



## Study Guide: Ezekiel – Chapter 28

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This study guide provides an educational overview of Ezekiel Chapter 28 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

### **Introduction**

Ezekiel Chapter 28 serves as a pivotal passage within the book, offering a profound oracle against the prince of Tyre and a lamentation over the city itself. This chapter contributes to the prophetic narrative by exposing the pride and downfall of a powerful ruler, while simultaneously unveiling a deeper spiritual dimension that hints at the cosmic rebellion behind earthly pride. Readers should watch for the layered message that blends historical judgment with a theological reflection on pride, power, and divine sovereignty.

### **Context**

Ezekiel 28 is situated within a series of prophecies against foreign nations, specifically focusing on Tyre, a wealthy and influential Phoenician city-state. The immediate literary context is the broader judgment pronounced on Israel's neighbors, emphasizing God's control over all nations. Historically, Tyre was a maritime power known for its commerce and fortifications. The chapter features two key speakers: the prophet Ezekiel, who delivers God's message, and the implied voice of the prince of Tyre, whose arrogance is exposed. The covenantal framework underscores Yahweh's authority over all rulers, reminding that no earthly power is beyond divine judgment.

### **Outline**

The chapter begins with a direct oracle against the prince of Tyre, addressing his pride and self-exaltation. This section reveals the prince's arrogance in claiming divinity and his impending judgment. Following this, the text shifts to a lament over the king of Tyre, portraying him with exalted imagery that suggests a once-glorious being now fallen due to pride. The final movement pronounces the destruction of Tyre itself, emphasizing the city's downfall as a consequence of its leader's sin and the city's own hubris. This outline moves from individual judgment to corporate destruction, highlighting the interconnectedness of leadership and national fate.



## **Verse-by-Verse Study**

Verses 1-3: Ezekiel is commanded to speak against the prince of Tyre, introducing the subject of the oracle. The prince is accused of claiming to be a god, demonstrating extreme pride and self-deification, which sets the tone for the judgment that follows.

Verses 4-10: These verses detail the prince's arrogance, describing his heart as lifted up because of his wisdom and wealth. The imagery of a seal on the heart and perfect wisdom underscores his self-confidence. Yet, God declares that this pride will lead to his downfall, and he will be brought down by strangers, symbolizing foreign conquest.

Verses 11-19: This passage shifts to a lament over the king of Tyre, using majestic and almost angelic language. The king is depicted as having been in Eden, adorned with precious stones, and anointed as a guardian cherub. This portrayal suggests a figure of great beauty and privilege who became corrupt through pride and violence, leading to his expulsion and death.

Verses 20-24: The final section pronounces the judgment on the city of Tyre itself. The city is compared to a proud cedar that will be felled. The destruction is comprehensive, involving the sword, pestilence, and famine, and will result in the city becoming a place for spreading nets, symbolizing desolation and ruin.

## **Key Themes**

One central theme is the danger of pride and self-exaltation, as embodied by the prince of Tyre. His claim to divinity and reliance on personal wisdom and wealth illustrate how pride leads to downfall. Another theme is the sovereignty of God over all rulers and nations, emphasizing that no power is immune to divine judgment. The lament over the king of Tyre introduces a theological reflection on the fall of a once-exalted being, hinting at cosmic rebellion and the consequences of sin. Finally, the chapter underscores the connection between leadership sin and national destruction, showing how the fate of a city is tied to the character of its rulers.

## **Cross-References**

Isaiah 14:12-15 provides a parallel lament over the king of Babylon, using similar language about pride and downfall that helps clarify the cosmic dimension of Ezekiel's lament over Tyre's king. Revelation 18 offers a New Testament perspective on the



judgment of Babylon, a city often associated with Tyre's pride and wealth, reinforcing the theme of divine judgment on corrupt powers. Psalm 93:1 and Job 28:12-28 emphasize God's supreme wisdom and authority, contrasting human arrogance with divine sovereignty, which is central to Ezekiel's message. Additionally, Genesis 3's account of the fall introduces the motif of a once-perfect being's corruption through pride, echoing the imagery in Ezekiel 28.

## **Application**

Modern disciples can learn from Ezekiel 28 the peril of pride in leadership and personal life. The chapter challenges believers to examine attitudes of self-exaltation and to recognize God's ultimate authority over all power structures. It also invites reflection on the spiritual realities behind earthly events, encouraging humility and dependence on God's wisdom rather than human strength or wealth. The connection between leadership character and community wellbeing reminds contemporary readers of the responsibility leaders bear and the impact of their integrity or failure. Finally, the cosmic dimension of pride's fall calls believers to spiritual vigilance against subtle forms of rebellion against God.

## **Summary**

Ezekiel Chapter 28 presents a layered prophecy against the prince and city of Tyre, blending historical judgment with profound theological insight. It exposes the destructive nature of pride and self-deification, portrays the fall of a once-exalted figure, and declares the comprehensive ruin of a proud city. Through vivid imagery and sober warnings, the chapter underscores God's sovereignty over all rulers and nations, reminding readers that human power is fleeting and accountable to divine justice. This passage challenges believers to humility, vigilance, and trust in God's ultimate authority amid worldly pride and power.