

Ezekiel 22-27 • Chapter Study

INTRO

We left off at ch. 21 last Wed., & covered all ch. 22 Sun. (How to Make a Wall)

So we pick it up at ch. 23 ...

Though I know this is redundant for some of you, because you come each week, others are new or can only make it to mid-week study every few weeks – it's a good idea to do a brief review of what's happening.

Let's set the historical scene.

The Babylonians have risen under their great king Nebuchadnezzar II to be the dominating empire of the Middle East, replacing the brutal Assyrian Empire just before them.

The Assyrians & Babylonians had been see-sawing back and forth for control for some time with the Assyrians finally winning out & spreading their influence all thru Mesopotamia, & down into Israel – where they'd conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel and hauled them off into captivity.

The Assyrians almost conquered the southern Kingdom of Judah as well; laying siege to Jerusalem, but unable to conquer it.

As the Assyrian empire began to wane, the Babylonians to their southeast emerged & eventually dominated their 1 time Assyrian overlords.

They moved quickly to gobble up the territory that had been conquered by the Assyrians.

Under their brilliant ruler Nebuchadnezzar II they pressed south & this time were able to conquer Judah & its capital Jerusalem.

They deposed the king, Jehoiachin, & installed his uncle Zedekiah in his place.

Zedekiah promised to be a faithful vassal & send the annual tribute to Babylon.

To ensure they would, the Babylonians took King Jehoiachin & a huge number of hostages from the most influential families of Jerusalem back to Babylon with them.

But now sooner had the Babylonians left than Zedekiah, at the prompting of some idiotic counsel from false prophets & court officials, sent messengers to the other vassals of the area & south to the Egyptians who were yet unconquered by Babylon.

They conspired to break free of the Babylonian yoke with the help of the Egyptians.

But – The prophet Jeremiah was in Jerusalem, telling them not to rebel.

The Babylonians were God's agent of judgment, sent to punish Jerusalem for its long-running idolatry.

If they rebelled against the Babylonians, they would in reality be rebelling *even more* against God.

It would lead to the utter destruction of the city & a huge loss of life.

But Zedekiah & his supporters all rejected Jeremiah's message; beating him and tossing him in prison.

Ezekiel was God's messenger to those Jewish exiles that had been taken as hostages to Babylon.

They were in communication with their families back home & believed they'd soon be returning.

They just couldn't believe that Jerusalem, the great city, would be destroyed.

Ezekiel's task was to communicate virtually the same message to the exiles that Jeremiah was in Jerusalem.

The end was coming.

Rather than waiting for the word to go home, they ought to settle down in Babylon and make a life for themselves and their children because it would be decades before they were allowed to return & rebuild and they needed to provide both the generation and resources to make that return.

Ch. 23

Here in ch. 23, God speaks a story thru Ezekiel of 2 sisters who in their youth become harlots.

The older sister is the Northern Kingdom of Israel; the younger is the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

¹ The word of the Lord came again to me, saying: ²“Son of man, there were 2 women, the daughters of 1 mother.

³ They committed harlotry in Egypt, they committed harlotry in their youth; their breasts were there embraced, their virgin bosom was there pressed.

It was during their years in Egypt the Israelites were infected by the spiritual disease of idolatry.

⁴ Their names: Oholah the elder and Oholibah her sister; they were Mine, and they bore sons and daughters. As

for their names, Samaria is Oholah, and Jerusalem is Oholibah.

Both these names come from the Hebrew word for **tent** = Ohel.

This is one of the most common words used for the **tabernacle** Moses built & served as the center of worship.

It was later **replaced by the temple** in Jerusalem.

Oholah = “Her tent” // Oholibah = “My tent is in her”

As God explains who’s who – it’s not hard to figure out what the names mean.

Samaria was the capital of Israel, just as Jerusalem was the capital of Judah.

The city names are synonymous w/the kingdoms they rule.

Samaria is Oholah = “Her tent” because the northern 10 tribes of Israel seceded from the South during the reign of David’s grandson & formed their **own religion** based on the worship of the Golden Calf.

Jerusalem is Oholibah = “My tent is in her” because that’s where the temple was.

Now God recounts the **sins** of the northern Kingdom of Israel.

⁵ “Oholah played the harlot even though she was Mine; and she lusted for her lovers, the neighboring Assyrians, ⁶ Who were clothed in purple, captains and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding on horses.

⁷ Thus she committed her harlotry with them, all of them choice men of Assyria; and with all for whom she lusted, with all their idols, she defiled herself.

