

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

EZEKIEL 27-28

Pride is a problem. It's brought down many...

In Ezekiel 26-28 the prophet predicts the destruction of the kingdom of Tyre. The city of Tyre was home of the ancient mariners - a seafaring people. Tyre was the maritime capitol of the Phoenicians. Yet the King of Tyre became proud - haughty. And God grew *tired of Tyre*.

Proverbs 6 tells there are six things God hates, and at the top of the list is "a proud look." God hates pride.

DL Moody once said, "God sends no one away empty except those people who are full of themselves." James 4:6 tells us, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Ezekiel declares God's judgment on Tyre.

Pride is an enemy. It infiltrates the human heart.

Christian philosopher, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, once said, "Pride grows in the human heart like lard in a pig."

It reminds me of La Salle University basketball coach Speedy Morris. He was shaving when his phone rang.

His wife identified the caller as someone from Sports Illustrated. Coach Morris was so excited that his program was finally getting the national attention he thought it deserved. Morris nicked his face, and fell down the stairs as he raced to the phone. When he finally answered, the voice on the other end of the line said, "For just 75 cents an issue you can get a one year trial subscription." God has a way of letting the air out of an inflated pride.

Tonight's chapters warn us of the ultimate outcome of pride. God *tired of Tyre*, because He *tires of pride*.

Chapter 27 begins, "The word of the Lord came again to me, saying, "Now, son of man, take up a lamentation for Tyre..." The following chapter is written in the style of a lamentation - a funeral dirge. Ezekiel is singing the blues over Tyre. He's mourning her coming destruction.

"And say to Tyre, 'You who are situated at the entrance of the sea, merchant of the peoples on many coastlands, thus says the Lord God: "O Tyre, you have said, 'I am perfect in beauty.'" There's an old saying, "a conceited person is someone who does a crossword puzzle with a ballpoint pen." It's the guy or gal who thinks they're *perfect* - that they're above making a mistake.

We all need to sober ourselves with Paul's familiar words in 1 Corinthians 10:12, "Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." It's when we think we're "*all that...*" that's when we're most vulnerable to a fall.

Someone said, "Don't get the big head, your hat will cut off circulation to your brain." That's what happens!

Pride causes us to lose objectivity. When we think we're perfect, we're on the verge of proving we're not.

The city of Tyre boasted, "*I am perfect in beauty.*" But it wouldn't take long before things turned ugly for Tyre.

Verse 4, "Your borders are in the midst of the seas. Your builders have perfected your beauty." Tyre's borders were her influence, and she sailed the seas. The city wasn't hemmed in

by mountains or dessert. The city of Tyre had access to the entire Mediterranean world.

And it's builders had made the city beautiful.

And in a skillful literary move, Ezekiel paints a picture of Tyre's excellence by describing the city as a ship...

Verse 5, "They made all your planks of fir trees from **Senir**; they took a cedar from Lebanon to make you a mast. Of oaks from **Bashan** they made your oars; the company of Ashurites have inlaid your planks with ivory from the coasts of Cyprus." The planks of this wooden ship are oak, and inlaid with glistening white ivory.

"Fine embroidered linen from **Egypt** was what you spread for your sail; blue and purple from the coasts of **Elishah** was what covered you." "*Elishah*" was probably the Hebrew name for the Peloponnesus - the peninsula in southern Greece - the land of Sparta and Mycenae.

"Inhabitants of Sidon and Arvad were your oarsmen; your wise men, O Tyre, were in you; they became your pilots. Elders of Gebal and its wise men were in you to caulk your seams (or repair your leaks); all the ships of the sea and their oarsmen were in you to market your merchandise." Tyre did commerce with the world.

But now after describing the city as this beautiful, seafaring vessel, Ezekiel talks about a shipwreck.

Think of the city of Tyre as the Bible's Titanic.

At the time it was launched, the Titanic was the largest ship afloat. It carried 2,224 passengers, and was 375 miles off the coast of Newfoundland - when at 11:40 pm the ship hit an

iceberg. By 2:20 am the ship had sunk. It took less than 3 hours for this huge ocean liner to sink.

