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South Walton Church of Christ in Destin Florida sponsors the following presentation by Evangelist John Morris who serves under the Eldership of the Murray Road Church of Christ of Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Here is the first lesson in the series: **The Bible: Can It Be Trusted?** Part Five of Six

One exceptional one to look at is found in the book of Ezekiel in chapter 26. In chapter 26 of Ezekiel God prophesies through Ezekiel concerning the ancient city of Tyre.

Tyre was a city just north of Israel on the banks of the Mediterranean Sea and was at the time of this prophecy one of the most powerful cities in the world. It ruled the Mediterranean. It was a merchant city with great commerce, huge walls, so much so that when Nebuchadnezzar came against it he had to lay siege against it for 13 years before he could finally get in. Of such a city, God prophesied in Ezekiel 26 beginning in verse 3; "Therefore thus says the Lord God; 'Behold I am against you O Tyre and will cause many nations to come up against you as the sea causes its waves to come up and they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers. I will also scrape her dust from her and make her like the top of a rock.'" Jumping down to verse 7; "For thus says the Lord God; 'Behold I will bring against Tyre from the North, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon.'"

Notice the specificity; God is naming names; here's exactly who I'm going to bring against you; "Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, King of Kings, with horses, with chariots, and with horsemen and an army with many people. He will slay with the sword your daughter villages in the fields; he will heap up a siege mound against you, build a wall against you and raise a defense against you.

He will direct his battering rams against your walls and with his axes he will break down your towers." And then down to verse 12, God changes the pronoun here, He had said many nations would come up, now He says **THEY**, the nations other than Nebuchadnezzar, **THEY** will plunder your riches and pillage your merchandise. **THEY** will break down your walls and destroy your pleasant houses.

THEY will lay your stones, your timber and your soil in the midst of the water. I will put an end to the sound of your songs and the sound of your harps shall be heard no more. I will make you like the top of a rock, you shall be a place for spreading nets, and you shall never be rebuilt, for I the Lord have spoken, says the Lord God." When we look at these verses carefully we see that God made at least 6 very specific predictions. In verses 8 & 9 He said that King **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** of Babylon would be the one to lay siege to the city and destroy it.

In verse 3 He said not only Nebuchadnezzar, but **MANY** nations would come against Tyre. In verse 4 He said the city would be made like the **TOP OF A ROCK**, barren in other words. In verses 5 & 14 He says that city which is going to be made like the top of a rock would become **A PLACE FOR SPREADING NETS**, an interesting thing to say. And then in verse 12 He says that the debris from its destruction, the timber, the soil and the dirt would be thrown in the water, a very peculiar thing to say. And finally in verse 14; **THE CITY WAS NEVER TO BE REBUILT**. These are very specific predictions made concerning a city that seemed impregnable in its day.

And yet when we look to historical documents, UNBIASED historical documents, we find that the prophecies made here in the book of Ezekiel came to pass precisely as they said they would. In Encyclopedia Britannica, volume 22, page 452, we read; "After a 13 year siege, between 585 and 573 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar, Tyre made terms and acknowledged Babylonian suzerainty." Exactly as God had said.

"When Nebuchadnezzar broke the gates down, which he did eventually, he found the city almost empty. The majority of the people had moved by ship to an island about one half mile off the coast and fortified a city there. The mainland city was destroyed in 573 B.C.," precisely as God had said. God had said that the debris from the city would be thrown into the water; when we go Encyclopedia Britannica again, volume 22, page 452, we read that; "Alexander the Great, after winning the great battle of Issus against Darius the III, marched southward towards Egypt calling the Phoenician cities to open their gates," of which Tyre was one.

When Tyre did not do it, Alexander came into the city, laid siege to the city and demolished the mainland city of Tyre again. And that small island city a half mile off the coast where the people had gone when Nebuchadnezzar had taken the city, Alexander wanted to get there, he didn't have any fleet, we read in Encyclopedia Britannica that he took the debris from the city just as God had said, threw it into the water and for about a year or a half a year, I can't remember for sure, built a causeway so that he could make his way out there.

Nina Nelson in her book; "Your Guide to Lebanon" writes the following; "The ruins of ancient Tyre are different from all the others, they are situated in the heart of the sea." Now who could have predicted that? Who could have guessed that a man like Alexander, a man with such determination and tenacity, would come along and do a thing like that?

To my knowledge it had never been done before, yet God foresaw it, calling the things that are not as if they were. God had said that the city would be made like the top of a rock and a place for spreading nets. In Philip Myers' "General History for Colleges and High Schools" page 55 he writes; "Alexander The Great reduced Tyre to ruins, the larger part of the site of the once great city is now bare as the top of a rock, a place where the fishermen that still frequent the spot, spread their nets to dry. God had said that the city would never be rebuilt and it never has been.

And this is an amazing thing in light of the fact that the Springs of Reselain are there pumping 10 million gallons of fresh water daily. It's a perfect site for a modern city and yet it remains free of a city. God had said it would never be rebuilt. Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Alexander the Great of the Greeks, Antigonus of the Ptolemies, the Seleucid Empire, the Muslims in 690 A.D. and the Mamluks in 1291 all came up against Tyre before her demise was complete, just as God had said, many nations will come up.

The odds that Ezekiel could have guessed and had 7 predictions fulfilled in such detail is 1 in 75 MILLION. Those are the same odds as you getting "Heads" 26 times in a row. You are twice as likely to get killed on the ground by an airplane in your lifetime, these are statistics gathered before 9-11.

In other words, statistically this does not happen, this is outside of the realm of luck and chance.

End of Lesson One Part Five