Israel’s relationships with Assyria are well documented.

The Black Obelisk of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III, dated to 841 bc, mentions “Jehu son of Omri” and pictures him bowing down to the Assyrian monarch.

This isn’t mentioned in the Bible, but it came about from the **Syrian** threat to Israel.

Syria was expanding into Israel’s land during Jehu’s reign.

To counter them, Jehu allied Israel w/Assyria & submitted himself as a vassal.

The obelisk pictures Jehu and his servants bringing tribute to the Assyrian king.

2 later Israelite kings, Menahem & Hoshea, also paid tribute to Assyria.

The Prophet Hosea rebuked Israel for her dependence on Assyria instead of on the Lord.

⁸ She has never given up her harlotry brought from Egypt, for in her youth they had lain with her, pressed her virgin bosom, and poured out their immorality upon her. ⁹ “Therefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, for whom she lusted. ¹⁰ They uncovered her nakedness, took away her sons and daughters, and slew her with the sword; She became a byword among women, for they had executed judgment on her.

When Israel seceded from Judah, they set up their own religion based on the Golden calf and established their own king to replace David’s line.

Not one of the many kings that came to Israel’s throne was a good or godly ruler.

They were all corrupt, wicked idol-worshippers.

After Israel became Assyria’s vassal she couldn’t untangle herself.

When she finally tried to break away by forming a coalition w/both Syria & Egypt, she felt Assyria’s wrath.

The nation Samaria had turned to for assistance destroyed her.

Samaria fell to Assyria in 722 BC.

So after less than 200 years of independence they were conquered by the Assyrians & hauled off into captivity.

Then God turns to the Southern Kingdom . . .

¹¹ “Now although her sister Oholibah saw *this*, she became more corrupt in her lust than she, and in her harlotry more corrupt than her sister’s harlotry.

What happened to Israel ought to have been a warning to Judah.

But rather than learning the lesson her northern neighbor taught – she went even further into idolatry.

¹² “She lusted for the neighboring Assyrians, captains and rulers, clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding on

horses, all of them desirable young men.

King Ahaz willingly made Judah, Assyria's vassal.

Israel & Syria had banded together to **oppose** Assyria, & sought to bring Judah **into the alliance**. When Ahaz refused, they attacked Judah hoping to dethrone Ahaz & to replace him with a king who'd support their uprising.

Rather than trusting in God for deliverance, as Isaiah urged him to, Ahaz sent to Assyria to enlist her help.

So, Judah became an Assyrian vassal for the next century.

¹³ Then I saw that she was defiled; both *took* the same way. ¹⁴ But she increased her harlotry; She looked at men portrayed on the wall, images of Chaldeans portrayed in vermilion, ¹⁵ Girded with belts around their waists, flowing turbans on their heads, all of them looking like captains, in the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea, the land of their nativity.

Chaldea, the ancient name for Babylon, is where Abraham, their ancestral patriarch had originally come from.

¹⁶ As soon as her eyes saw them, she lusted for them and sent messengers to them in Chaldea. ¹⁷ "Then the Babylonians came to her, into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their immorality; So she was defiled by them, and alienated herself from them. ¹⁸ She revealed her harlotry and uncovered her nakedness. Then I alienated Myself from her, as I had alienated Myself from her sister.

As the power of the Assyrian Empire began to wane & they became preoccupied w/dealing with the emerging Babylonians, Judah regained her independence.

But it was short lived.

With the Assyrians gone, Egypt looked north & saw that Judah was ripe for the picking, so they invaded.

King Josiah led the army of Judah against them & was killed.

Judah then became a vassal of Egypt for 4 years.

That's when King Jehoiakim sent emissaries to Babylon requesting their aid.

When Babylon defeated the Egyptians at the famous Battle of Carchemish in 605 bc, Jehoiakim switched allegiances & became Nebuchadnezzar's vassal.

But Jerusalem found the Babylonians for whom she'd lusted were brutal.

They became a harsher taskmaster than either Assyria or Egypt, & Jerusalem sought to escape Babylon's dominance.

¹⁹ "Yet she multiplied her harlotry in calling to remembrance the days of her youth, when she had played the harlot in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ For she lusted for her paramours, whose flesh *is like* the flesh of donkeys, and whose issue *is like* the issue of horses. ²¹ Thus you called to remembrance the lewdness of your youth, when the Egyptians pressed your bosom because of your youthful breasts.

Ezekiel now gives 4 oracles announcing Jerusalem's doom.

