

EZEKIEL 28: 1 the LORD's word came again to me, saying,

---

The first part of this chapter relates to a King of Tyre, probably the same who is called in the Phoenician annals Ithobalus. He seems to have been a vain man, who affected Divine honors. The prophet treats his foolish pretensions with severe irony, and predicts his doom, Eze 28:1-10. He then takes up a funeral dirge and lamentation over him, in which his former pomp and splendor are finely contrasted with his fall, in terms that seem frequently to allude to the fall of Lucifer from heaven, (Isaiah 14), Eze 28:11-19. The overthrow of Sidon, the mother city of Tyre, is next announced, Eze 28:20-23; and the chapter concludes with a promise to the Jews of deliverance from all their enemies, and particularly of their restoration from the Babylonish captivity, Eze 28:24-26.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 2 Son of man, tell the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD: Because your heart is lifted up, and you have said, I am a god, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet you are man, and not God, though you set your heart as the heart of God—

---

Verse 2

Say unto the prince of Tyrus - But who was this prince of Tyrus? Some think Hiram; some, Sin; some, the devil; others, Ithobaal, with whom the chronology and circumstances best agree. Origen thought the guardian angel of the city was intended.

I am a god - That is, I am absolute, independent, and accountable to none. He was a man of great pride and arrogance.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 3 behold, you are wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that is hidden from you;

---

Verse 3

Thou art wiser than Daniel - Daniel was at this time living, and was reputable for his great wisdom. This is said ironically. See Eze 14:14; Eze 26:1.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 4 by your wisdom and by your understanding you have gotten yourself riches, and have gotten gold and silver into your treasures;

EZEKIEL 28: 5 by your great wisdom and by your traffic you have increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches—

---

Verse 5

By thy great wisdom - He attributed every thing to himself; he did not acknowledge a Divine providence. As he got all by himself, so he believed he could keep all by himself, and had no need of any foreign help.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 6 therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you have set your heart as the heart of God,

EZEKIEL 28: 7 therefore, behold, I will bring strangers on you, the terrible of the nations; and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, and they shall defile your brightness.

---

Verse 7

I will bring strangers upon thee - The Chaldeans.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 8 They shall bring you down to the pit; and you shall die the death of those who are slain, in the heart of the seas.

EZEKIEL 28: 9 Will you yet say before him who kills you, I am God? but you are man, and not God, in the hand of him who wounds you.

---

Verse 9

Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee - Wilt thou continue thy pride and arrogance when the sword is sheathed in thee, and still imagine that thou art self-sufficient and independent?

---

EZEKIEL 28: 10 You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, says the Lord GOD.

---

Verse 10

The deaths of the uncircumcised - Two deaths, temporal and eternal. Ithobaal was taken and killed by Nebuchadnezzar.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 11 Moreover the LORD's word came to me, saying,

EZEKIEL 28: 12 Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and tell him, Thus says the Lord GOD: You seal up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

---

Verse 12

Thou sealest up - This has been translated, "Thou drawest thy own likeness." "Thou formest a portrait of thyself; and hast represented thyself the perfection of wisdom and beauty." I believe this to be the meaning of the place.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz, emerald, chrysolite, onyx, jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and beryl. Gold work of tambourines and of pipes was in you. In the day that you were created they were prepared.

---

#### Verse 13

Thou hast been in Eden - This also is a strong irony. Thou art like Adam, when in his innocence and excellence he was in the garden of Eden!

Every precious stone was thy covering - For a description of these stones see the note on Exo 28:17.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 14 You were the anointed cherub who covers: and I set you, so that you were on the holy mountain of God; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

---

#### Verse 14

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth - The irony is continued; and here he is likened to the Cherub that guarded the gates of Paradise, and kept the way of the tree of life; or to one of the cherubs whose wings, spread out, covered the mercy-seat.

Thou mast upon the holy mountain of God - The irony is still continued; and now he is compared to Hoses, and afterwards to one of the chief angels, who has walked up and down among the stones of fire; that is, thy floors have been paved with precious stones, that shone and sparkled like fire.

Lucan, describing the splendor of the apartments of Cleopatra, queen of Egypt, speaks in nearly a similar language: -

Nec summis crustata domus, sectisque nitebat  
Marmoribus, stabatque sibi non segnibus achates,  
Purpureusque lapis, totusque effusus in aula  
Calcabatur onyx;  
Pharsal. lib. x.

