



A Flat Tyre

Ezekiel 26



I. Truth Claim: A Forced Conclusion

God's infinite knowledge

1. Premise: Bible foretold future events; not one failure; Bible is word of God
2. Prophecy: not guesswork, but fore-knowledge
3. Purpose: prophecy proves God's deity

God's use of prophecy

1. Timing, Is.41:23

2. Specific details, Is.41:25-26

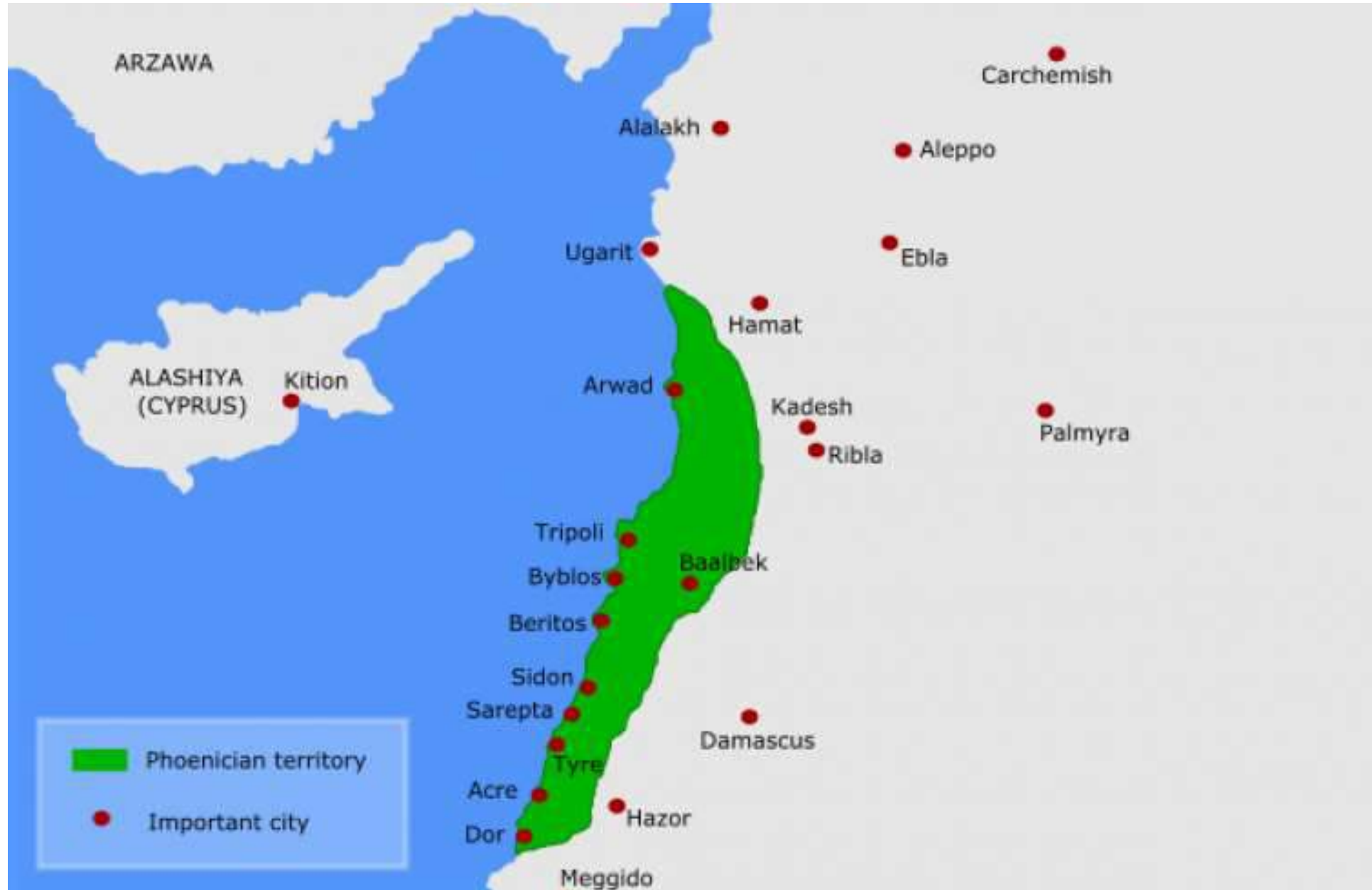
3. Exact fulfillment, Is.41:23

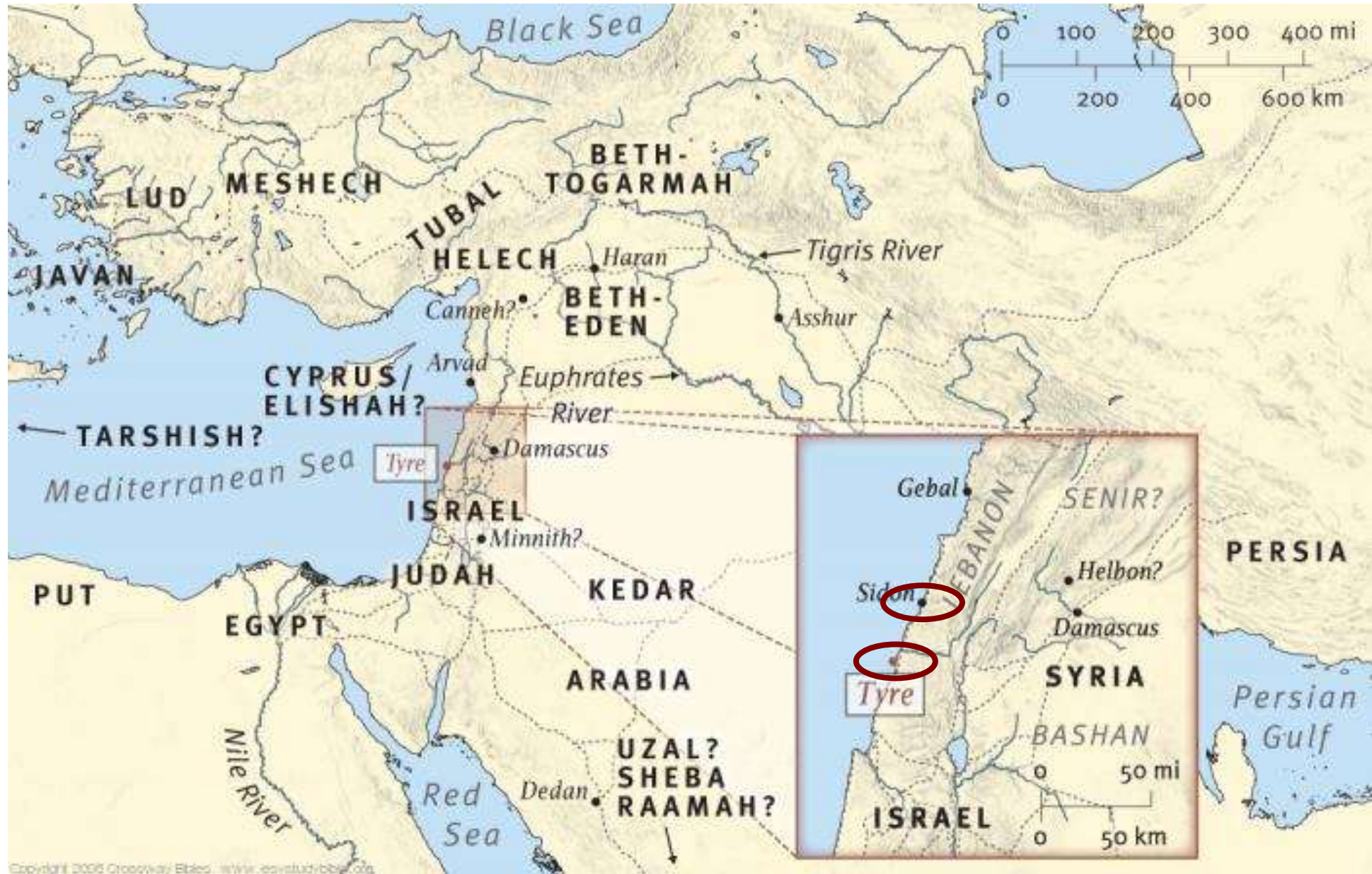


I. Truth Claim: A Forced Conclusion

**II. Test Case:
A Flat Tyre**

Phoenicia







Tyre's Sins

1. Sold Israelites as slaves to Greeks,
Joel 3:4-6
2. Delivered Israelites to Edomites,
Amos 1:9-10



Tyre's judgment

Ezekiel 26 ^(1/2)

1. Many nations would attack, 26:3
2. Walls and towers destroyed, 26:4
3. Dust scraped away; rocky top, 26:4
4. Ruins...place for spreading nets,
plunder for nations, 26:5
5. Nebuchadnezzar to besiege her,
26:7-8



Tyre's judgment

Ezekiel 26 (2/2)

6. Enemies would break through walls, break down towers, trample streets, slay w. sword, 26:9-11
7. Ruins of city dumped in water, 26:12
8. City uninhabited, desolate rocky top, 26:14
9. Never to be rebuilt, 26:14

