

would throw the stones and the timber and even the dust into a body of water? The Bible contains no such prediction about Sidon or any other city. Yet that is exactly what happened.

Not long after Ezekiel wrote, the great monarch Nebuchadnezzar attacked Tyre. The great siege, which lasted twelve years, is vividly described in Ezekiel 26.

Instead of rebuilding their city on its original site, the Tyrians decided to move to a safer location. There was an island near the city, about a half mile from shore. Perhaps there had been a small settlement of a group of warehouses on the island before the siege. Remembering the horrors of the siege, the people decided to rebuild their city out on the island, where it would be easier to resist an attack. There the new city flourished. Greek geographers referred to its former place on the mainland as "old Tyre." The ruins stood in disarray at the old site. Who would ever bother to take the stones and the timber and even the dust and cast them into the water? Two hundred years passed. The Babylonian empire had become part of the great Persian Empire, which had vainly tried to conquer distant Greece. Then the great Macedonian conqueror, Alexander the Great, attacked the Persian Empire, and seized one section after another. The great independent merchant city of Tyre sided with the Persians and its ships threatened the ships that supplied Alexander's armies. He could hardly go forward and leave this strong hostile force in his rear. So he decided to conquer the powerful island city. The Encyclopedia Britannica tells how "Alexander demolished old Tyre and with the debris built a mole 200 ft in breadth across the straits." They cast the stone and the timber and even the dust into the sea and eventually made it possible for Alexander's army to make their way out to the city and capture it. Only by the direct inspiration of the One who knows all history before it happens could Ezekiel have predicted this unique event two hundred years before it occurred.

This remarkable prophecy, along with the equally remarkable ones about the great cities of Egypt, demonstrated that the Bible contains truths that no human being could possibly have guessed if the Creator of the universe had not revealed them to him.