

the mountains back of Phoenicia provided the famous cedars of Lebanon. Not only were these vital to the construction of David's palace and of Solomon's temple; nearly two thousand years before the time of David they were already well-known and widely used in Egypt.

One of the cities of Phoenicia has given its name to our greatest book. Gebal, which the Greeks called Byblos, began to sell timber to Egypt at a very early period. In payment it received vast quantities of papyrus. These it sold to the people of other lands. When the Greeks began to make extensive use of papyrus, they named it after the city from which it came to them. Thus they applied the name of Byblos to their books, and in time this Greek word became the accepted designation of the Book of Books, the Bible.

Forty-two miles south of Byblos was Sidon, and twenty-two miles south of Sidon was Tyre. Probably Sidon was older than Tyre. Sometimes the two were combined. Omri, king of the northern Israelite kingdom, married his son Ahab to Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians (1 Kings 16:31). Every Sunday School child is familiar with the danger which threatened the religion of Israel when Jezebel tried to introduce her highly sophisticated, but morally degenerate religion into the kingdom ruled by her husband. Elijah and Elisha worked and fought for many years before this menace was at an end.

Ezekiel 27 contains a lengthy description of the great wealth and extensive commerce of ancient Tyre. In the course of our present chapter Isaiah alludes to these facts in a few striking statements. In verse 11 he calls Tyre "the merchant city." Verse 17 refers to its commerce "with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth." Verse 7 calls Tyre a "joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days." Verse 8 calls it "the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honourable of the earth." Verse 3 says that through the great waters the seed of Egypt and the products of the Nile valley are her source of revenue" (the terms used in verse 3 will be explained later) "and she is a mart of nations." In verse 4, Tyre is called "the strength of the sea." Thus we see that Tyre was a very great city, and that her greatness came from navigation and commerce. Perhaps some of the landlocked and rather provincial