

Ezekiel 28 – The Prince of Tyre

By Holly Effiom

VV1-5

To whom is Ezekiel directed to speak?

To whom was Ezekiel speaking before?

Why does God call to mind Daniel in this moment? Dan 10:1, 13

What is the message in these first few verses?

What did the prince of Tyrus say in his heart? Does this mean that he believes this?

What does it mean that Tyrus says he sits in "...the seat of God in the midst of the seas...?"

Does God say that Tyrus is a god?

Is it wrong to be in pursuit of God's heart (as David was described)?

How is David different than what God is describing here about the prince of Tyrus?

In what way is prince of Tyrus wiser than Daniel?

Did the prince of Tyrus use his wisdom to heal sickness?

Did the prince of Tyrus use his wisdom to figure out how to eliminate poverty?

Did the prince of Tyrus use his wisdom to advance mankind in some way?

What did the prince of Tyrus use his wisdom to do?

What caused the prince of Tyrus' heart to be lifted up?

LESSON: Daniel 10 is pivotal in teaching us about the order of things in the earth as it relates to the heavens. Remember that the king of Persia, Cyrus, in V1 was differentiated from the *prince* of Persia in V13; where those who stand on behalf of the earthly power are the kings, and those who stand on behalf of a nation in the heavens are princes. Here in Ezekiel, God is telling us about the prince behind a nation's earthly ruler – the one wielding power over the earth.

This understanding reminds me of Job 1 and 2, in which one, in whose hands Job's very peace and prosperity were held, stood before God, accusing Job of a crooked, *unrighteous* heart, under circumstances that had not even occurred! The one who was tasked with *teaching* and *building up* Job was trying to *tear him down*, before their Creator.

Here in Ezekiel, we see the same story is being re-told – satan saw an opportunity to have his own domain, to be god in the earth. There was just one problem, standing in the way – *Adam*.

VV6-10

What does Tyrus' covetousness cause to happen?

Who are the "...terrible of the nations..." to Tyrus? Eze 26:7

Will Nebuchadnezzar have mercy on Tyrus because of his beauty and brightness?

Will Tyrus' death be any different because he is "... God in the midst of the seas...?"

Will Tyrus say to Nebuchadnezzar, "You can't kill me... I am *God*"?

What does it mean to die "...the deaths of the uncircumcised..."? Gen 17:9-14

Why is it such a bad thing to "...die by the hand of strangers..."? 1 Sam 31

LESSON: David was described as a "...man after God's own heart..." as a virtue, but what we learn that the prince of Tyre has a different *purpose*, in pursuing the heart of God – he coveted the position and power of God Almighty.

The prince of Tyre will discover he is a *mere* man, not God, in the hand of him that kills him!

VV11-16

How is subject of this lamentation different from that of Eze 27?

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To whom is Ezekiel speaking?

What do we learn about satan in this section of scripture?

Does God disagree with Tyrus about its beauty?

What perfected – “...sealest up the sum...” – its beauty?

Where is the garden of God?

Who had been in the garden of God, along with Adam and Eve?

What external things made Tyrus beautiful?

What are tabrets and pipes?

Did these things spring up by themselves, in their own strength?

How does God describe Tyrus?

Where else is the Ezekiel is the term “cherub” mentioned? Eze 1:5-10; 10:14-15

Why does God remind us of this now? Ex 25:17-22

What did the cherub “...covereth...”?

What is the significance of having walked “...up and down in the midst of the stones of fire...”?

Is it noteworthy that that term is repeated?

What was the effect of all this “business” on Tyrus?

What gets Tyrus kicked out of the mountain of God?

What do we learn about satan in this section of scripture?

LESSON: Cherubim were introduced to the reader in the construction of the ark of the covenant (Ex 25:17-22). They are made of beaten work in gold, as part of the mercy seat, that covers, or protects, the word of God contained within the ark of the covenant. And, the “cherubim of glory” (Heb 9:5), with their wings stretched out on high, were the very expression of the glory of God in the earth; guardians of the word of God in the ark (the earth) and the most Holy place (the heavens).

