

**The Inscrutable Question: The Indictment, Punishment, & Fall of Ithobal II, Prince of Tyre, Ezk 28:3-10**

**Ezekiel 28:3 - Behold, you are wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that is a match for you.**

- 50) Arrogant people always make the mistake of thinking that human IQ is capable of achieving the ultimate levels of logic, reasoning, and decision making. It is not.
- 51) Divine IQ exceeds human IQ to an infinite degree and even angelic IQ far surpasses it. The only way the human mind can achieve such levels of perspicacity is through the acquisition of spiritual IQ.
- 52) The filling of the Holy Spirit plus human IQ equals spiritual IQ. When spiritual IQ is added to the grace apparatus for perception and the development of an **ἐπίγνωσις / epignosis /** understanding of Bible doctrine the believer is able to produce divine good with maximum efficiency.
- 53) No human being who assumes his human intelligence is equal to God's can hope to avoid divine correction for very long.
- 54) Human IQ can subscribe to the Laws of Divine Establishment and achieve high levels of human prosperity and attain great power and authority. But without the humbling factor of divine viewpoint such prosperity leads to arrogance and the power and authority are abused through tyranny and oppression.
- 55) This unfortunate process has overtaken King Ithobal. His condition is evaluated by the Lord in the form of an indictment in:

**Ezekiel 28:3 - "Behold you are wiser than Daniel [ pseudo-intellectual arrogance ]; there is no secret [ on how to work the system ] that is a match for you [ the arrogance of assuming that a high human IQ makes one's knowledge equal to God's ]."**

**v 4 - "By your wisdom and understanding you have acquired riches for yourself and have acquired gold and silver for your treasures. [ human IQ and submission to the Laws of Divine Establishment have produced material wealth ]."**

**v 5 - "By your great wisdom, by your trade you have increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches [ by means of these things he has increased his wealth to the point of ultimate arrogance: he assumes himself to be divine ]—"**

- 56) Please note the dashes that appear in the New American Standard Version following verse 2 and at the end of verse 5. This is a way of indicating that verses 3, 4, and 5 are a parenthetical. They form the indictment the Lord has against the prince of Tyre.
- 57) Ignorance of doctrine is no excuse for one's failure to apply it. The First Commandment clearly forbids idolatry and that includes of oneself. Violations of mandates carry with them penalty clauses and the Lord now returns to the context following verse 2 in order to inform Ithobal of his punishment.
- 58) Remember that Ithobal is not punished for his sins of arrogance, greed, and self-idolatry. Jesus Christ will be judged for those on the cross.
- 59) But he will be punished for the wrongdoing that led to these sins: failure to believe in Christ resulted in continued ignorance of doctrine and the development of wheel-tracks that left unrestrained had become a threat to human freedom.

**Ezekiel 28:6** - "Therefore, thus says the Lord God, 'Because you have made your heart like the heart of God,

**v 7** - therefore, behold, I will bring strangers upon you [ **Nebuchadnezzar's army** ], the most ruthless of nations [ **Chaldea functioning as the Lord divinely permitted predator nation** ]. They will draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom [ **the thirteen-year siege against the production of Ithobal's free-enterprise system** ] and defile your splendor [ **eventual conquest** ].

**v 8** - 'They will bring you down to the pit and you will die the death of those who are slain in the heart of the seas [ **the sinking of the HMS Tyre** ].'

- 60) Please note that the Lord repeats Himself. At the beginning of the indictment in verse 2 he begins with the declaration, "Thus says the Lord God." Following the parenthesis outlining the specifics of the indictment He resumes with a second proclamation in verse 6, "Thus says the Lord God." And He ends His pronouncement of Ithobal's sentence at the end of verse 10 with, "Declares the Lord God!"
- 61) Christ also reiterates the charge that Ithobal has through arrogance assumed the attributes of deity. In verse 2 He says, "Because your heart is lifted up and you have said, 'I am a god,'" and "You make your heart like the heart of God." This is repeated in verse 6, "Because you have made your heart like the heart of God."
- 62) This condemnation is mentioned once more following the pronouncement of punishment in verses 7 and 8.

**Ezekiel 28:9** - 'Will you still say, "I am a god," in the presence of your slayer, although you are a man and not God in the hands of those who wound you?'

- 63) The question arises as to how locked-in the prince's arrogance will be. Once Nebuchadnezzar has destroyed his fortress will he still contend that he is God? When he is taken into custody by the Chaldeans will he still maintain that he is God?

**Ezekiel 28:10** - 'You will die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers [ **the Chaldean army** ], for I have spoken!' declares the Lord God!"

- 64) In addition to his defeat, the loss of his multinational trading empire, and the great loss of life among his people, the prince of Tyre will suffer a disgraceful death, not only in the eyes of his fellow Phoenicians but also before God.
- 65) The "death of the uncircumcised" in Phoenician culture was one of dishonor and shame. It also was considered by the Israelites to be indicative that the individual was outside the covenant with God.
- 66) Therefore, the uncircumcised were considered by both cultures to be the lowest form of humanity. Although Ithobal had the idea that he was equal with God, his death indicated that he wasn't even an equal with his fellow unbelievers in Phoenicia.
- 67) The uncircumcised often were not even buried and those who were often were thrown into a pit without the performance of any funeral rites.
- 68) The long siege is now over. The thirteen-year struggle depleted Tyre's treasuries, ended her dominance as a commercial empire, and reduced her population into poverty.
- 69) The Lord has directed Ezekiel to deliver his prophecy in the form of a lamentation for the city of Tyre, its people, its leadership, and its prince.
- 70) God in His grace and lovingkindness never punishes any city, nation, people, or government without offering them numerous opportunities to change the way they think and convert over to the doctrines of the eternal Logos.

71) The allegorical ship, the HMS *Tyre*, has been found wanting and has now come under the destructive assault of an east wind.

72) But the struggle, as Paul puts it in:

**Ephesians 6:12 -** ... is not against blood and flesh [ **the human race** ] but against the rulers [ ἀρχή / **arche** /: **general officers, e.g., Abaddon in Rev. 9:11 or Beelzebub in Matt. 12:24** ], against the powers [ ἐξουσία / **exousia** /: **commissioned officers, e.g., the “deceitful spirits” of 1 Tim. 4:1** ], against the world rulers of darkness [ κοσμοκράτωρ / **kosmokrator** /: **the Rapid Deployment Forces assigned to world leaders as in Dan. 10** ], against the spirit forces of evil in the heavenlies [ πνευματικός τῆς πονηρίας / **pneumatikos tes poneria** /: **rank & file demons who harass mankind through demon influence and demon possession, e.g., Mark 5** ].

73) In this invisible war, the combatants in the human realm are either soldiers in the Lord’s army or they have been compromised by a lust for the “merchandise” of this world.

74) Behind every system or religion, inhabiting every center of influence, and threatening every aspect of worldly gain are the minions of the ruler of this world who is Lucifer, the “anointed cherub,” the “star of the morning,” even Satan himself.