

**Ezekiel**  
**January 20, 2008**  
**Chapters 25-32, Emphasis 28**

**I. The Future**

Chapters 25-48 move beyond the destruction of Jerusalem to discuss events that will be occurring later, basically saying that their prayers will eventually be answered. This group of chapter deals with the punishment of nations around Judah. In what ways do these additional punishments bring hope to Israel? What do these judgments say about the nature of God?

At the end of chapter 24, Ezekiel is told to be silent until certain events happen that are about to unfold. In chapter 33, these events unfold and Ezekiel talks. Chapters 25-32 are a kind of interim, representing this additional time of silence.

Chapters 25-32 contain 7 oracles against other nations.

Ammon	25:1-7
Moab	25:8-11
Edom	25:12-14
Philistia	25:15-17
Tyre	26:1-28:19
Sidon	28:20-24
Egypt	29:1-32:32

**II. Ammon: 25:1-7**

The “Aha” indicates the glee with which the Ammonites greeted the destruction of the sanctuary. By being so happy at the destruction of the Israelites, they also deny the power of God. For example, they were very pleased with the destruction of the sanctuary.

The “men of the east,” or literally east-ites, are probably the Arabs.

**III. Moab: 25:8-11**

Moab’s sin was to say that Judah was like any other nation, which by implication means that the LORD is like any other national god. In Numbers 25, it was Moab that first introduced Israel to Baal worship. Both the Ammonites and Moabites assisted Nebuchadnezzar against Judah. Moab will learn the hard way that the LORD is God.

Seir is another name for Edom, which is covered next.

**IV. Edom: 25:14-16**

Edom's sin is acts of overly zealous vengeance against Judah. Teman was in the extreme north of the country, and Dedan was in the south. So, this is saying that the whole country will be laid waste. Eventually the remnants of Edom flee the Arabs into southern Judah where the larger Judah swallows the remnant when it returns to the land.

**V. Philistia: 25:16-18**

The five Philistine cities were Gaza, Gath, Ekron, Ashdod, and Askelon; the name Palestine comes from Philistia. Because they were so vengeful against Israel, God will be vengeful to them.

**VI. Tyre: 26:1-28:19**

Tyre was the principal city of Phoenicia. Its name means "rock." The main fortress of the city was on a rock or island off the coast. The Assyrians had attacked the city and so had Nebuchadnezzar. Neither had been able to defeat the island fortress. Alexander the Great was the first to do so.

Verses 26:3-6 have six judgments offered for

1. The LORD is against Tyre
2. Nations will come against Tyre.
3. The walls of Tyre will be destroyed and the towers pulled down.
4. The island will be scrapped down to bare rock
5. Despite its past wealth, the future worth of the island will be small, only for the spreading of fishnets.

Eventually, the "rock" fortress will be taken and so destroyed by Alexander the Great that it will not be habited as in the past. Today, it is no longer an island, basically a park with a few caretakers living on it.

**VII. 28:11-17: The King of Tyre, or Satan**

**Ezek 28:11-12a**

**11 The word of the LORD came to me: 12a "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says:**

**NIV**

The form of the next section has been much debated. Clearly, the being that is discussed goes beyond the power of the king of Tyre; Satan is the only being who can possibly fulfill all that is written, and as such this section gives us a greater understanding of Satan. Probably the king's pride is

described by an analogy to the pride of Satan. Isa 14:12-14 has similar thoughtware in it.

By taking the story of Eden and man's fall, Ezekiel shows that every man has the tendency to think in the way of the king of Tyre. If Satan can fall so far, why would any man, even though he might presume to be a god, expect to have a different fate?

If Satan deserves and gets his punishment, then how much more should the king of Tyre be under God's judgment when he performs similar sins?

**Ezek 28:12b-14**

**12b** "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. **13** You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. **14** You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.

NIV

Verse 12b shows Satan before the fall. Verse 13 adds Satan was in Eden, as per the story of the snake and is a created being as were all angels. Verse 14 shows the great honors given to Satan, who was also a guardian cherub as the one who guarded Eden after the fall. NOTE: "Fiery stones" is mentioned only here and verse 16. It might be a reference to the jewels, but no one is exactly sure to what it refers.

**Ezek 28:15-16b**

**15** You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. **16b** Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned.

NIV

There was no obvious fault in Satan. His fall into sin appeared to be a sudden one. Like the King of Tyre, he had widespread interactions that somehow filled him with thinking that was not from God. The moment that he acted on these impulses, his fall was complete.

**Ezek 28:16b-17**

**16b** So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. **17** Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

NIV

Basically, Satan loses his grand status because of his rebellion against God. Per the Isaiah 14 passage, part of that sin was the desire to replace God. He continues to work through his minions such as the King of Tyre.

### **VIII. Egypt: 29:1-32:32**

Egypt has interfered in God's intent in Israel. Now the LORD will pay back the nation and Pharaoh. After Josiah during the time of Zedekiah, Egypt tried to prop up Judah against the Babylonian incursion. Of course, this was against God's stated will for his people. As in 29:8, the sword is probably Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians.

Please note that this section speaks of an exile for the Egyptians. It is not clear from recorded history that such an exile occurred, but the records in Egypt for this point in time are not very good.

### **IX. Babylon**

No judgment is included for Babylon. Instead, it acts on behalf of God, as His sword, under the command of Nebuchadnezzar. The fourth chapter of Daniel even records that Nebuchadnezzar became a true believer, after a few humiliating plights in his own life.

### **X. Questions**

1. Where were Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistia?
2. In what ways, if any, were these four nations related to Israel?
3. For what crime is each nation punished?
4. How was each of these four nations punished?
5. What good is there in God showing that disaster is coming on Tyre?
6. The coastlands are the islands and coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. Why will they be shaken up?
7. What reasons do you think that Tyre had to be proud? How does prosperity affect us?
8. Why did God create Satan and give him all the advantages described in Chapter 28:12-17? How do our advantages affect us?
9. What is God going to do to Sidon?
10. God depicted Tyre as a ship. How does He depict Egypt?
11. What does God say that He is going to do to Egypt?
12. What lesson does God have for Pharaoh to learn from the example of the cedar tree?