

first part of the chapter, if taken alone. This latter part of the chapter is most distinctive of Isaiah, and most important in its spiritual insight.

The destruction of Tyre is not, like that of Nineveh, to be final. Verse 15 tells us "that Tyre shall be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king," and then shall be restored.

What is the meaning of the phrase "according to the days of one king"? Perhaps if we had a full knowledge of the events of Isaiah's time and of the centuries following, we would know of some outstanding fact that would make the allusion perfectly clear. As it is, we know that Tyre was restored, but no evidence has been preserved which indicates the exact time and circumstances when it occurred. Probably the best that can be done with the phrase at present is to consider the possibility of the interpretation that Eichhorn and Ewald have suggested, that it indicates a general period, like the days of a king, in contrast to the precise measurement indicated in Isaiah 16:14 and 21:16 by the phrase "the years of a hireling."

Verse 15 ends with the statement that Tyre shall "sing as an harlot." One might think that the word "harlot" here betrays the antagonism of the prophet from the settled agricultural community against the traders and merchants, the "middlemen" of the ancient world, but the context shows that this is probably not involved in the word. It may simply indicate the lack of fixed relationship, the readiness to trade with all corners, the lightness of attitude.

The phrase, then "shall Tyre sing as a harlot," is better translated, then "shall Tyre sing the harlot's song." Many commentators think that verse 16 presents the actual wording of the song: "Take an harp, go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten; make sweet melody, sing songs, that thou mayest be remembered." It pictures Tyre reestablishing its mercantile power, and beginning again to make a name for itself in the Mediterranean.

In verse 17 the Lord states that the reestablishment is from Himself. He has been the cause of the downfall of Tyre; He is going to cause that it be again restored.

At the end of seventy years the Lord will "visit" Tyre. This Hebrew word, which is sometimes translated "visit," has