Destruction in two stages

1. **Nebuchadnezzar**

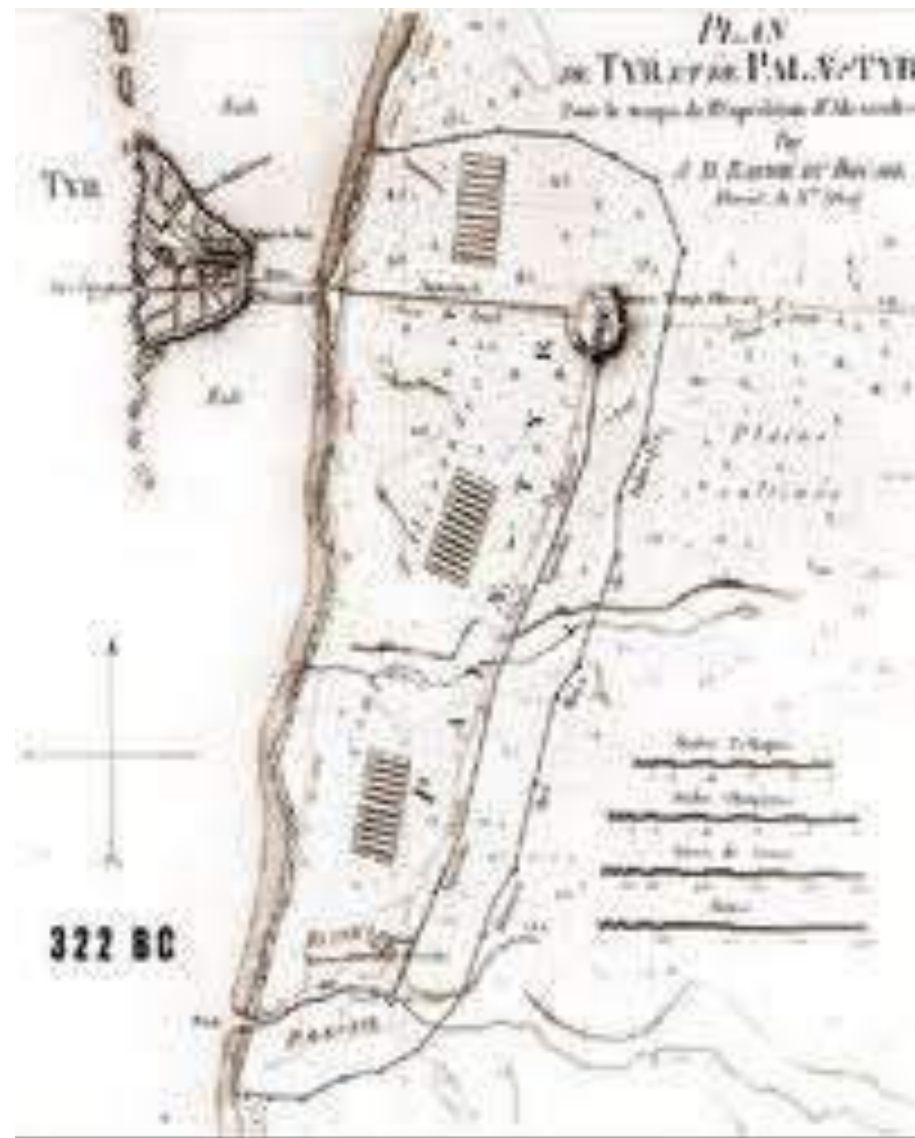
- Besieged mainland city 13 yrs. (585-572)
- No navy; could not flatten island city
- Loss of mainland city devastated Tyre

Destroyed
influence in world

Severely reduced
trade

What Nebuchadnezzar did

- Broke down gates of Tyre (v.9-10)
- Found city almost empty
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1/2 m. off coast



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- Nebuchadnezzar & soldiers did not receive adequate wages, Ezk.29:17-20

Destruction in two stages

2. Alexander

- Took Sidon, then turned to Tyre
- Small island $\frac{1}{2}$ m. off shore
- Heavily fortified; high, stout walls: 150' high, 20' thick at bottom
- Supply of food, water
- Fleet of 80 triremes

Sent messengers with peace terms.
Tyre agreed; sent gifts to Alexander.

Destruction in two stages

2. Alexander

- Alexander asked to enter city to worship statue of Heracles.
- “Sacriligious” – would allow sacrifice on mainland at Old Tyre.
- Alexander sent envoys to say this was unacceptable: Tyre must surrender.
- Tyrians cut throats of envoys...