They each beginning w/the words, "Thus says the Lord God."

²² "Therefore, Oholibah [Jeruz], thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, I will stir up your lovers against you, from whom you have alienated yourself, and I will bring them against you from every side:

²³ The Babylonians, all the Chaldeans, Pekod, Shoa, Koa, all the Assyrians with them, all of them desirable young men, governors and rulers, captains and men of renown, all of them riding on horses. ²⁴ And they shall come against you with chariots, wagons, and war-horses, with a horde of people. They shall array against you buckler, shield, and helmet all around. 'I will delegate judgment to them, and they shall judge you according to their judgments. ²⁵ I will set My jealousy against you, and they shall deal furiously with you; they shall remove your nose and your ears, and your remnant shall fall by the sword; They shall take your sons and your daughters, and your remnant shall be devoured by fire. ²⁶ They shall also strip you of your clothes and take away your beautiful jewelry. ²⁷ 'Thus I will make you cease your lewdness and your harlotry *brought* from the land of Egypt, so that you will not lift your eyes to them, nor remember Egypt anymore.'

Let me explain these odd names real quick:

The main people group the Babylonians & Assyrians came from were the **Arameans**.

The Chaldeans, Pekod, Shoa & Koa were all **tribes** within the larger Aramean ethnic group.

They constituted their own distinct battalions in the massive Babylonian army.

God just says here they're coming & they are going to be brutal!

Cutting off ears & nose was one of their favorite things to do.

The pathetic hope Judah had in aid from the Egyptians is going to be utterly & totally shattered.

²⁸ “For thus says the Lord God:

Here's the 2nd oracle . . .

‘Surely I will deliver you into the hand of those you hate, into the hand *of those* from whom you alienated yourself.

A reference to Zedekiah's rebelling against the Babylonians.

²⁹ They will deal hatefully with you, take away all you have worked for, and leave you naked and bare. The nakedness of your harlotry shall be uncovered, both your lewdness and your harlotry. ³⁰ I will do these *things* to you because you have gone as a harlot after the Gentiles, because you have become defiled by their idols. ³¹ You have walked in the way of your sister; therefore I will put her cup in your hand.’

³² “Thus says the Lord God:

3rd Oracle . . .

‘You shall drink of your sister's cup, the deep and wide one; You shall be laughed to scorn and held in derision; It contains much. ³³ You will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, the cup of horror and desolation, the cup of your sister Samaria. ³⁴ You shall drink and drain it, you shall break its shards, and tear at your own breasts; For I have spoken,’ says the Lord God.

³⁵ “Therefore thus says the Lord God:

4th oracle . . .

‘Because you have forgotten Me and cast Me behind your back, therefore you shall bear the *penalty of your lewdness and your harlotry.*’ ”

Now God briefly chronicles the hideous abominations both Israel & Judah have practiced in their worship of idols, and so called down His judgment on their sorry heads.

³⁶ The Lord also said to me: “Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? Then declare to them their abominations. ³⁷ For they have committed adultery, and blood *is* on their hands. They have committed adultery with their idols, and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through *the fire*, to devour *them*. ³⁸ Moreover they have done this to Me: They have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and profaned My Sabbaths. ³⁹ For after they had slain their children for their idols, on the same day they came into My sanctuary to profane it; and indeed thus they have done in the midst of My house.

Don't miss the disgusting picture here.

They go to the Valley of Hinnom on 1 side of Jerusalem where they sacrifice their children; slitting their throats & tossing their little bodies into the fire.

Then w/blood-stained hands & the smell of the smoke of burning flesh permeating their clothes, they go to the temple; ostensibly, to worship God.

Is it any wonder God's fed up?

Even a moment's reflection about what they were doing would have caused them to see worshipping God & idols was utterly incompatible.

But that's the problem; **They weren't thinking** – they were just covering **all** the religious bases because that's what everyone else was doing.

The popular spiritual idea was this:

Who knows who the real God is? Yahweh, Baal, Asherah, Molech, or Dagon.

Or maybe it's the gods of the Babylonians = Marduk & Ishtar.

Maybe it's the Egyptians gods = Ra, Amun, & Isis.

So – the safest bet is to worship them ALL.

Throw them each the proverbial bone so they'll be nice to you in return.

In ancient religion, the pagan gods didn't really care if you honored other gods, just so long as THEY got their share of devotion.

Marduk didn't care if you made an offering to Ra, just so long as Marduk got a similar piece of the action.

There was only 1 God who laid **sole claim** on His people's devotion; Yahweh—God of the Jews.