The Titanic seemed so strong and invincible - unsinkable - yet it sunk so quickly and completely. And that was exactly what happened to the city of Tyre.

Ezekiel continues, “Those from **Persia, Lydia, and Libya** were in your army as men of war; they hung shield and helmet in you; they gave splendor to you.”

Persia is modern day Iran. Lydia and Libya are in North Africa. All three nations were military mercenaries.

Verse 11, “Men of **Arvad** with your army were on your walls all around, and the men of **Gammad** were in your towers; they hung their shields on your walls all around; they made your beauty perfect.” “*Gammad*” means “**watchman**.” The “*men of Gammad*” could’ve been like a Phoenician coast guard. They watched the shoreline.

It’s interesting, the Hebrew word “*Gammad*” actually means “**cubit**.” Which was a measurement of about 18 inches. Some folks think *the Gammadims* were pygmies.

Verse 12 mentions “**Tarshish** was your merchant because of your many luxury goods. They gave you silver, iron, tin, and lead for your goods.” We’re not sure where Tarshish was located. Some say Spain. Others Britain. Britannia means “**land of tin**.” Here tin came from Tarshish. It was the furthest west in the Mediterranean.

When Jonah ran from God he got a ticket to Tarshish.

“**Javan, Tubal, and Meshech** were your traders.” “*Javan*” was Greece. “*Tubal and Meshech*” is Russia.

“They bartered human lives and vessels of bronze for your merchandise.” They traded bronze and people. Apparently, these nations were involved in slave trading.

“Those from the house of **Togarmah** (this was a northern nation, probably Armenia) traded for your wares with horses, steeds, and mules. The men of **Dedan** were your traders; many isles were the market of your hand. They brought you ivory tusks and ebony as payment.”

Dedan was a port on the Gulf of Aquaba - east of the Sinai. It flowed to the Red Sea - which empties into the Arabian Sea - and ultimately into the Indian Ocean.

These traders brought goods from India and Africa.

“**Syria** was your merchant because of the abundance of goods you made. They gave you for your wares emeralds, purple, embroidery, fine linen, corals, and rubies. **Judah** and the land of Israel were your traders. They traded for your merchandise wheat of Minnith, millet, honey, oil, and balm. **Damascus** was your merchant because of the abundance of goods you made, because of your many luxury items, with the wine of Helbon and with white wool. **Dan** and **Javan** paid for your wares, traversing back and forth. Wrought iron, cassia, and cane were among your merchandise.

Dedan was your merchant in saddlecloths for riding. **Arabia** and all the princes of **Kedar** were your regular merchants. They traded with you in lambs, rams, and goats. The merchants of **Sheba** and **Raamah** were your merchants. They traded for

your wares the choicest spices, all kinds of precious stones, and gold.

Haran, Canneh, Eden, the merchants of Sheba, Assyria, and Chilmad were your merchants. The cities mentioned here were all in the Mesopotamian Valley.

Ezekiel is going into great detail to show the breadth of Tyre's influence. This was a global city. She did business with people and cities all over the world.

These were your merchants in choice items - in purple clothes, in embroidered garments, in chests of multicolored apparel, in sturdy woven cords, which were in your marketplace. "The ships of Tarshish were carriers of your merchandise. You were filled and very glorious in the midst of the seas. Your oarsmen brought you into many waters, but the east wind broke you in the midst of the seas." The "*east wind*" was noted for its violence.

Remember in Acts 27 the ship that was carrying Paul to Rome was driven hundreds of miles off course. We're told, "**a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon**" - which means "**storm from the east.**"

Here the notorious "*east wind*" refers to the invading Babylonian army and its General Nebuchadnezzar. Ezekiel uses this same imagery in 17:10 and 19:12.

Verse 27, "**Your riches, wares, and merchandise, your mariners and pilots, your caulkers and merchandisers, all your men of war who are in you, and the entire company which is in your midst, will fall into the midst of the seas on the day of your**

ruin. The common-land will shake at the sound of the cry of your pilots.”

Proverbs 16:18 tells us, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Once again, because of its pride Tyre will end up shipwrecked!