Alexander's rage

- Built 2000 ft. causeway to island
- Hauled cedars from Lebanon mtns.
- Drove them as piles into sandbar between mainland & island
- Used debris and timber of ruined mainland city as solid material for mole, 200 ft. wide. Ezk.26:12,19

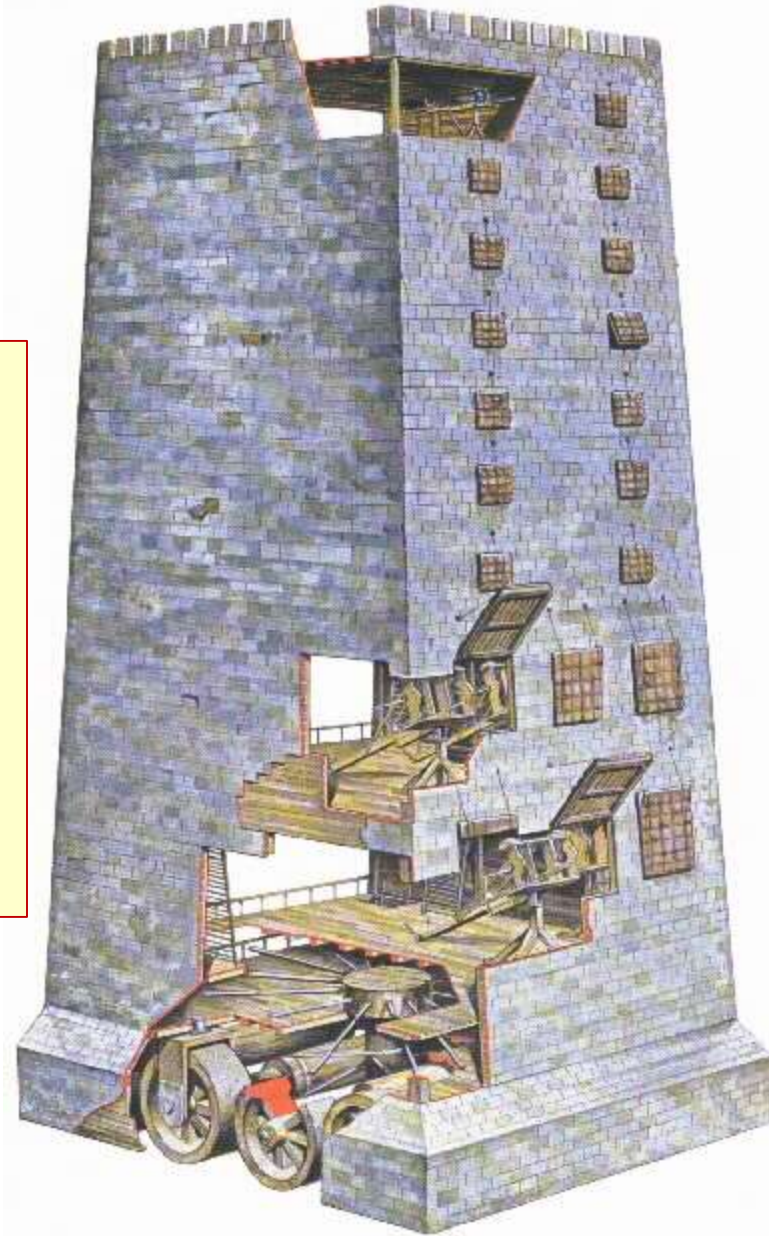
Alexander's mole



Alexander's allies


- Offshore a fleet of 160 ships accompanied his men (Sidon, Greek allies, etc.); attacked from three sides
- His men were hindered by steady hail of missiles
- On shore, engineers built 'helepoleis' (mobile protective towers) 160' high

Helepolis,
a fortified,
wheeled
tower
(tortoise)



Battering
rams
Catapults
Drills
Drawbridge





Tyre fell after 7 month siege (332 BC)

- 6000 Tyrian defenders died; 400 Greeks
- 30,000 from Tyre became slaves
- 2000 were crucified along beach
- Repopulated Tyre with Greek emigrants & loyal Phoenicians, with a Macedonian garrison

Fishermen spread nets on causeway (Ezk.26:14)

- Tyre became a 'peninsula' (Ency. Brit.)



Alexander founded Alexandria

- Became Tyre's substitute; changed commercial structure of ancient world
- Through the years, various nations recaptured small towns on the site, killing citizens, burning city
- Mainland city never rebuilt

Summary of Fulfillment

- ✓ Nations attack, 3
- ✓ Destroy walls..., 4
- ✓ Dust scraped, 4
- ✓ Nets, plunder, 5
- ✓ Nebuchadnezzar, 7-8
- ✓ Enemies break through, slay, 9-11
- ✓ Ruins dumped in water, 12
- ✓ Uninhabited, 14
- ✓ Never rebuilt, 14

Lessons

1. Sovereignty of God; Ezk.27:32; 28:2;
Isa.40
2. Word of God; we must submit to it,
Mt.11:21
3. Judgment of God; He will punish sin,
Mt.11:22
4. Truth of God; predictive prophecy
proves Word true