

the associate of Tyre, and may be considered as involved in the disaster of Tyre.

Verse 3 is a description of the previous greatness of Tyre. It should be observed that the first occurrence of the word "is" is in italics, indicating that it is not in the Hebrew. The second "is" is hardly an accurate translation. It is better rendered "was" or "has been." The American Standard Version has "was" in both places.

Verse 4 is addressed to Sidon itself. Sidon is told that Tyre is reduced to impotence. Tyre, described as "the strength (or stronghold) of the sea," is pictured as declaring her inability any longer to carry out plans or accomplish results. Sidon is therefore told to "be ashamed." The word here, as in many other passages, has the idea of being confounded or disturbed, rather than our usual idea of feeling shame. Cf. Jeremiah 2:36, Psalm 6:10, and Judges 3:25.

Verse 5 compares the news about Tyre to a previous catastrophe which concerned Egypt. This occurred before the predicted Tyrian disaster, but after the time when Isaiah wrote. The allusion here has the additional purpose of reinforcing the prophet's declarations in chapters 19 and 20 that it is foolish for Judah to look to Egypt for protection, since Egypt herself is to be conquered.

Verse 6 suggests that the ships might as well turn back again to Tarshish; the people who are left in Chittim can do nothing but lament over the fate of the great merchant city. Some of them may also seek to follow the injunction of the first half of the verse, and to flee to Tarshish so as to get as far as possible from the scene of danger. Verse 7 is a taunt addressed to the followers of Tyre. The people of that great city will have to flee to distant lands, if they are to survive.

The Source of Tyre's Catastrophe

Verse 8 asks a question: Who has caused this terrible calamity to befall the mighty city? Verse 9 gives the answer: The Lord of Hosts has purposed it.

What a tremendous declaration! The God of Isaiah is no mere tribal god, doing his best to help his own small nation. He is the creator of the universe. He even controls the great