

The Coming Judgment

Northwest Baptist Church
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The Phoenicians

- “Phoenicia” was the name given to the region by the Greeks, from their word for purple. The purple dye came from a Mediterranean mollusk, the murex. Phoenicians developed this industry, and shipped this very valuable commodity all over the Mediterranean world.

Phoenicia (Purple)

Murex Shells

Purple Dye



- **Phoenicians collected thousands of these murex shells to produce just one ounce of purple dye. It was such a costly process that purple clothing was a symbol of wealth and royalty.**



Phoenicians

- Phoenicians were the best ship builders.
- Phoenicians were the greatest merchants of their day. They had colonies all over the western world.
- Other nations referred to them as “The Purple People”



The Commercial Network of the Phoenicians

-  Phoenicia
-  Trade routes



Origin of Word Bible

- The word *Bible* itself ultimately derives (through Latin and Greek) from “Byblos”, the Phoenician city. Because of its papyri, Byblos was also the source of the Greek word for book and, hence, of the name of the Bible.

Phoenicians

- Phoenicians provided the cedars used to build Solomon's temple.
- Phoenicians invented the art of glass blowing.
- Phoenicians developed the alphabet, which the Greeks and Romans modified for their use.

Phoenicians

- They were a wealthy community , famous for wood, ship building, gold and silver, embroidery, dyes, metal work, and especially glass. They founded many large and prosperous commercial colonies along the shores of the Mediterranean.

Skilled Craftsmen

- I Kings 7:13-14
- “And King Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. He was a widow’s son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass...”

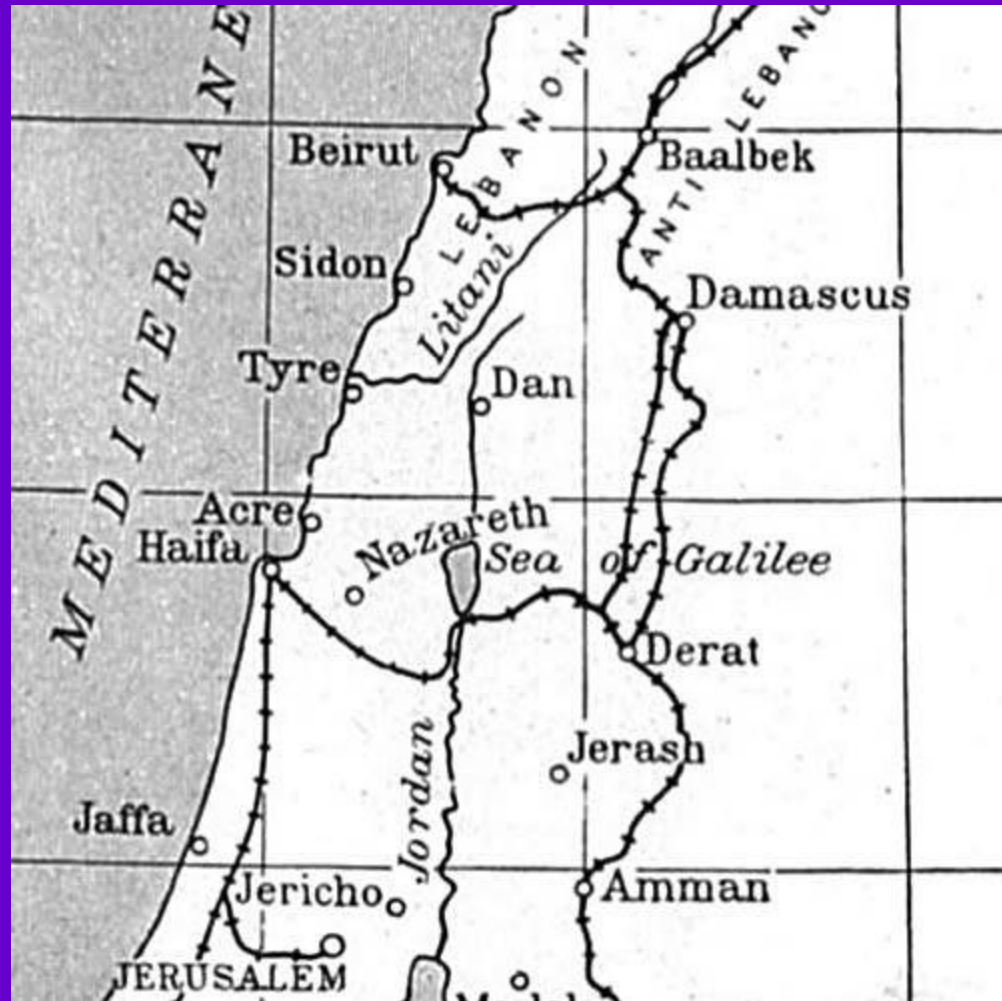
In Some Ways, the USA of its Day

- In their prime, they were to the world what America is today – wealthy, affluent, a leader in education, a leader in technology and the most powerful Navy in the world.
- One big difference-Phoenicians had been around 10x longer than the US.

