

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Prophecy and the Nations

by Dempsey Collins

- I. Prophecies concerning Tyre. The chief city of the Phoenicians. It was a very wealthy city because it was an important seaport through which merchants from all over the civilized world passed (Isa. 23; Zech. 9:3, 4; Ezek. 26-28).
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar will destroy the mainland city of Tyre (Ezek. 26:7-11)
 - B. Many nations will come against Tyre (Ezek. 26:3)
 - C. The debris of the city was to be thrown into the water (Ezek. 26:12)
 - D. She will be made flat like the top of a bare rock (Ezek. 26:4, 14)
 - E. Fisherman will spread their nets there (Ezek. 26:5, 14)
 - F. It will never again be rebuilt but left desolate (Ezek. 26:14, 19, 21)

Most of the predictions in Ezekiel 26 are made in reference to the original city of Tyre which was on the mainland.

- II. Fulfillment of prophecies
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to mainland Tyre three years after the prophecy. The Encyclopedia Britannica says: “After a 13 year siege (585-573 B.C.) by Nebuchadnezzar II, Tyre made terms and acknowledged Babylonia suzerainty. In 538 B.C. Tyre, with the rest of Phoenicia, passed to the suzerainty of Achaemenid Persia.” When Nebuchadnezzar broke the gates down, he found the city almost empty. The majority of the people had moved by ship to an island about one-half mile off the coast and fortified a city there. The mainland city was destroyed in 573, but the city of Tyre on the island remained a powerful city for several hundred years.
 - B. “In his war on the Persians,” writes the Encyclopedia Britannica, “Alexander III, after defeating Darius III at the Battle of Issus (333) to open their gates, as it was part of his general plan to deny

their use to the Persian fleet. The citizens of Tyre refused to do so, and Alexander laid siege to the city. Possessing no fleet, he demolished old Tyre, on the mainland, and with the debris built a mole 200 ft. (60m) wide across the straits separating the old and new towns, erecting towers and war engines at the farther end.”

- C. “Ezekiel’s prophecy,” writes Joseph Free, “concerning the laying of the stones, the timber, and the dust in ‘the midst of the water’ Ezek. 26:12b was specifically fulfilled when Alexander’s engineers built the mole, and used the remains of the ancient land city of Tyre, laying them in the midst of the water.” Nina Nelson in *Your Guide to Lebanon* writes: “The ruins of ancient Tyre are different from all the others – situated ... in the heart of the sea.”
- D. Alexander scraped the old site of Tyre clean when he made the causeway out to the island and left a “bare rock.”
- E. We will now see Tyre at present, as described by Nina Jidejian: “The ‘Sidonian’ port of Tyre is still in use today. Small fishing vessels lay at anchor there. An examination of the foundations reveals granite columns of the Roman period which were incorporated as binders in the walls by the Crusaders. The port has become a haven today for fishing boats and a place for spreading nets.”
- F. “The great freshwater springs of Reselain are at the site of the mainland city of Tyre, and no doubt supplied the city with an abundance of fresh water. These springs are still there and still flow, but their water runs into the sea. The flow of these springs was measured by an engineer, and found to be about 10,000,000 gallons daily. It is still an excellent site for a city and would have free water enough for a large modern city, yet it has never been rebuilt. Thus the prophecy has stood true for more than 2,500 years.”

Conclusion:

Fulfilled prophecy is indeed one of the most powerful weapons that God has leveled against His challengers. These scriptures and historical data cannot be ignored by skeptics – they must be dealt with. One single case of Biblical fulfilled prophecy would prove the inspiration of the Bible, yet hundreds are extant. We must ever realize that these are the utterances by the Holy Spirit (II Pet. 1:21) and they demand our obedience to the almighty God who controls the history of this world and who will judge us through His Son at the appointed time.

Sources: N.A.S. Translation
Evidence That Demands a Verdict, McDowell
Internal Evidences, Hailey
Commentary on the Minor Prophets, Hailey
I.S.B.E.

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16