Verse 29, “All who handle the oar, the mariners, all the pilots of the sea will come down from their ships and stand on the shore. They will make their voice heard because of you; they will cry bitterly and cast dust on their heads; they will roll about in ashes; they will shave themselves completely bald because of you, gird themselves with sackcloth, and weep for you with bitterness of heart and bitter wailing. In their wailing for you they will take up a lamentation, and lament for you: ‘What city is like Tyre, destroyed in the midst of the sea?’”

‘When your wares went out by sea, you satisfied many people; you enriched the kings of the earth with your many luxury goods and your merchandise. But you are broken by the seas in the depths of the waters; your merchandise and the entire company will fall in your midst.’ God will topple the commercial empire of Tyre.

“All the inhabitants of the isles will be astonished at you; their kings will be greatly afraid, and their countenance will be troubled. The merchants among the peoples will hiss at you; you will become a horror, and be no more forever.” Author Carl Sandburg once wrote rather graphically, “The earth is strewn with the exploded bladders of the puffed up.” The inflated will be deflated.

Pride eventually gets punctured... *God will see to it!*

Chapter 28, “The word of the Lord came to me again, saying, “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Because your heart is lifted up...””

In chapter 28 the attention shifts - from the city of Tyre to its king! At the time of Ezekiel, the King of Tyre was named “Ethbaal II.” Apparently, he had become haughty, proud, arrogant. It’s been said, “An inferiority complex would be a blessing, if only the right person had it.”

This Ethbaal needed to eat a slice of humble pie.

It reminds of [The Fight Of The Century](#) in 1971.

The brash-talking challenger, Muhammed Ali, squared off with the heavyweight champion, Joe Frazier. Before the big bout, Ali proved he was the more skillful talker...

He told Life Magazine, “There seems to be confusion. We’re gonna clear this confusion up on March 8. We’re gonna decided once and for all who is king! There’s not a man alive who can whup me. I’m too smart. I’m too pretty. I AM the greatest. I AM the king. I should be a postage stamp - that’s the only way I could get licked!”

Yet on March 8, 1971 Muhammed Ali got licked. Joe Frazier whupped him in a 15 round unanimous decision. All Ali could say after the fight was “I’m not going to cry.”

This is what happened to Ethbaal II.

In this chapter he utters boasts that make Muhammed Ali’s arrogance look like a man with an inferiority complex. Ethbaal II was *the height of haughtiness*.

And because of his pride God will destroy him.

There is only one other person who has ever been as arrogant as this Ethbaal - *and that was the prince of pride, the originator and propagator of arrogance, Satan himself.* It's not surprising that in the midst of this discussion of Ethbaal, the devil also comes into focus...

The Lord says of Ethbaal, **“and you say, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, in the midst of the seas,’ yet you are a man, and not a god, though you set your heart as the heart of a god...”** Ethbaal was like many Middle Eastern despots. He was so enthralled with himself and his successes that Ethbaal claimed to be a Deity.

He made himself out to be a god... The Pharaohs of Egypt and Caesars of Rome did the same. Hitler made claims of deity. This is a sin of the end times Antichrist.

And this was the sin of Lucifer, formerly one of God's archangels. Isaiah 14:13 records his boast, **“I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.”**

But in the very next verse God says, **“Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol (the Hebrew name for hell), to the lowest depths of the pit.”** The proud was brought low.

This too was the sin the devil used on Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He told them, **“eat the fruit... you won't surely die... ‘you will be like God...’”** The irony is that man is most God-like when we're obeying Him, and abiding in Jesus, and

allowing the Holy Spirit to mold, and make, and shape us into the image of God's Son.

God wants us to be *a loving reflection of Him*, but He doesn't want us to be *a prideful replacement for Him*.

I loved it when my kids said they wanted to grow up and be like their dad. But it's rebellion if they were to say they didn't need me, and hoped to assume my place. That's when "*to be like someone*" becomes ugly.

Over the centuries Satan has resurrected this lie over and over - that "*you will be like God.*" We're told by secularists that the ultimate goal of evolution is the transcendence of man into a god. A familiar refrain in New Age and Self Help circles goes like this, "*Don't pray to god, you are your own god. Look for the god within.*"

This is blasphemy. That you can be your own god is a lie from Satan. And this was the sin for which Ethbaal II, the King of Tyre, is condemned and judged by God.