And He did so because He alone **IS** God; the rest were at **best**, fictions, & at **worst**, fronts for demons.

Which is why worshipping them devolved to human sacrifice & the most abominable practices that degrade human beings and turn them into brute beasts.

While we don't worship idols in the form of wood & stone images today, a similar mindset prevails.

When people imbibe the world's post-modern attitude that **truth is relative**;

That **right & wrong** are **purely situational & circumstantial**.

That the ends justify the means & that as long as you don't hurt anyone else you're free to do whatever you want –

They then hop in their car, drive to church, sing a few songs, & listen to a sermon with an open Bible on their lap – and think they're square with God because they gave Him His weekly or monthly hour.

They're replaying the same scenario God describes here.

You've heard the statistics:

9 out of 10 American adults say they believe in God; & most say they mean the God of the Bible.

Yet, only 47% say they believe the Bible is God's inspired & inerrant Word.

Only 3 in 10 say that we ought to read & understand the Bible **literally**.

Half believe The Bible, Book of Mormon & Quran say essentially the same thing.

When **specific doctrines** are queried, the numbers drop.

That is, of the 5 out of 10 who say they believe The Bible is God's Word; of JUST AHT GROUP

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Only 40% say they believe in a literal devil & hell.

They also aren't certain Jesus is God and that believing in him is the only way to heaven.

Using the idiom of Ezekiel here – these people who imbibe the post-modern world's spirit & go to church are like those people profaning His temple with bloody hands & smoke-scented garments.

They think they can live however they want, believing whatever they want, but just so long as they show up at church once a month, they've covered their religious base.

Better to **stay home**, read, believe & LIVE what the Bible says,

Than go to church **carrying** a big bible, bob & weave in time with the liturgy, but never reading or DOING what the Bible says.

Better still – **GO** to church w/a well-worn Bible – find a group of people who **also** learn & live the Word of God **and grow together**.

But – and here's the point: TO do that, we have to forsake the world's mindset.

We have to **renounce** the post-modern, post-Christian **generic spirituality** that's gripped our culture.

Doing so will not endear us to those immersed in it.

Just as the faithful of Ezekiel's day weren't universally loved & honored by all.

In **vs. 40-45**, God says the Judah & Israel's **political** adulteries were as wicked as her **spiritual** adulteries.

Whenever an international crisis loomed, instead of turning to God, they went running to foreigners for help.

They'd even tried to make an alliance w/the utterly unreliable **Sabeans**; the nomads of the eastern desert with a well-deserved reputation for being **wild traitors**.

They promise anything but **never** come thru. / They were **experts at treachery**.

It shows how bereft of sense Judah & Israel were that they made alliance with such people.

⁴⁶ “For thus says the Lord God: ‘Bring up an assembly against them, give them up to trouble and plunder. He’s speaking of the Babylonians who’ll surround Jerusalem.

⁴⁷ The assembly shall stone them with stones and execute them with their swords; they shall slay their sons and their daughters, and burn their houses with fire. ⁴⁸ Thus I will cause lewdness to cease from the land, that all

women may be taught not to practice your lewdness. ⁴⁹ They shall repay you for your lewdness, and you shall pay for your idolatrous sins. Then you shall know that I *am* the Lord God.’ ”

Ch. 24

What was foretold at the end of ch. 23, begins now . . .

¹ Again, in the 9th year, in the 10th month, on the 10th day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

² “Son of man, write down the name of the day, this very day—the king of Babylon started his siege against Jerusalem this very day.

It’s January 15, 588 BC & the Babylonians have arrived & set Jerusalem under siege.

This is now the 2nd siege by them in about 12 years.

The first had resulted in King Jehoiachin’s capture & the hauling off of thousands of hostages.

But Jerusalem had not learned its lesson – so it would have to learn it now.

In vs. 3-14, God likens the city to a cauldron set in a fire.

A meat stew cooks in it.

But in this case, no one eats it.

It just keeps boiling until it burns & reeks.

Now we come to a moment in Ezekiel’s ministry that was inordinately difficult for him.

His wife dies and God calls him to use the occasion of her death as an object lesson.

¹⁵ Also the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ¹⁶ “Son of man, behold, I take away from you the desire of your eyes with one stroke; yet you shall neither mourn nor weep, nor shall your tears run down. ¹⁷ Sigh in silence, make no mourning for the dead; bind your turban on your head, and put your sandals on your feet; do not cover *your* lips, and do not eat man’s bread *of sorrow*.”

¹⁸ So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died; and the next morning I did as I was commanded.