The Primary Phoenician Cities

- The two primary cities of the Phoenicians were Sidon (sometimes spelled Zidon) and Tyre, exceptionally old cities founded 2000 years before Christ.

Sidon and Tyre



Genesis 10:15

- “And Canaan begat Sidon his firstborn...”
- The city-state of Sidon used by the Phoenicians was named after Sidon recorded in Genesis 10:15.

Tyre

- The city of Tyre was justly entitled the 'Queen of the Sea'
- Tyre was the worlds leading seaport and the source of the science of navigation.

Tyre

- Tyre received trade from all nations.
- Hiram, king of Tyre, was instrumental in the building of the Temple in Jerusalem during the time of Solomon. 1 Kings 5:1-18

'Might' Does Not Mean 'Right'

- Ezekiel 27:1-4, 33
- Phoenicians were wealthy, educated, and powerful, but they were also ungodly.
- They had many false gods, most notably Baal.

Prosperity Can Cause Careless Living

- A famous ancient proverb about the prosperity of the people of Sidon was:
- *"...dwell carelessly, after the manner of the Sidonians."*
- (America is dwelling more and more carelessly every generation.)

Might Does Not Mean Right

- The king of Sidon had a daughter named Jezebel, who hated the true God and his followers.
- Jezebel was a devout follower of Baal worship.
- Ezekiel 27:33-36 God tells the future, regarding Tyre.

Isaiah 23

- Is this your joyous city whose antiquity is of ancient days?
 - Historian Herodotus says that this city was at least 2000 years old
- “Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowning city, whose merchants are princes...”

Isaiah 23 (written 703 b.c.)

- Vs 11 – “He stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook the kingdoms: the Lord hath given a commandment against the merchant city (Tyre), to destroy the strong holds thereof.”
 - After over 2,000 years of being the “New York City” of the world.

Joel 3:4-6

- "Indeed, what have you to do with Me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia? Will you retaliate against me? But if you retaliate against me, swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head;"

Joel 3:4-6

- "...because you have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my prized possessions. Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem you have sold to the Greeks, that you may remove them far from their borders."

Ezekiel 26:1

- In Ezekiel 26, God makes a proclamation concerning Tyre, summed up in the following:
 - Ezekiel 26:3 - Many nations would come against Tyre. (590 BC)

Ezekiel 26: 4-5

- The walls of Tyre would be broken down. (Ezekiel 26:4)
- Dust would be scraped from her, and she would be left like a bare rock. (Ezekiel 26:4)
- Tyre would be a place for the spreading of nets. (Ezekiel 26:5)

Ezekiel 26: 8-14

- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, would build a siege wall around Tyre (Ezek. 26:8)
- Nebuchadnezzar would plunder the city (Ezek. 26:9-12)
- Rocks and wood placed in water. (Mediterranean Sea)

Ezekiel 26: 8-14

- The stones, timber and soil of Tyre would be cast into the sea.
(Ezekiel 26:12)
- The city would never be rebuilt
(Ezekiel 26:14)
- The above written 590 BC
- 240 years later...

Alexander the Great

- 356-323 BC - On his way towards Egypt, Alexander led his Macedonian troops to victory at Sidon and then continued south to Tyre.

Tyre

- Alexander built a 200 foot wide mole, or causeway, to get his troops from the mainland to the island. The mole was constructed from stones and timber from Tyre on the mainland.

