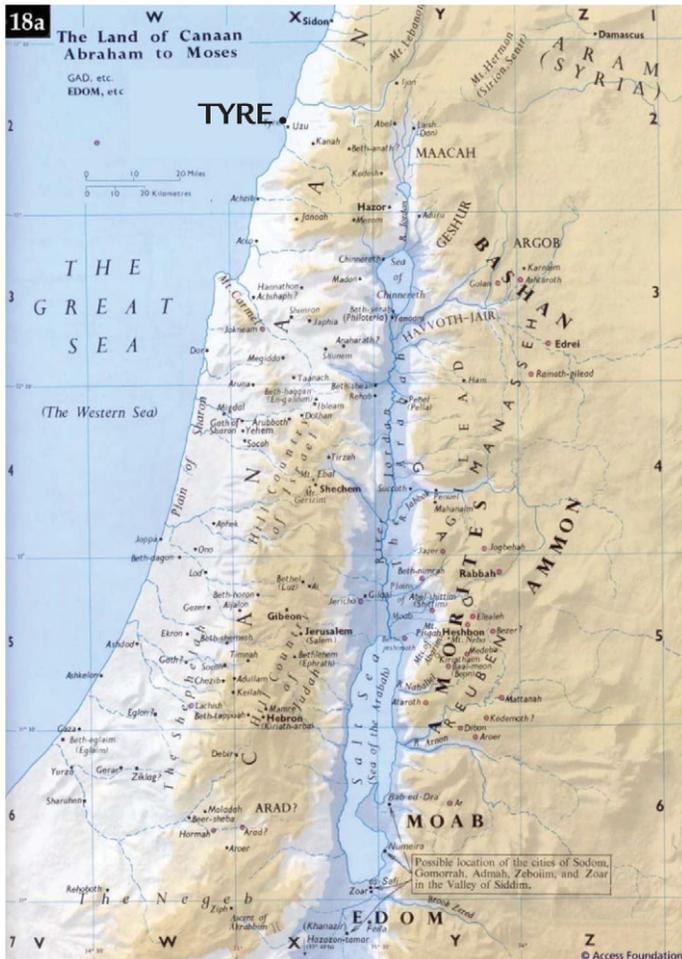


# EZEKIEL

## “Strengthened by God”

## Session 19 - Ezekiel 26 & 27

### TYRE



Chapter 25 spoke of judgement against nations to the East and West of Jerusalem. The next three chapters are devoted to Tyre, the center of the ancient Phoenician empire, with chapter 28 making the peculiar crossover to Satan. Tyre is on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and literally means “the rock-city”. The present day name of the location is Súr in Southern Lebanon about 34 miles North of Haifa.

According to the Greek historian Herodotus, the origins of Tyre can be traced back as early as the 28th century BC.. Tyre had made a transition off the mainland to an island a half mile off the coast and had successfully defended itself against the attacks of the Assyrian King Shalmaneser for five years a century and half prior to the fall of Jerusalem.

Tyre actually had a history of friendship with Israel in times past. King Hiram was helpful to both David and Solomon in the preparation of the building of the temple (2Sam 5; 1Ki 5; 1Chr 14; 2Chr 2). After the split of Israel the relationship between the nations began to change dramatically. Eventually Jews were taken and sold as slaves by the people of Tyre to the Greeks and Edomites (Joel 3; Amos 1).

Tyre’s navy was legendary and until Alexander the Great, Tyre was virtually invincible. The Phoenicians were well recognized as a great commercial empire because of her mastery of the open waters. The reaches of her sea-going trading efforts went as far as Great Britain, and had established colonies all throughout the Mediterranean. One of the major issues of dispute was over the North - South trade routes that ran through Israel between Northern cities and Egypt. Israel exacted taxes upon those using the routes through her land and this contributed to some of the agitation. Naturally, Tyre viewed Jerusalem’s fall as a good thing for her own economy.

**26:1** *“Now in the eleventh year, on the first of the month, the word of the LORD came to me saying,”*

At the time of this writing, it had been 11 years since Jehoiachin was carried away. While the month is not mentioned, it is quite possible that since Jerusalem fell to Babylon mainly during the 4th month, that Tyre’s taunt was uttered within the same month since she was relatively close in distance and word if the siege would have arrived there soon. So the first of the month then was probably the fifth month.