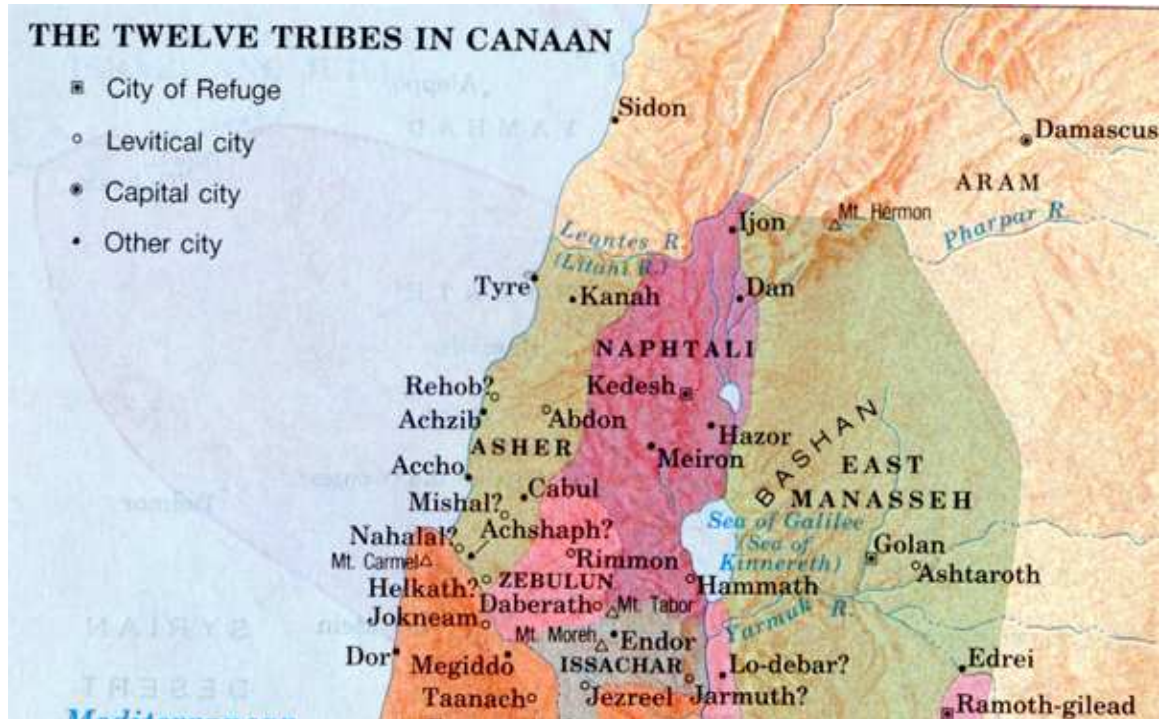


Notes on Ezekiel Chapters 26

God had Ezekiel give 3 oracles against Tyre (chapters 26-28). Why did God give so many words against Tyre versus the first 4 countries in chapter 25?

Tyre was a city-state of Phoenicia. It is considered to be founded by Sidon the grandson of Ham and son of Canaan. It was in the northern part of Canaan. It is currently the city of Sur in Lebanon. The area which connected the island to the mainland has been filled in to form a peninsula.



Biblical references to Tyre

- Mentioned as a boundary point in Joshua 19:29
- Hiram king of Tyre sends materials to David for him to build his house 1 Chron 14:1
- Solomon trades and makes deals with Hiram king of Tyre when building the temple 2 Sam 5:11, 1 Kg 5:1
- Solomon sends to Tyre to have Hiram (his mother is an Israelite from Naphtali) a craftsman come and build furnishings for the temple. 1 Kg 7:13
- Joel prophesies against Tyre Joel 3:4
- Amos prophesies against Tyre Amos 1:9
- Isaiah prophesies against Tyre Isa 23:5
- Jeremiah prophesies against Tyre Jer 25:22, 27:3, 47:4
- Ezekiel prophesies against Tyre ch 26-28
- Ezra does business with Tyre & Sidon for materials Ezra 3:7
- Nehemiah also does business with Tyre Neh 13:16
- Zechariah prophesies against Tyre Zech 9:2
- Jesus references Tyre & Sidon Matt 11:21 Luke 10:13
- Jesus visits the area of Tyre Matt 15:21 Mark 7:24
- Paul returns from his 3rd missionary journey and lands in Tyre Acts 21:3

