

peoples from one part of their realm to another, as, for instance, in the case of the conquered northern kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 17:6, 24).

The latter part of the verse probably describes the Chaldean conquest of Tyre. They set up their siege-towers. They raised up her palaces. In this last phrase, Alexander suggests "roused up" instead of "raised up." The American Standard Version translates it "overthrew." They made it a ruin (King James Version -- "he brought it to ruin").

Verse 14 ends this section with the same command as in verse 1: "Howl, ye ships of Tarshish." The concluding phrase says: "for your strength is laid waste." The word rendered "strength" here is the one used in verse 4 where Tyre is called "the strength of the sea." In verse 10, which tells the subject peoples that they can now move freely since there is now no restraining force, a different word was translated "strength." In verses 4 and 14 the American Standard Version gives a better rendering as "stronghold."

Tyre's Restoration

The prophet has vividly portrayed the destruction of Tyre by Nebuchadnezzar, a century after Isaiah's time. Now he goes on to describe events still more distant. Tyre is to be rebuilt. Again she is to "sing as a harlot."

It would not be impossible to consider almost everything in the first fourteen verses of this chapter as simply expressing the antagonism, and consequent prophecy of woe, uttered by the inhabitant of an inland agricultural town against a great mercantile port. The only exception is the positive (and astounding!) statement that the destruction will come from an extremely improbable agency -- the Chaldeans. Aside from this one statement the rest is very general. The catastrophe is described in vague terms. That it is to be terrible is clear, but none of its details are mentioned. One might think that the chapter would end here, and that the prophet, aside from one lucky guess, had merely displayed his provincial hatred against commercialism and trade. However, the most striking portion of the chapter is still ahead. The remaining verses show the attitude of Isaiah to be utterly different from the misconception which might conceivably be derived from the