I think most of us would agree that such blatant claims to deity are heretical and blasphemous, *but you don't have to believe in the doctrine to be guilty of the practice.*

Many of us would never claim to be our own God, yet we're often taking His place. We live as if life were up to us. We take matters into our own hands, and trying to manipulate our circumstances. We "*play God*" if you will.

Seldom do we really trust God, or rest in God's will, or depend on God's power! We're devout Theists in theory, but live a practical Atheism. We're everyday Ethbaals. Hey, if we say there's a God, then we should live like it.

In the movie “[Rudy](#)” there’s a scene where Rudy is anxious to be admitted into Notre Dame. He asks the priest if he’s done everything he can do. The old man has a great answer, “[There are two incontrovertible facts in the universe - there is a God and I am not Him.](#)” This is what Ethbaal forgot. He made himself, his own god.

In verse 3, Ezekiel speaks to him sarcastically, “[\(Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you!...](#)” Daniel was known for his wisdom. He was a teller of dreams and visions... Yet this King Ethbaal claimed to be wiser than Daniel.

It’s interesting that Daniel’s wisdom wasn’t just known in Jewish circles, or in the courts of Babylon - it was known around the world, even by the King of Tyre.

Ezekiel is mocking the king of Tyre, “[There is no secret that can be hidden from you! With your wisdom and your understanding you have gained riches for yourself, and gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; by your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches\).](#)...”

Rather than accrediting his wisdom and his wealth to God and His grace, he took credit for them himself.

Verse 6, “[Therefore thus says the Lord God: “Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god, behold, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, the most terrible of the nations \(these were the Babylonians\); and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, and defile your splendor.”](#)”

Remember Babylon was notorious for their ruthless and barbarous practices.

They were *“the most terrible of the nations...”* Recall how they slaughtered the sons of King Jeconiah, and then plucked out his eyes so that the last lingering image in the man’s mind would be the murder of his own sons.

They were *“terrible”* indeed!

Verse 8, *“They shall throw you down into the Pit, and you shall die the death of the slain in the midst of the seas. “Will you still say before him who slays you, ‘I am a god’? But you shall be a man, and not a god, in the hand of him who slays you.”* You won’t be boasting about how you’re a god when your shipwrecked and defeated. It’s hard to claim godhood at the end of a soldier’s spear.

“You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of aliens; for I have spoken,” says the Lord God.”

Here’s a historical footnote... The Phoenicians were like the Hebrews, practiced circumcision. Yet God will judge them, and they’ll die like uncircumcised Gentiles.

Now beginning in verse 11 the range, and the focus of this prophecy, is going to shift dramatically. It’s going to become more intense and peer behind the scenes.

So far, the King of Tyre, Ethbaal II, has been the subject - but now God is going to open Ezekiel's eyes to the spiritual power behind the King of Tyre. The scope of this prophecy will expand far beyond Ethbaal - the words and descriptions will obviously refer to another person.

What we have in Ezekiel 28 is one of two OT references to Satan before his fall from heaven. The other I reference, I mentioned earlier, is Isaiah 14.

Before Satan became the devil, he was a delight to God. He held special rank among the angels - *until pride entered his heart*. The pride that was seen in Ethbaal had originated long, long ago in the heart of Satan.

After reading Ezekiel 28 you come away with the impression that **no condemnation of pride is complete without a condemnation of Satan**. This is why Ezekiel takes us back to the Garden of Eden where pride began.

In verse 11 the plot thickens!

“Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.””

This is not some empty boast - this is the testimony of Almighty God! Lucifer the archangel, was **“*the seal of perfection*”** - the greatest of God's created beings.

“Lucifer” means **“light-bearer or day star.”** In Isaiah 14 he’s called **“son of the morning.”** He was the star that shined so brightly he was still seen after sun had risen.

He was ***full of wisdom*** and ***perfect in beauty***.

And keep this in mind when you tangle with him. The devil is extremely smart. He’s clever and attractive. So often we picture him as a slimy, slithery creature dressed in a red suit, pointed horns, a long tail, and a pitchfork - but that’s not so! He was and is a beautiful creature.