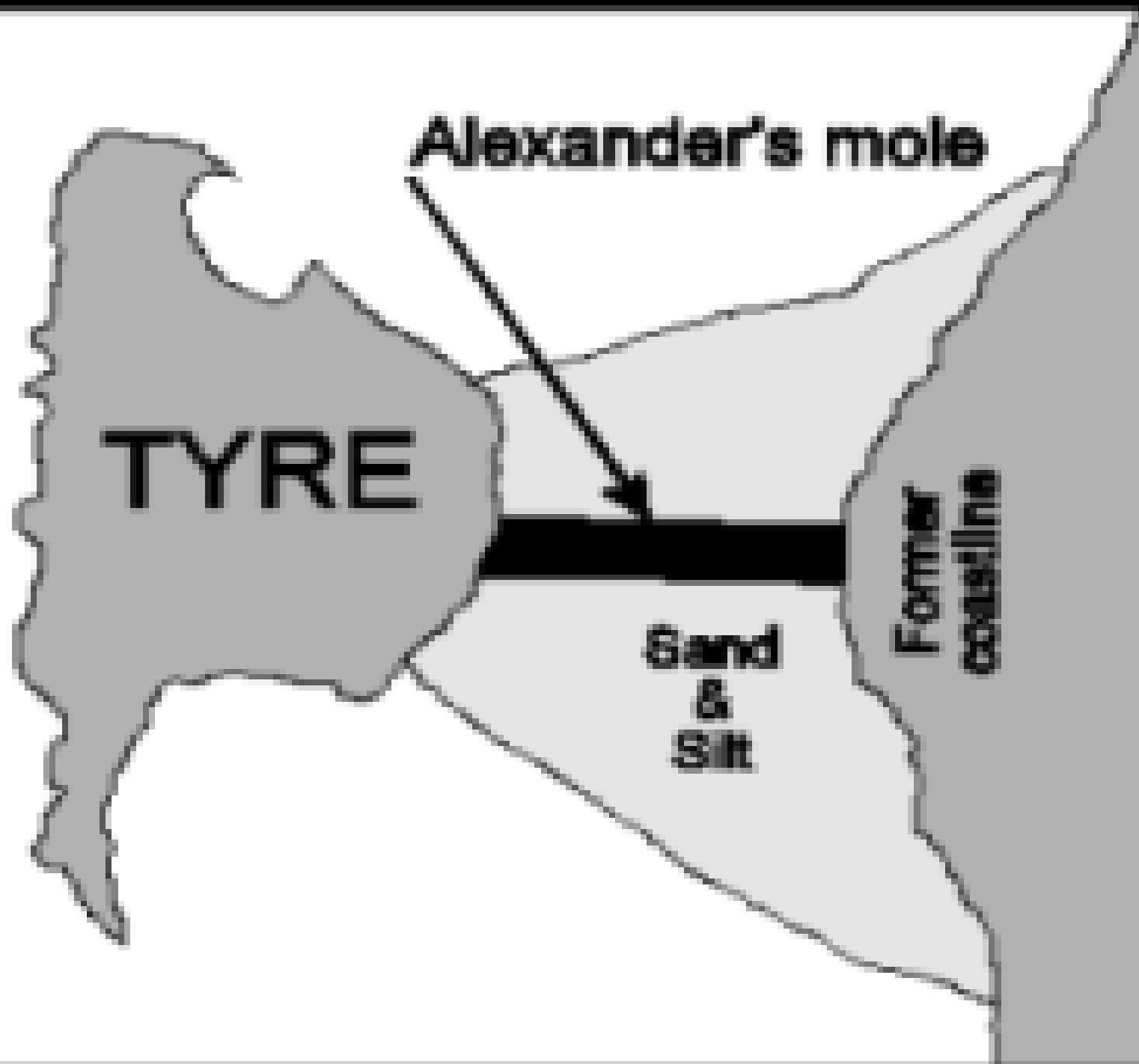
Mediterranean Sea

TYRE

Alexander's mole

**Sand
&
Silt**

**Former
coastline**



Just As God's Word Said

- In fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy, the very foundation stones, timbers and dust of the city were cast "in the midst of the water" (Ezekiel 26:12).

The Unthinkable Happened

- The seven month siege, from January to July 332 B.C., was over. "The great city over which Hiram had once held sway was now utterly destroyed.
- The world's 2000 year old "New York City" merchant was no more.
- A shockingly abrupt ending, by the judgment of God.

Judgment For Tyre

- Alexander sold more than 30,000 inhabitants of Tyre into slavery.
- Alexander ordered another two thousand men of military age from Tyre to die by crucifixion.

Sidon Today

- Today Sidon is called Saida (the Arabic word for “fishing”)
- When Sidon was prospering as a world commercial giant, the Bible prophesied that it would totally wiped out and become a place for fishermen to spread their nets.

Sidon Today, Spreading Nets



Our Judgment Compared To Tyre

- Matthew 11:20-22 “But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.”
- Past judgment was incredible, but future judgment will be worse.
- They didn't believe God's word then and most don't believe it now.

