

**The Prince of Tyre:
 The Height of Arrogance
 Ezekiel 28:1–10
 Veritas Adult Community
 October 31, 2020**

A. The Preamble

¹The following message of YHWH came to me: ²Human, say to the Prince of Tyre:

B. The Charges against the Prince of Tyre

Thus has the Lord YHWH declared:

“Because you have become arrogant, and have said, “I am a god, and I occupy the seat of gods in the heart of the seas”—though you are merely a human being, and no god at all—and you have claimed the intelligence of gods— ³Look, you are indeed wiser than Daniel. No secret baffles you. ⁴By your wisdom and your understanding you have gained wealth for yourself and you have accumulated gold and silver in your treasuries. ⁵By your superior wisdom through your trade you have increased your riches, but on account of your wealth you have become arrogant.”

C. The Sentence

⁶Therefore, thus has the Lord YHWH declared:

“Because you claimed the intelligence of gods, ⁷therefore, look! I am bringing strangers against you—the most ruthless of nations. They will unsheathe their swords against the magnificence of your wisdom, and they will desecrate your splendor. ⁸They will send you down to the Pit, and in the heart of the seas you will die the death of the slain. ⁹Will you insist on claiming, “I am a god,” even in the presence of your killers? But you are merely a human being, and no god at all, in the hands of those who strike you down? ¹⁰You will die the death of the uncircumcised at the hands of strangers, for I have spoken!”

The declaration of the Lord YHWH.

Exposition

Introduction to Ezekiel 28:1–19

The Relationship between Verses 1–10 and 11–19

Are these two separate oracles or should we read them together?

1. A Comparison of Ezekiel 28:1–10 and 28:11–19

Feature	28:1–10	28:11–19
Genre	a judgement speech	a lament (<i>qînâ</i>)
Literary Style	standard narrative prose	elevated prose (poetry?)
Addressee	“the prince of Tyre” (<i>nēgîd šōr</i>)	“the king of Tyre (<i>melek šōr</i>)
The Issue	An arrogant claim	the glorious reality
The Form of Punishment	through agents of judgment	by YHWH himself
The Role of the Nations	agents of judgment	witnesses to YHWH’s judgment

2. Similar Assessments of the Principal Character

- a. *'attâ 'ādām*, “You are human!” (v. 2);
- b. *'attâ ḥākām*, “You are wise!” (v. 3);
- c. *'attâ ḥôtēm*, “You are a seal!” (v. 12);
- d. *'attâ kērûb*, “You are a cherub!” (v. 14);
- e. *'attâ tāmîm*, “You are perfect from the day you were created!” (v. 15).

3. Elements of Prophetic Satire

- a. Ezekiel contrasts the sinner’s inflated self-esteem with the humiliation awaiting him with a direct quotation: You have said “I am a god and I occupy the seat of gods in the heart of the seas” (v. 2)
- b. Ezekiel recognizes the qualities in the sinner that have made his rise possible and paints them in positive strokes.
- c. Ezekiel describes the sinner’s wealth and power by cataloguing articles he cherishes but symbolized especially by the king’s pectoral (v. 13).
- d. Ezekiel employs metaphorical imagery to intensify the reversal.

A. The Preamble (vv. 1–2a)

¹The following message of YHWH came to me: ²Human, say to the Prince of Tyre.”

But now your kingdom shall not continue. YHWH has sought out a man after his own heart, and YHWH has commanded him to be prince (*nāgîd*) over his people, because you have not kept what YHWH commanded you." (1 Sam. 13:14 ESV)

Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ¹Thus says YHWH of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince (*nāgîd*) over my people Israel. (2 Sam. 7:8 ESV)

B. The Charges against the Prince of Tyre (vv. 2b–5)

1. The king claims to be divine (אֱלֹהִים לִי).
2. The king claims divine authority.
3. The king claims divine intelligence.

C. The Announcement of the Sentence on the Prince of Tyre (vv. 6–10)

1. The invaders will attack the source of the prince’s pride, the symbols of his wealth and glory.
2. The invaders will desecrate the prince’s radiant splendor.
3. The invaders will send the prince down to the netherworld.

D. Theological and Practical Lessons from the Prince of Tyre

1. Pride goes before the fall.
2. YHWH is the Lord of all history.