According to 2 Corinthians 11:14 to this very day Satan often appears as an "angel of light." He comes to us in appealing packages - a beautiful blonde in a string bikini (*perfect in beauty*), or a hip professor with a seemingly airtight, up-to-date argument (*full of wisdom*).

Don't be naive. Shakespeare said it best, "The devil hath power to assume a pleasing shape."

He continues in verse 13, "You were in Eden, the garden of God..." Obviously, God is no longer speaking of the King of Tyre. Ethbaal II never graced the Garden.

After Adam and Eve sinned God drove man out of the garden, and placed a flaming sword to block its entrance. Other than God only three people walked in the Garden of Eden - Adam, Eve, and the Tempter.

It's interesting that Lucifer was in the Garden of Eden. It could be that one of his jobs was to till the garden. Perhaps he had dominion over the earth at one time.

But when God created man that dominion was taken from Lucifer and given to the man. For that reason, or for other reasons, Lucifer became jealous of the humans God created, and wanted to take back the dominion he once had. He concocted a plot to steal their dominion.

Remember, Lucifer was called "*the seal of perfection.*" When he saw man take over his seat of dominion - when he realized he would be serving the man - and that one day this man would judge angels, even him - he couldn't stand the thought of being submission to these creatures made from the dirt, so he

rebelled against God. His goal was to steal man's dominion and end up destroying him.

Ezekiel says, "every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold."

This collection of stones are three short of the gems that made-up the High Priest's breastplate, but the nine mentioned correspond. This might mean that at one time in the distant past, Lucifer held a high office in God's Kingdom. Perhaps he carried out some of the priestly services. He was certainly involved in worship...

For we're told, "The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created." Realize Satan was created by God a musician.

Evidently, his "*workmanship*" or "*area of service*" had to do with music. Satan was created a musical being.

"*Timbrels*" refer to "*tambourines, and other percussion instruments*" - "*pipes*" refer to "*woodwinds and flutes.*"

Understand from his creation the angel Lucifer had an ear for music. He was an accomplished musician.

There are people who believe Satan was heaven's worship leader. It was his job to lead the heavenly host in the praise of God. And he was given tremendous skill.

But one day something snapped. Pride had grown and grown - and swollen to the point where it had to pop. He had lived in the shadow of the one he'd been praising. Like the morning star

who had tasted the sunlight, he had been center-stage. He had shared the limelight.

I'm sure Lucifer had been complemented and patted on the back by his fellow angels countless times. No doubt, on many occasions God had shown him His approval. But the day came when Lucifer wanted more. **Rather than reflect God, he wanted to replace God.**

We all struggle with pride - *especially pastors* - but I believe musicians, like Lucifer, have a particular problem with pride and personal ambition. I've met musicians who were the most unselfish, giving, lovable people you'd ever want to meet... **until it came to their music.**

Try to touch or tinker with their music, and they become unreasonable, and selfish, and hostile.

Did you hear about the guitar player who was plucking away when a man stuck his head into the room and said, **"Do you know there's a sick, old lady upstairs?"** The guitarist answered, **"I'm not sure, hum a few bars."**

Pastors of traditional churches say that when Satan wants to get into the church he usually joins choir.

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, said he found choirs to be infested with three types of devils, **"the quarreling devil, clothing devil, and flirting devil."**

It's been said, **"Just because a worship team can sing in harmony, it doesn't mean they can live in harmony."**

Music is a powerful and mysterious thing. Melodies just pop into the head of a musician. They seem to come out of

nowhere. He sings and plays them, and these innocent tunes profoundly effect the lives of thousands.

Wielding this kind of power can be intoxicating.

Music is a very spiritual thing - it cuts to the heart of a person and moves our emotions. Thomas Carlyle once said “If you think deep enough you think musically.”

And this is why Satan has been so successful in using music to penetrate and capture the hearts of men and spread his message of rebellion. Being an accomplished musician himself he inspires heretical and blasphemous lyrics, and weaves them into beautiful, impressive music.

The listeners are captured by the music before they consider its message. How often have you caught yourself humming a tune you heard on the radio, maybe even singing its lyrics, when suddenly it dawns on you that what you're singing is conveying a message that contradicts what you truly believe? It opposes the truth of God's Word... it just does it in such a catchy way.