Notes on Ezekiel Chapters 26

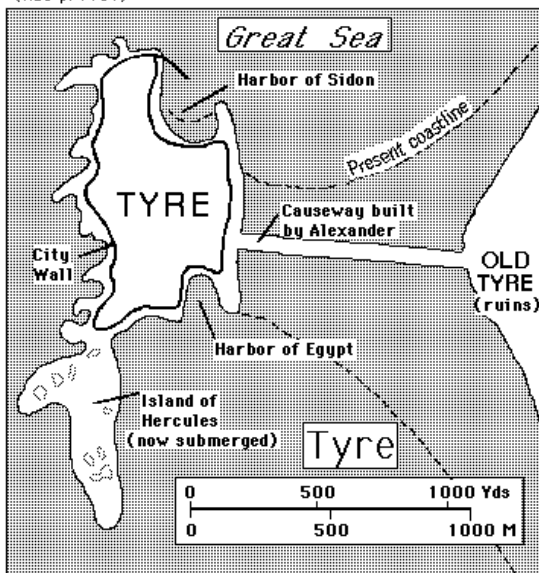
On the original question: Perhaps it has to do with what God said to Abraham: **I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse** (Gen 12:3). God blessed Tyre, He says many flattering things of Tyre. But He also pronounces many curses on Tyre.

We (the United States) should pay attention to these curses and praises. We have a lot in common with the prosperity as did Tyre. We do business with many nations and have tremendous shipping industries bringing products from all over the earth to us and from us. So we should make sure that we as a nation work diligently in protecting and providing for Israel!

History of Tyre

- Thought to have been built around 1400_{BC}.
- Hiram I reigned from 980–947_{BC}¹. He prospered and traded with David & Solomon.
- Phoenician independence ended with the reign of Ashurnasirpal II (883–859 b.c.) of Assyria. More than a century later Shalmaneser V laid siege to Tyre and it fell to his successor, Sargon II. With the decline of Assyria after the middle of the seventh century b.c. Tyre again prospered.¹
- Ezekiel prophesied the destruction of Tyre (Ezek. 26:3–21). The first stage of this prophecy came true when Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, besieged the mainland city of Tyre for 13 years (585–572 b.c.) and apparently destroyed it. However, Nebuchadnezzar had no navy; so he could not flatten the island city.²
- The second stage of Ezekiel's prophecy was fulfilled in 332 b.c., when Alexander the Great besieged the island city of Tyre for seven months. He finally captured it when he built a causeway from the mainland to the island. Hauling cedars from the mountains of Lebanon, he drove them as piles into the floor of the sea between the mainland and the island. Then he used the debris and timber of the ruined mainland city as solid material for the causeway. Hence, the remarkable prophecy of Ezekiel was completely fulfilled.³

(HBD p. 1101)



¹Youngblood, R. F., Bruce, F. F., Harrison, R. K., & Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1995). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary*.

²Youngblood, R. F., Bruce, F. F., Harrison, R. K., & Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1995). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary*.

³Youngblood, R. F., Bruce, F. F., Harrison, R. K., & Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1995). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary*.

⁴Map from Harpers Bible Dictionary and picture from Google map

Notes on Ezekiel Chapters 26

- freed from the Ptolemaic yoke in 273 BC
- fell to the Seleucids in 198 bc
- freed again in 126 bc, when Pompey conquered the city and proclaimed its autonomy⁵
- It fell to Arab Muslims in the 7th century AD, then to European Crusaders in 1124. Egyptian Mamluks destroyed Tyre in 1291 as they drove the Crusaders out of the region for good. Although adequate for the small ships of antiquity, Tyre's harbors became almost useless after medieval times, and the city never recovered.⁶

⁵Negev, A. (1996, c1990). *The Archaeological encyclopedia of the Holy Land* (3rd ed.).

⁶ Microsoft © Encarta © 2008. © 1993-2007 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.