I remember thinking when studying Ezekiel 10 that the vehicle the four “living creatures” carried reminded me of the ark of the covenant; and that is when I realized that Ezekiel 11 was describing the transport of the ark of the covenant out of the earth, when the temple in Jerusalem fell – *Ichabod!* And, I had wondered if those “inanimate” Cherubim which were part of the ark were actually *living* creatures? If this is true, then one of those cherubs, whose job it was to protect the word of God in the earth, became *satan*. Is that *how* “...the anointed cherub...” became the “...accuser of the brethren...” (Rev 12:10)? What does this mean?

According to Ex 25:20, the cherubim were supposed to “...look one to another...” and guard the mercy seat. If what is being explained in this section of Ezekiel is correct – satan broke covenant with his partner. Considering, the floor plan of the tabernacle and where the ark of the covenant resided, I realized that the ark of the covenant was the *only* “furniture” in the most Holy place, along with the mercy seat... with its *one* cherub? What happened to the other cherub; the one who remained, the faithful one, when satan went his way? God’s words of Gen 2:18, from creation, come to mind as I consider this.

Understand what God is telling us here in Ezekiel: satan is officially being demoted, i.e., cast out of heaven, and into the earth – in sending a message to the “prince of Tyrus” in V2 and then calling him “king” of Tyrus in V12.

VV17-19

How was satan’s problem similar to Tyrus’ problem? Eze 27:3

Why was his heart lifted up?

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What caused him to corrupt his own wisdom?

How does satan's sanctuary become defiled?

Is the "...fire in the midst of thee..." related to the stones of fire from which satan came? What does this mean?

Why does God promise to cast satan to the ground so that the kings of the earth will see him?

How is this section of scripture similar to Eze 23:48?

LESSON: There is another section of scripture in which God speaks directly to satan while prophesying over a nation (Isa 14:12-23), and it confirms the condition of satan's heart in desiring to be God – which is at the *heart* of the matter. This section of Ezekiel makes clear what all the material wealth would no longer hide – he, satan, wants to be God. Interestingly enough, that is the very thing he offers everyone else he tricks into worshipping himself.

[Remember: In the early part of the study of Ezekiel, I remember wondering why the religion of the time (the idolatry that seemed to captivate the children of Israel) involved the worship of cows, or rather creatures from among the oxen (1 Kings 12:28), and I believe this chapter in Ezekiel provides the hint of its origins. Here, satan is called the "anointed cherub" which I proposed was one of the cherubim that resided on the mercy seat. Careful reading of Ezekiel 1 and 10 informs us that the face of the cherub is an "Ox".]

Just as being a god was the offer made to Eve, then Adam (Gen 3:4-6), and every subsequent king of the earth – most learning the truth, but many still not – hence, satan's utter destruction must and is being played out before every king of the earth, on the world stage, to teach *all* a lesson (Eze 23:48).

The good news is that since there is a lesson to be taught, and *learned*, then it is not the earth and its kings that will be destroyed, only the *liar*, satan. Hallelujah and Amen!

VV20-24

To what city is Ezekiel directed to speak?

Does he have good things to say about this city? How do you know?

How will God be "glorified" in the midst of that city?

What will Zidon's judgment look like?

In what way could a nation be a "... a pricking brier..." to Israel? Eze 16:57

VV25-26

What is God's plan for Israel during this time?

How will it be different from the "re-gatherings" of the past?

How do you know that this is different from the past? Ezra, Nehemiah

LESSON: I believe that this section of the scripture speaks of a day yet to come because the phrases, "...they shall dwell safely therein..." and "...they shall dwell with confidence..." are not phrases that any nation can say about themselves today, let alone Israel – every powerful nation is a veritable fortress, with a good part of their national budget going towards *security*. When God executes His judgment in the earth, there will be no more *fear*!

If my proposal that we are in the final 1260 days of Gentile world domination is correct, then we are currently witnessing the execution of God's judgment in the earth.