Music is powerful... either for good or for bad. And this is why it's easy for a skilled musician to let it all go to his head. Even a musician who wants to glorify God needs to be careful of pride. Musicians want to be in charge of *their music* and take credit for *their music* - the only problem is it's not *their music!* Their gift is God-given.

Music is a gift *from God, for God, and by God.* I think all musicians need to surrender their gifts at the altar, then they can pick them up again with God's blessing.

Sadly, due to pride Lucifer's strategy changed - from giving God glory to stealing worship from Him.

In the Gospels, Satan promised Jesus all the kingdoms of the Earth - if He would bow down and worship him right then and there... In Revelation 13 the Antichrist blackmails the world into worshipping Satan...

Satan's goal is now to garner worship for himself.

This is why Satan and his ugly hordes go nuts - they come unglued - they clutch their pointed ears when they hear God worshipped. Our praise and worship of God is like fingernails scraping a blackboard to the devil and his demons. If you want to torment the tormentor; then worship God. Sing! Magnify and praise His name!

As we glorify God our praise uncovers the devil's lies, and reminds him of his inferiority, and exposes him as an imposter. Like a high pitch siren the devil can't concentrate on his diabolical deeds when we praise God. He's has to **stop** our praise or **drop** his schemes.

The devil grows confused and disoriented in the sound of our praise. All he wants to do is to escape earshot.

Remember when Saul was tormented by evil spirits David would bring in his harp and play praises to God, and it drove off the demons and brought relief to Saul.

Praise and worship are powerful weapons in the spiritual battle. They deal serious blows to the devil and his cronies. The early church father, Ignatius of Antioch, lived in 100 AD. He wrote these words to the church...

“Take heed often to come together to give thanks to God, and show forth His praise. For when you come frequently together in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and his *fiery darts* urging to sin fall back ineffectual. For your concord and harmonious faith prove his destruction, and the torment of his assistants.”

His fiery darts fall back ineffectual in light of our praise!

Perhaps this is another reason musicians and worship leaders struggle with pride. Satan singles them out as favorite targets for his fiery darts. If he can keep them squabbling, he'll prohibit them from singing God's praise!

Shakespeare gave Cromwell the following counsel, “Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambitions, by that sin fell the angels; how can man then, the image of his Maker, hope to profit by it?” We need the same advice.

There's a final point to be made here... Whenever we study about Satan its important to remember the devil is a created being. We're reminded by Ezekiel of this fact.

Satan is not God's equal. He's not God's peer. He was created by God! God is sovereign. Satan is subject.

Recall the story of Job. Satan had to ask for God's permission before touching the first hair on Job's head. His chain is long, but Satan is on a chain nonetheless.

Verse 14, “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God...” Cherubim were a special type or rank of angel.

In Ezekiel 1 the prophet saw cherubim standing beside the wheels that carried God's throne-chariot.

Apparently, the cherubim are a rank of angels that are associated with God's throne. Remember the Ark of the Covenant - it sat in the center of the Tabernacle, and it was over the Ark that the glory of God rested. It had a lid called the mercy seat and on that lid were two cherubim.

According to Hebrews 8 the Ark and mercy seat were a small scale model of God's actual throne in heaven.

But apparently at a time in the past, there were three angels, not just two, that covered God's throne. Here we're told by Ezekiel that at a time in the distant past, Lucifer was one of *"the anointed cherubs who covers."*

And God says of Lucifer, *"you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones."* These hot stones might have been the coals and embers from the altar before God's throne.

Or maybe these shining stones were another reference to the gems on the High Priest's breastplate.

Either possibility would highlight Lucifer's priestly ministry. He had an exalted position on God's mountain.

Verse 15, *"You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you."*

Isaiah 14 explains what happened in Lucifer's heart. It lists his five *"I will"* statements. We read them earlier, *"I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like*

the Most High...”

This was the iniquity found in him... pride!

Verse 16, “By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.”

When pride was found in Lucifer’s heart he was booted from heaven.

He was cast as a profane thing - a vile and evil thing - out of God’s holy mountain. And guess who was there, alongside the Father? In Luke 10:18 Jesus told His disciples, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

He crashed to the Earth like an angry lightning bolt.

