

Chapter 21: Further prophesies of the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem and the fall of the prince, Zedekiah (vs. 25-26). It includes a prophesy of the Messiah: “A ruin, ruin, ruin I will make it. This also shall not be, until he comes, the one to whom judgment belongs, and I will give it to him” (21:27).

Chapter 22: Condemnation of specific sins of Israel.

Chapter 23: Israel and Judah pictured as lascivious sisters.

Chapter 24: Ezekiel is given a vision of the siege of Jerusalem and told not to visibly mourn the death of his wife.

Chapter 25: Prophecies against Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistia.

Chapters 26-27: Prophecies of judgment and laments regarding Tyre, a wealthy Phoenician city whose fleets once dominated the Mediterranean. Among other exports, it was famed for the purple dyes derived from snail shells and used to color royal robes for centuries. During a seige by Nebuchadnezzar much of the populace relocated to an island offshore. Alexander the Great built a causeway to the island, conquered it, and threw the buildings into the

sea. The city was largely uninhabited during the Middle Ages. It now is a substantial Lebanese city but part of the old island was never rebuilt and has become an archaeological site, along with extensive underwater ruins.

Chapter 28: This chapter consists of both a rebuke against the ruler of Tyre and a lament over his fate, followed by a prophecy against Sidon, a coastal city about 20 miles north of Tyre.

Notes:

28:1, 11 The word “prince” or “ruler” in verse 1 is *nagid* in Hebrew. The “king” of verse 11 is *melek*, so there is a distinction. They likely refer to the same person but verses 11-18 also contain clear references to Satan.

Chapters 29-32: Prophecies and laments over Egypt. 29:13-16 tell us that Egypt will be restored but will never again be a dominant nation, a promise that history has fulfilled.

Chapter 33: The Lord restates the duties of a watchman, similar to Chapter 3. In verse 21, a messenger announces the long predicted fall of Jerusalem.

Chapter 34: The Lord rebukes the selfish shepherds of Israel and promises a Good Shepherd in the form of his servant David.

Questions for Chapter 28:

1. The description of wealthy Tyre is similar to that of Babylon in Revelation 18. What do these two cities symbolize? How are they opposed to God?
2. The king of Tyre as described in verses 11-19 is thought by many commentators to also depict Satan as the animating influence behind the human king. What can we learn about Satan’s history, character, and destiny from these verses? (Also see Isaiah 14:12-21.)

Questions for Chapter 34:

3. Who are the shepherds and who are the flock?

4. To whom does the flock belong?

5. Verses 3-5 detail the negligence and greed of the shepherds. How do these translate to human terms?

6. 1 Peter 5:1-4 gives standards for New Testament shepherds. How are these similar to what Ezekiel said?

7. Who is the one shepherd of verse 23. When will he lead the flock?

8. When will verse 25-31 take place (if they have not already)?