Rich as some fane by slavish zealots reared,  
For the proud banquet stood the hall prepared:  
Thick golden plates the latent beams infold,  
And the high roof was fretted o'er with gold.  
Of solid marble all the walls were made,

And onyx e'en the meaner floor inlaid;  
While porphyry and agate round the court  
In massy columns rose, a proud support.  
Of solid ebony each post was wrought,  
From swarthy Meroe profusely brought.  
With ivory was the entrance crusted o'er,  
And polished tortoise hid each shining door;  
While on the cloudy spots enchased was seen  
The trusty emerald's never-fading green.  
Within the royal beds and couches shone,  
Beamy and bright with many a costly stone,  
The glowing purple rich.  
Rowe.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you.

---

Verse 15

Thou wast perfect in thy ways - The irony seems still to be kept up. Thou hast been like the angels, like Moses, like the cherubs, like Adam, like God, till thy iniquity was found out.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 16 By the abundance of your traffic they filled your midst with violence, and you have sinned: therefore I have cast you as profane out of the mountain of God; and I have destroyed you, covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

---

Verse 16

I will cast thee as profane - Thou shalt be cast down from thine eminence.

From the midst of the stones of fire - Some, supposing that stones of fire means the stars, have thought that the whole refers to the fall of Satan.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness: I have cast you to the ground; I have laid you before kings, that they may see you.

EZEKIEL 28: 18 By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your traffic, you have profaned your sanctuaries; therefore have I brought out a fire from your midst; it has devoured you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all those who see you.

---

Verse 18

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries - Irony continued. As God, as the angels, as the cherubim, thou must have had thy sanctuaries; but thou hast defiled them: and as Adam, thou hast polluted thy Eden, and hast been expelled from Paradise.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 19 All those who know you among the peoples shall be astonished at you: you have become a terror, and you shall nevermore have any being.

---

Verse 19

Thou shalt be a terror - Instead of being an object of adoration thou shalt be a subject of horror, and at last be destroyed with thy city, so that nothing but thy name shall remain. It was entirely burnt by Alexander the Great, as it had been before by Nebuchadnezzar.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 20 the LORD's word came to me, saying,

EZEKIEL 28: 21 Son of man, set your face toward Sidon, and prophesy against it,

EZEKIEL 28: 22 and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, Sidon; and I will be glorified in your midst; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall have executed judgements in her, and shall be sanctified in her.

---

Verse 22

I am against thee, O Zidon - Sidon for a long time had possessed the empire of the sea and of all Phoenicia, and Tyre was one of its colonies; but in process of time, the daughter became greater than the mother. It seems to have been an independent place at the time in which Tyre was taken; but it is likely that it was taken by the Chaldeans soon after the former.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 23 For I will send pestilence into her, and blood into her streets; and the wounded shall fall in the midst of her, with the sword on her on every side; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

---

Verse 23

And the wounded - חלל chalal, the soldiery. All its supports shall be taken away, and its defenders destroyed.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 24 There shall be no more a pricking brier to the house of Israel, nor a hurting thorn of any that are around them, that scorned them; and they shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

---

Verse 24

There shall be no more a pricking brier - Nothing to excite Israel to idolatry when restored from their captivity. Perhaps there is an allusion to Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidon, and wife to Ahab, king of Israel, who was the greatest curse to Israel, and the universal restorer of idolatry in the land, see 1Kgs 16:31. Sidon being destroyed, there would come no encourager of idolatry from that quarter.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 25 Thus says the Lord GOD: When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and shall be sanctified in them in the sight of the nations, then shall they dwell in their own land which I gave to my servant Jacob.

---

Verse 25

When I shall have gathered the house of Israel - In their long captivity, God had been preparing the land for them so as to make it a safe dwelling; and hence he executed judgments on all the heathen nations round about by means of the Chaldeans. Thus Tyre and Sidon were destroyed, as were the Ammonites and others who had been the inveterate enemies of the Jews. Judgment first began at his own house, then proceeded to the heathen nations; and when they were brought down, then he visited and redeemed his people. Thus God's ways are proved to be all equal; partialities and caprices belong not to him.

---

EZEKIEL 28: 26 They shall dwell securely therein; yes, they shall build houses, and plant vineyards, and shall dwell securely, when I have executed judgements on all those who do them despite all around them; and they shall know that I am the LORD their God.

---