

Isaiah 23:1-18 **Judgment against Tyre**

Proclamation Against Tyre

1 The burden against Tyre.

Wail, you ships of Tarshish! For it is laid waste, So that there is no house, no harbor; From the land of Cyprus it is revealed to them.

2 Be still, you inhabitants of the coastland, You merchants of Sidon, Whom those who cross the sea have filled.

3 And on great waters the grain of Shihor, The harvest of the River, is her revenue; And she is a marketplace for the nations.

4 Be ashamed, O Sidon; For the sea has spoken, The strength of the sea, saying, "I do not labor, nor bring forth children; Neither do I rear young men, Nor bring up virgins."

5 When the report reaches Egypt, They also will be in agony at the report of Tyre.

6 Cross over to Tarshish; Wail, you inhabitants of the coastland! 7 Is this your joyous city, Whose antiquity is from ancient days, Whose feet carried her far off to dwell?

8 Who has taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, Whose merchants are princes, Whose traders are the honorable of the earth?

9 The Lord of hosts has purposed it, To bring to dishonor the pride of all glory, To bring into contempt all the honorable of the earth.

10 Overflow through your land like the River, O daughter of Tarshish; There is no more strength.

11 He stretched out His hand over the sea, He shook the kingdoms; The Lord has given a commandment against Canaan To destroy its strongholds.

12 And He said, "You will rejoice no more, O you oppressed virgin daughter of Sidon. Arise, cross over to Cyprus; There also you will have no rest."

13 Behold, the land of the Chaldeans, This people which was not; Assyria founded it for wild beasts of the desert. They set up its towers, They raised up its palaces, And brought it to ruin.

14 Wail, you ships of Tarshish! For your strength is laid waste.

15 Now it shall come to pass in that day that Tyre will be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king. At the end of seventy years it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the harlot:

16 "Take a harp, go about the city, You forgotten harlot; Make sweet melody, sing many songs, That you may be remembered."

17 And it shall be, at the end of seventy years, that the Lord will deal with Tyre. She will return to her hire, and commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth.

18 Her gain and her pay will be set apart for the Lord; it will not be treasured nor laid up, for her gain will be for those who dwell before the Lord, to eat sufficiently, and for fine clothing.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The burden against Tyre. [\[Isaiah 23:1-7\]](#)

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When the report reaches Egypt, They also will be in agony at the report of Tyre.

Cross over to Tarshish; Wail, you inhabitants of the coastland! Is this your joyous city, Whose antiquity is from ancient days, Whose feet carried her far off to dwell?

- ✧ **Tyre** was a major port city of Phoenicia and Canaan on the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✧ **Sidon** is a Phoenician sister port city North of Tyre.
- ✧ **Sihor** is an Egyptian city with ports along the river which shipped grain to Tyre and Sidon.
- ✧ The message is about the destruction of Tyre, and its impact on all the nations who sell their merchandise through her outlets.
- ✧ All the merchants who trade with Tyre are grieved at the loss of their income caused by the fall of Tyre.
- ✧ **Tarshish** is the son of Japheth (son of Noah) whose descendants settled along the sea coast of Europe including Island nations. [\[Genesis 10:4\]](#) They were merchant men who made their wealth through trading by sea to foreign ports.
- ✧ Who has taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, Whose merchants are princes, Whose traders are the honorable of the earth?
Yahweh Tsebvata (The Lord of hosts) has purposed it, To bring to dishonor the pride of all glory, To bring into contempt all the honorable of the earth. [\[Isaiah 23:8-9\]](#)
 - ✧ Yahweh Tsebvata (The Lord of Hosts) has purposed to punish the world traders, known as the honorable of the earth, by the destruction of Tyre.
 - ✧ What Yahweh has purposed can not be turned back.
 - ✧ His purpose is to humble their pride.
 - ✧ Yahweh brought many nations against Tyre beginning with Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon [\[Ezekiel 26:1-21\]](#) and finalized by Alexander the Great.
- ✧ Overflow through your land like the River, O daughter of Tarshish; There is no more strength.
He stretched out His hand over the sea, He shook the kingdoms; The Lord has given a commandment against Canaan To destroy its strongholds.
And He said, "You will rejoice no more, O you oppressed virgin daughter of Sidon. Arise, cross over to Cyprus; There also you will have no rest." [\[Isaiah 23:10-12\]](#)
 - ✧ When Tyre was destroyed by Alexander the Great, Sidon was also over-run by the invading armies and even those who escaped from Sidon to Cyprus found themselves in trouble from the same forces.
- ✧ Behold, the land of the Chaldeans, This people which was not; Assyria founded it for wild beasts of the desert. They set up its towers, They raised up its palaces, And brought it to ruin. [\[Isaiah 23:13\]](#)
 - ✧ Babylonian Empire originated in the land of the Chaldeans which was originally settled by the people of Assyria.

- ✧ Wail, you ships of Tarshish! For your strength is laid waste. [\[Isaiah 23:14\]](#)
 - ✧ Again we are reminded that Tyre was a great source of wealth for the shipping merchants of Tarshish.
- ✧ Now it shall come to pass in that day that Tyre will be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king. At the end of seventy years it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the harlot:
 - "Take a harp, go about the city, You forgotten harlot; Make sweet melody, sing many songs, That you may be remembered."
 - And it shall be, at the end of seventy years, that the Lord will deal with Tyre. She will return to her hire, and commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth. [\[Isaiah 23:15-17\]](#)
 - ✧ The seventy years desolation corresponds to the time Israel was captive in Babylon before the Jews were allowed to return and rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem.
 - ✧ By the end of seventy years Tyre began to be built on the island connected to the mainland by the causeway and her world trade resumed as before only as a vassal state to the Persian empire.
- ✧ Her gain and her pay will be set apart for the Lord; it will not be treasured nor laid up, for her gain will be for those who dwell before the Lord, to eat sufficiently, and for fine clothing. [\[Isaiah 23:18\]](#)
 - ✧ At the time of the end and the Kingdom age, all that is left when the earth is purged of all that offends Yahweh, will belong to the Saints of the Lord. [\[Daniel 7:27\]](#)
 - ✧ As in most prophecies of judgment, God usually gives a reference to the promised Kingdom of Heaven as a light of hope at the end of the tunnel of darkness.