Revelation 12 adds to this an interesting truth, it seems when Satan fell a third of the angels fell with him.

Could it be to organize his revolt against God, Lucifer struck a few deals. He offered a few positions of power and prominence to his fellow angels. Like a smooth politician he created rebellious alliances. As a result a third - a sizable lot - of the heavenly host fell with him.

He continues describing Lucifer’s fall in verse 17, “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor...”

Humans try so hard to be smarter and prettier. For some of us it’s a major investment of time and money.

But we need to be thankful we're dumb and ugly...

Apparently, Lucifer's intelligence and attractiveness became a liability. Being smart and pretty doesn't guarantee happiness (*take my word for it*). Sometimes it becomes a curse, rather than a blessing. Satan is proof.

"I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you." And it was because Jesus saw Satan cast down to the ground, He was never fearful, or intimidated, or overly-impressed with Satan's power.

This is why Jesus goes on to share His confidence with His disciples, **"I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."**

God threw Satan to the ground to expose him, and his weakness before the kings of the Earth. As Ezekiel puts it in verse 17, so that **"the kings might gaze at him."**

I like what Corrie Ten Boom once observed, **"The fear of the devil is most likely from the devil himself."**

We need to remember 1 John 4:4, **"He who is in you is greater than He who is in the world."** On the cross Satan was defeated by Jesus, and stripped of his authority.

Peter calls the devil **"a roaring lion."** And the roaring lion is the old toothless lion. He's really quite harmless, but he has a ferocious growl that can scare his victims...

The roaring lion frightens little Bambi, and drives its prey in the opposite direction... right into the claws and jaws of the younger lions who've been in hiding...

If Bambi had just resisted the roaring lion - nothing would've happened. This is why James 4:7 says to us who believe, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

Verse 18, “You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever.” All who knew Satan before - the angelic host - are now horrified by what's happened to him. Lucifer is no longer *a beautiful*, but *a burnt self*.

Philippe Petit was a death-defying acrobat. He had some impressive feats on his resume. But at Bayfront Auditorium in St. Petersburg he fell 30 feet onto a concrete floor. It was a crushing fall, but it not only bruised Petit's body, far worse was the bruise to his ego.

After his fall the acrobat rolled over and pounded his fist into the concrete, shouting, “I can't believe it! I can't believe it! I don't ever fall!” And this was the case with Lucifer. Even after his fall from heaven he refused to humble himself and surrender to God. His inflated pride and rebellious heart are now his permanent condition.

Well, such was God's judgment against the city of Tyre and it's king - both Ethibaal and the devil behind him.

But Tyre was one of twin cities. Sidon was its sister, and the Prophet Ezekiel has a word against Sidon...

Verse 20, “Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, set your face toward Sidon, and prophesy against her, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, O Sidon; I will be glorified in your midst; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I execute judgments in her and am hallowed in her.

For I will send pestilence upon her, and blood in her streets; the wounded shall be judged in her midst by the sword against her on every side; then they shall know that I am the Lord. “And there shall no longer be a pricking brier or a painful thorn for the house of Israel from among all who are around them, who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the Lord God.”

Remember, Ezekiel’s judgment against the nations are all based on their treatment of God’s people, Israel.

This is why the city of Sidon was judged. She was “*a pricking brier, a painful thorn*” - a burr in Israel’s saddle.

‘Thus says the Lord God: “When I have gathered the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and am hallowed in them in the sight of the Gentiles, then they will dwell in their own land which I gave to My servant Jacob.” I believe this is yet to occur.

There’re still more Jews who live outside Israel than within her borders. Of the Top Ten cities with the largest Jewish population only four are in Israel (Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Beersheba). Five are in the US (NY, LA, Miami, Chicago, Philadelphia). The other is Paris.

But one day God will gather the Jews from the ends of the Earth, and will set them apart from the Gentiles.

Unlike today, they'll enjoy peace. The chapter ends, "And they will dwell safely there, build houses, and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely, when I execute judgments on all those around them who despise them.

Then they shall know that I am the Lord their God." In the end the God of Israel will prove that He is God.