

Ezekiel 26

by Chuck Smith

The Bible's prophecies about the destruction of Tyre have been fulfilled, demonstrating its accuracy and authority.

Scripture: Ezekiel 26:3

Topics: "Prophecy", "Divine Inspiration"

Description

Chuck Smith discusses the prophecy of the destruction of Tyre as foretold by Ezekiel, emphasizing the involvement of multiple nations and the eventual siege by Nebuchadnezzar. He highlights the historical accuracy of these predictions, noting that Tyre was besieged for thirteen years and ultimately destroyed by Alexander the Great, fulfilling the prophecy that it would never be rebuilt. Smith stresses the significance of these fulfilled prophecies as evidence of the Bible's divine inspiration and encourages listeners to recognize God's love and plan for their lives. He concludes by urging the congregation to embrace the promises of God and the truth of the Scriptures.

Transcript

The Destruction of Tyre

I. The predictions.

A. Many nations were predicted to participate in the destruction of Tyre. Vs. 3

B. Walls and towers to be destroyed, the stones, timbers, and dust to be laid in the midst of the waters.

C. Nebuchadnezzar to besiege the city.

1. He will come with a great army of horsemen.

2. He will destroy the walls and houses and towers.

3. Notice the personal pronoun he.

4. Notice the change of pronouns to they in verse 12.

D. They shall make a spoil of your riches.

1. No mention of Nebuchadnezzar making a spoil.

2. They shall make a spoil.

E. They will destroy your pleasant houses and lay the stones timbers and dust in the water.

F. To be made like the top of a rock.

G. A place for the fishermen to spread their nets.

H. Never to be rebuilt.

II. What does history tell us.

A. Three years after this prophesy Nebuchadnezzar began the siege of Tyre in 586 B.C.

1. The people of Tyre were known as the Phoenicians. The Phoenician navy ruled the seas from the 12th to the 6th century B.C.

2. Tyre was a very wealthy city as a result of the merchant ships that traveled throughout the entire Mediterranean and even as far as England.

3. The siege lasted for thirteen years and Tyre was finally conquered.

4. During the siege the people of Tyre fortified an island that was a half mile off shore, and gradually moved the wealth and goods of the city to the island fortress, so that by the time the city fell to the Babylonians, most of the people had moved to the new city, and all of the wealth had been transferred there, thus Nebuchadnezzar did not spoil the wealth of the city, but in revenge

ravaged the walls of the city to the ground.

B. The new city of Tyre continued to prosper from the new island location which was greatly fortified and the walls extending out into the sea to protect the port.

C. 241 years after Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed the old city of Tyre, Alexander the Great began his conquest of the ancient world.

1. His ambition was to capture the Persian Empire and to gain its vast wealth.

2. Before he began his march against Persia, he decided to head south and conquer Tyre, fearing that while his troops were in the East engaged in war, that the Phoenician navy may endeavor to invade Greece.

3. He came to Tyre and demanded that the city surrender which demand they refused.

4. He first attempted and failed to conquer the city by a assault from the sea in ships gathered from nearby ports.

5. It was then that he struck upon the idea of taking the rubble of the old city of Tyre left by Nebuchadnezzar and building a causeway out to the island.

6. The troops began placing the rocks and timbers in the sea and covering the top with dirt that they might roll the engines of war upon the causeway built out to the island.

7. When this causeway was completed, Alexander the Great personally led the troops over the wall into the city,

and Tyre was taken.

8. The city was destroyed completely by Alexander as a warning to other cities that might seek to defy his demands of surrender.

9. Upon hearing of the fall of Tyre, many cities feared so much the power of Alexander that they opened their gates to the approaching army of Alexander, and surrendered without a fight.

III. For years even the site of the ancient city of Tyre was unknown, it had been so thoroughly destroyed. Less than two hundred years ago as a group of archeologists were watching some fishermen spreading their nets on the bare rocks to dry, one of them noticed that the rocks were not in a natural formation, and it was then realized that this peninsula they were on was not natural, but one formed by the siege of the island city of Tyre by Alexander and his forces.

A. So the prophecies were literally fulfilled even to the present day.

1. The modern city of Tyre is built nearby in another location.

2. The ancient site is still barren rock, a place where the fishermen spread their nets.

B. Seven times in this chapter the claim is made that the words spoken are from the Lord. This same claim is made in the Bible 866 times.

1. This claim is either true or false.

2. This is either God's word, or it is not God's word.

C. What are the chances that Ezekiel could have made these predictions out of his own head?

1. That Nebuchadnezzar would conquer the city of Tyre.
2. That other nations would contribute to its total demise.
3. That the city would be made flat like a rock. (Tells)
4. It would become a place for the spreading of nets.
5. Its stones and timbers would be placed in the sea.
6. That other cities would fear greatly at the news of the fall.
7. That the original city would never be rebuilt.
8. It has been conservatively estimated that the chances are about one in 75,000,000.

D. All that is necessary to prove that the Bible is not the word of God is to find and prove one error.

1. If there were a great metropolis built on the site of the ancient city of Tyre today, we could all fold up our Bibles and go home dejected and in a hopeless condition.
2. This incidentally would make an excellent site for a city, for the ancient springs of Resilen are still flowing there into the sea, an estimated 10,000,000 gallons of water a day. It was this abundance of fresh water that allowed the city of Tyre to hold out against Nebuchadnezzar for 13 years.

IV. If the Bible is truly the word of God, what does that mean to us today?

- A. That God really did create you and loves you.
- B. That God wants you to know Him and to fellowship with Him.
- C. That God has a wonderful plan for your life, and your eternal future.
- D. That God sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for the guilt of your sin, so that the barrier between you and God could be removed, and the way made whereby you could come to God.
- E. That if you today will just confess to Him your sins, He will be faithful and just to forgive you of all of your sins, and He will cleanse you from all unrighteousness.
- F. That you can live with Him forever in the perfect joy and glory of His presence.
- H. What are the chances that this is true? One in seventy five million in just one chapter alone.
- I. Look at the odds you are gambling against if you should choose not to believe the Bible as the word of God.
- J. I cannot understand why a person would not want to believe all of the glorious promises that God has made to man.

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