Who Are The Believers?

- Roughly 2 Billion people on earth claim to be some form of Christian.
- Many who say that they are believers, down deep are really not.
- Many who associate with Christians are not really Christians.
- How do we know this?

True Believers Trust and Obey God's Word

- Christ told his followers he would be killed, would be buried and would rise the third day.
- He said that after he arose from the grave, he would go to Galilee.

True Believers Trust and Obey God's Word

- Matthew 26:32
- But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

Did They Really Believe?

- Matthew 28:5-8
- “He is not here; for he is risen as he said.”

Did They Really Believe?

- Go tell his disciples he is risen and will be in Galilee.
- Didn't Jesus already tell them this before he died?
- Why weren't they already in Galilee waiting for Jesus?
- "Believers" are worse today!

One Nation Under God?

- The Hartford Institute for Religion Research released the study's findings last year in a report by D.A. Roosen titled:

"A Decade of Change in American Congregations, 2000 – 2010" .

Number of Believers Declining

- Roozen writes that overall, there are fewer Americans in the pews
- From 2000-2010, average Sunday worship attendance dropped from 130 to 108.”
- In the past 10 years the number of “believers” declined by over 16%.



Do You Really Trust and Obey God's Word?

■ John 12:48

“He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him, the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

Many Church People Reject Christ's Words

- Christ spoke far more about hell than about heaven.
- How many churches still preach about hell?
- Christ spoke much about judgment.
- How many churches still teach about the coming judgment?

Is Judgment Coming?

- Hebrews 9:27
- “It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

Bible Facts About Judgment

- Man must give account of himself on the day of judgment.
- Matthew 12:36
- Romans 14:10,12.

All To Appear at Judgment

Acts 17:31

II Corinthians 5:10

How We Will Be Judged



- We're to be judged by how we measure up to the word of God.
- John 12:48
- Revelation 20:11-13

We Need To Get Ready

- II Corinthians 5:10
- Matthew 12:36-41

Do You Believe In Judgment?

- The climax of the judgment scene is recorded by John in the Book of Revelation.

"And I saw a great white throne and him that sat upon it from whose face the heaven and the earth fled away, and there was found no place for them."

Small and Great to Be Judged

- “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of Life, and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

All Will Be Judged

- “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it and death and hell (Hades) delivered up the dead which were in them and they were judged every man according to their works.”
Revelation 20:11-13.

But Wait!

- Isn't God a God of love?
- What about the verse: "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16

Love and Judgment

- Christians of all different denominations quote John 3:16, but very few can quote John 3:36, just twenty verses later.

Love and Judgment

- “He that hath the son, hath everlasting life, but he who hath not the son, hath not the life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.”
John 3:36
- There is a judgment coming.

God Loves and God Judges

- The Bible says God is Love, but He is also a God of judgment.
- Psalm 9:16-17
- God is known for his righteous judgment.

The Creator Judges

- Revelation 14:7 "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

A Righteous Judge

- Revelation 16:7 “And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”

Watch Your Language

- Matthew 12:36 “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”
- How many times do you here the name of God’s Son used as a swear word? How often do Christians use 4 letter words or swear ?

All The Bold Atheist Talk

- Jude 1:15 “To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

Religion Does Not Save

- The Phoenicians in Sidon and Tyre were very religious, but they did not know or follow the word of the one and true God. They had been the envy of the world for hundreds of years, but when God's judgment finally came it was severe.

The Entire Earth To Be Judged

- 2 Peter 3:7 “But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”
- Today ungodly men ridicule Godly people, but the coming judgment will be far worse for the ungodly.

The “Born Again” Are Saved From The Wrath To Come

- God is a God of Love and his people are to be a people of love.
- 1 John 4:17 “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.”

We Are Not Saved By Works

- The great majority of people who consider themselves Christians, believe they go to heaven if their good works outweigh their bad works.
- Ephesians 2:8-9 Not saved by works.
- “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” Romans 5:9
- We are saved by grace; judged by works.

Judgment For Anti-Israel

- God tolerated Sidon and Tyre up to a point, then a severe judgment.
- The final straw was when they went too far against his chosen people.
- America is becoming more and more careless about God and his people.
- Judgment is coming for certain.

Lesson Summary

- The Bible emphasizes spreading the Gospel.
- It is not as much fun as potlucks, fellowships and songfests.
- But with a great judgment coming, we all need to do what we can to educate others.