It’s a part of Jewish culture to show **great emotion** at momentous points in life; like **unfettered joy** at a wedding & birth of a child, but **intense sorrow** at the death of a relative.

The closer the family member, the more intense the grief.

But when Ezekiel’s wife died, God told him he was to sit on his grief and go about business as usual.

This was bizarre behavior and people were freaked out So,

¹⁹ And the people said to me, “Will you not tell us what these *things signify* to us, that you behave so?”

²⁰ Then I answered them, “The word of the Lord came to me, saying, ²¹ ‘Speak to the house of Israel, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I will profane My sanctuary, your arrogant boast, the desire of your eyes, the delight of your soul; and your sons and daughters whom you left behind shall fall by the sword.

Their families & relatives were living in Jerusalem that was now under siege.

They’d always believed that because the glorious Temple of Solomon was there, Jerusalem couldn’t fall.

What kept the Temple & City safe was the presence of God. But God had left & turned it over to the Babylonians.

²² And you shall do as I have done; you shall not cover *your* lips nor eat man’s bread *of sorrow*. ²³ Your turbans shall be on your heads and your sandals on your feet; you shall neither mourn nor weep, but you shall pine away in your iniquities and mourn with one another. ²⁴ Thus Ezekiel is a sign to you; according to all that he has done you shall do; and when this comes, you shall know that I *am* the Lord God.’ ”

When news reached the exiles Jerusalem had fallen & all their relatives were dead, the grief would be so great they’d go into shock & not even engage in the usual rituals of mourning.

BTW – Don’t be concerned about v. 16 & the fate of Ezekiel’s wife.

The English translation could give the impression God **killed her** to use it as an illustration.

That’s NOT what it says. It was **her time** to go.

But instead of a long, withering illness that ended in death, she’d go quickly w/no symptoms that anything was wrong.

²⁵ ‘And you, son of man—*will it not be* in the day when I take from them their stronghold, their joy and their glory, the desire of their eyes, and that on which they set their minds, their sons and their daughters: ²⁶ on that

day one who escapes will come to you to let *you* hear *it* with *your* ears; ²⁷ on that day your mouth will be opened to him who has escaped; you shall speak and no longer be mute. Thus you will be a sign to them, and they shall know that I *am* the Lord.’”

All the way back in ch. 3, not long after Ezekiel began his prophetic ministry, God made him unable to speak out loud **unless** he was uttering the message God gave him.

Now, with the messenger coming with news of Jerusalem’s fall, his speech is restored.

Ch. 25-27

Chs. 25-27 are oracles against 5 other kingdoms that Babylon will likewise conquer.

25:1-7 are the oracle against Ammon.

You may remember from last week how the Babylonians marched toward this region, taking the main road, & waited till they reached the crossroads to decide if they should attack Jerusalem or Ammon first.

Neb consulted the auguries, which told him to go against Jerusalem.

So he marched up, laid in the siege, then sent a force off to take on the Ammonites who’d also rebelled along with Judah.

They were virtually wiped out, leaving their territory for the Eastern nomadic tribes to move in & take over.

Vs. 8-11 are the proclamation against Moab & vs. 12-14 are the judgment against Edom.

Ammon, Moab & Edom made up Judah’s neighbors to the East.

All of them were caught & gutted by the Babylonian army.

In vs. 15-17, the oracle shifts from Judah’s eastern to her western neighbor, Philistia, which will suffer a fate similar to Ammon, Moab & Edom.

Chs. 26 & 27 are all directed at the Phoenician city of Tyre.

Tyre & Sidon were sister-cities north of Judah, along the coast of what today is Lebanon.

They were what are known as city-states, & although Tyre didn’t really exert control over much territory there in Lebanon,

She was the main city of a vast, powerful & super wealthy maritime empire stretching across north Africa, dozens of port-cities on the islands of Crete & Cypress; in Greece, Italy, Sicily, & all the way to the southern coast of Spain.

The city of **Carthage** which vied w/Rome for about 150 years for control of the ancient Mediterranean was a Tyrian colony.

During the days of King David, the relationship between Israel & Tyre was good.

The Tyrian king was Hiram who seems to have been open to learn of Israel’s God.

But there was a dramatic change of dynasties in Tyre & a new king named Ethbaal came to the throne.

He’d been a priest to Astarte & became a super-zealot for the Phoenician god, Baal – the storm God.

It was his daughter Jezebel who married the Israelite king Ahab.

Under the 2 of them the Northern Kingdom of Israel went whole-hog after idols.

