavenly force on earth will be like a horror story directly out of the movies. This alien invasion will result in the enslavement of the nations on earth. They will try to defend themselves, but their weapons will prove to be useless and totally ineffective. The beastly coalition from the sea is extraordinarily powerful. It is a terrifying beast, Daniel described as, “frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; **it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left**. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns” (Daniel 7:7).

These ten horns are identified in Revelation 17:12, “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have **not yet received a kingdom**, but who for **one hour will receive authority as kings** along with the beast.” Ten princes in heaven were promised a kingdom by God, sometime prior to the heavenly great rebellion. These are not physical kings because the nations have already

surrendered to the alien invasion. “Who can make war against the beast?” they declare. The beast is not a physical coalition of wicked leaders, for Apostle Paul said that our enemy is **NOT flesh and blood**, but evil heavenly rulers, powers and authorities (Ephesians 6:12). Our enemy is not just Satan, but evil heavenly rulers [princes], powers and authorities—heavenly entities with heavenly power and strength. Their strength far overpowers any earthly strength.

God knows that these ten kings have long since turned against Him. He fulfills His promise to give them a kingdom in the latter days for only one hour (a very short period of time). These ten princes will rule as kings for the same period as the revived Tyre, called Babylon who will be destroyed in one hour.

“They [the 10 kings] have **one purpose** and will **give their power and authority to the beast**. They will make war against the Lamb” (Revelation 17:13). Once God gives these ten princes power and authority, friction burns from within this beastly coalition, because Daniel described a significant shift in power.

“It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns. While I was thinking about the horns, there before me another horn, **a little one**, which **came up among them**; and **three of the first horns were uprooted before it**” (Daniel 7:7b-8) and “The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; **he will subdue three kings**. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time” (Daniel 7:24-25).

Beyond our visibility, in heaven the “little horn” has taken control and awaits the summoning of Satan to earth.

In that time, 21<sup>st</sup> century Babylon will be in her glory, terrorizing and killing all those who refuse to accept her wares: her teachings. She “was drunk with **the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony of Jesus**” (Revelation 17:6).

The Great Mystery of Babylon is the secret plan of Wickedness to establish a kingdom in heaven and earth ruled by rogue heavenly princes, powers and authorities and to subjugate every earthly man, woman and child with their theology and worship to ensure that they will never rise up against them. All the nations who submit to Wickedness will become slaves to this rogue heavenly force.

This mighty heavenly coalition appears successful as it plows over the nations without effort and grows in strength, but they underestimate the all-powerful Creator, God of Israel and the supreme God-given power awarded to Jesus Christ. “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 17:14). The saints will be resurrected at that time and fight with Christ in this significant spiritual battle on earth. Christ, his Bride/the saints and the heavenly army will overthrow the beast from out of the sea, while God Almighty leads a remnant repentant people

in victory against the raging sea of nations obedient to Wickedness. These nations will not understand who they are fighting against; the world will be topsy-turvy; they will be in total submission to their master.

God knew that the beast would strip the nations of all authority and force them into slavery. This state of humility will move the nations to know their Creator without interfering pride and arrogance. The riches that Babylon accumulated during this time, will be given by God to the repentant people serving Him—a reward for their suffering during a time of great distress; they will live as kings and queens. “Yet her profit and her earnings will be set apart for the LORD; they will not be stored up or hoarded. **Her profits will go to those who live before the LORD, for abundant food and fine clothes**” (Isaiah 23:18).

Ultimately, mankind on earth will be tested and tried by rogue heavenly princes, powers and authorities (Ephesians 6:12). The repentant will be awarded positions of leadership and authority in God’s great kingdom. Jesus said, “In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am” (John 14:2-3).

The great rebellion in heaven has opened the door for mankind. God is offering repentant mankind the positions once held by all of the rogue rulers, powers and authorities in heaven. So great is the calling of mankind that Satan will do everything necessary to keep it a secret, for he wishes that nobody take his position as Guardian angel. He is working day and night to keep mankind in sin.

**“Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, STANDING FIRM IN YOUR FAITH and in the knowledge that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering”** (1 Peter 5:8-9).

21<sup>st</sup> century Babylon will do all she can to steal the faith that Christians hold of the gift of grace and the wonderful promise of adoption as sons of God and she will work relentlessly to replace it with faith in her, as if she was ever willing to suffer the crucifixion to give mankind eternal life. She desires only to enslave and afflict mankind, even the wicked who have long served her.

A big story is revealed in Isaiah 23, hidden no more. Yet, there lies in Sheol the imprisoned who wait anxiously for the news of the outcome of the final great battle on earth. We know the outcome, because God has given it to us in His word. “The realm of the dead below is all astir to meet you [Babylon] at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you—all those who were **leaders in the world**; it makes them rise from their thrones—all those who were **kings over the nations**. They will all respond and say to you, **“You too have become weak as we are; you have become like us!”** (Isaiah 14:9-10)

God will say to this Mystery Babylon, “Both of these will overtake you in a moment, on a single day: loss of children and widowhood. They will come upon you in full measure, in spite of your

many sorceries and all your potent spells. You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, 'No one sees me.' Your wisdom and knowledge mislead you when you say to yourself, 'I am [eternal], and there is none besides me.' Disaster will come upon you, and you will not know how to conjure it away" (Isaiah 47:9-11).

Well... that's a shame. What is their loss is our gain, if we repent and turn to the God of Israel, who is truly awesome and desires that "**all people be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth**" (I Timothy 2:4).

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich*