

empires of Egypt and Assyria. The great merchant city, whose fleets cover the sea, is subject to His will. If she perishes, it is because He orders it.

Verse 10 addresses the people of Tarshish, and, by implication, of the other colonies subject to Tyre. They are now free to pass through their lands as easily as the Nile flows through Egypt. The last phrase of the verse reads in the King James Version: "there is no more strength." The American Standard Version reads: "there is no restraint any more," and has a footnote under "restraint" which says, "Heb. girdle." The word is used in Psalm 109:19 to picture a curse enfolding the wicked, and is there translated "girdle" in the King James Version. It means that the power of Tyre, which held its colonies in subjection, is removed and they are free to do what they wish without restraint.

Verse 11 again declares the supremacy of God. It is He who has shaken the kingdoms!

In verse 12 God declares that the Tyrian can find no safety in flight. Even though he crosses the sea to Chittim, there also shall he find no rest. God is supreme there too.

Verse 13 calls our attention to a land far to the east of Tyre: "Behold the land of the Chaldeans." In the context it can have no significance other than to state that the destruction of Tyre will be at the hands of the distant Chaldeans. In Isaiah's time they did not seem to be a great power. Assyria was then the powerful aggressor which brought terror to the nations. We are reminded of Isaiah's words in chapter 39, where he told Hezekiah that the eventual destruction of Jerusalem would not be by the mighty Assyrians, but by the people of Babylon, who were themselves at that time struggling to maintain their existence against Assyrian oppression.

The verse goes on to mention that the Chaldeans hardly seemed even to exist as a people until long after the Assyrians had become a great nation. Babylon itself was a famous ancient city, but the Chaldeans were nomadic tribes who did not enter Mesopotamia until the tenth century B. C. They could properly be described as "them that dwell in the wilderness." The verse would seem to suggest that their entrance into Mesopotamia and establishment there was facilitated by the Assyrian power. At the time of Isaiah it was common for the Assyrians to transport subjugated