So Tyre ends up getting some of the blame for Israel’s fall.

¹ And it came to pass in the 11th year, on the 1st day of the month, *that* the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

² “Son of man, because Tyre has said against Jerusalem, ‘Aha! She is broken who *was* the gateway of the peoples; now she is turned over to me; I shall be filled; she is laid waste.’

Tyre thought Jerusalem’s fall would be to her advantage.

For decades the 2 had competed for the lucrative trade between Egypt & Mesopotamia.

Jerusalem controlled the caravan land routes while Tyre controlled the sea lanes.

With Jerusalem’s destruction, travel overland would be too dangerous due to bandits, so everyone would want to take their goods by sea.

³ “Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I *am* against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up.

Babylon's army consisted of many of those they'd conquered.

That was part of the terms of being a vassal; you had to supply so many troops for Neb's further campaigns.

⁴ And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. ⁵ It shall be *a place for* spreading nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,' says the Lord God; 'it shall become plunder for the nations. ⁶ Also her daughter *villages* which *are* in the fields shall be slain by the sword. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.'

Tyre was ingeniously laid out.

There was a mainland city right along the coast with dozens of supporting suburbs that helped supply its needs.

Directly offshore of the main city a half mile out was an island that had been completely built up as a fortress.

It was the main citadel & governing center of the city w/not 1 but 2 excellent ports.

When Neb finished off Jerusalem, he turned around & marched north to conquer Tyre.

The ensuing siege lasted – 12 years!

And the Babylonians never did take the island.

They couldn't because it was well supplied by the Phoenician navy.

But the mainland city & all its suburbs were **completely destroyed**.

There's a pun here in v. 4 when it says –

I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.

The word Tyre means Rock. Well – that's what Neb made the mainland city of Tyre – a flat rock.

⁷ "For thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, I will bring against Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses, with chariots, and with horsemen, and an army with many people. ⁸ He will slay with the sword your daughter *villages* in the fields; he will heap up a siege mound against you, build a wall against you, and raise a defense against you. ⁹ He will direct his battering rams against your walls, and with his axes he will break down your towers. ¹⁰ Because of the abundance of his horses, their dust will cover you; your walls will shake at the noise of the horsemen, the wagons, and the chariots, when he enters your gates, as men enter a city that has been breached. ¹¹ With the hooves of his horses he will trample all your streets; he will slay your people by the sword, and your strong pillars will fall to the ground.'

There's a subtle shift now in the prophecy regarding Tyre.

The "he" - meaning Neb, of the preceding vs. changes to "they" & expands on the "many nations" that come against Tyre in v. 3.

Ezekiel looks beyond what the Babylonians will do to Tyre to what **later** conquerors will do.

¹² They will plunder your riches and pillage your merchandise; they will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses; they will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water. ¹³ I will put an end to the sound of your songs, and the sound of your harps shall be heard no more. ¹⁴ I will make you like the top of a rock; you shall be *a place for* spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the Lord have spoken,' says the Lord God.

After the Babylonian conquest of the **mainland** city, Neb offered the island a negotiated settlement where they were called a vassal but were pretty much left alone.

They eventually rebuilt.

But in 332 BC, Alexander the Great came thru & when Tyre refused to surrender, he first conquered the mainland city, then directed the Greek navy to cut off the island's resupply; they weren't able to fight off the Phoenician navy.

He then took the debris of the mainland's ruin & built a causeway out to the islands where he eventually prevailed.

Literally fulfilling the words here in v. 12

They will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses; they will lay your stones, your timber, and your soil in the midst of the water.

While the area around the ancient site of Tyre has been rebuilt, the site of the city itself remains a ruin to this day. Beginning at v. 15 and going all the way to the end of ch. 27 is a lament for Tyre.

Ch. 26 records *the lament of all Tyre's colonies* spread out across the Mediterranean is described.

Ch. 27 is *Ezekiel's* lament at how such a vast & long empire came to such a final and ignominious end.

We'll end there, but let me just say that the lament over Tyre goes in in the next ch. & gets really interesting – for reasons that we'll have to wait till next week to see.

We're quickly closing in on some of the most exciting chs. of the Bible.

Chs. 29-32 are a long proclamation against & lament for Egypt which we'll mostly just skim. Along with some repeat material about Jerusalem's judgment.

But then we come in ch. 36 to the prophecies of Israel's restoration in the end times.

What makes these chs. so fascinating is that for the first time in history, the world geo-political scene is set for their *literal* fulfillment.