

of the sea." And Sidon had always been on the mainland. Noone has ever suggested Sidon was ever anywhere else. So the use of this term in connection with Sidon is absolute proof that when the Assyrians spoke of Tyre as "the city in the midst of the seas?" they meant the city that had the great commerce so that the ships came over the seas from everywhere to it and went to everywhere from it. They used the same terms about Sidon which is on the mainland.

I investigated this a few years ago and I've been thinking hoping to get time to write a scholarly article on it giving the evidence simply as a scholarly matter ~~of~~ showing where ancient Tyre actually was. I think the evidence is quite incontrovertible. Unfortunately I have not yet written the article, but that is the evidence. The other statement has already been put in so many scholarly books that it will take a little while to get it out.

I spoke to a professor of ancient history, a professor of the ancient cuneiform material at the U. of PA., a man who has a world-wide reputation in that field, and I mentioned this to him. You know what he said to me? He said, Look at the statement in Ezekiel where it says Nebuchadnezzar will come and by reason of the abundance of his horses their dust shall cover thee. Thy walls shall shake at the noise of the horsemen." He said that would be perfectly ridiculous to say about an attack on an island city. And he said Tyre was just a few miles north of Palestine where Ezekiel was and it is ridiculous to think that Ezekiel could make such a statement as that if the city was on an island at that time."

I thought that was a very good additional evidence although those who hate the Bible do not wish to take any evidence from the Bible. But there is very clear evidence on that, and of course the evidence from the cuneiform that I found, I think is absolutely incontrovertible on that point.

Now I want to call your attention to a very interesting prophecy in the NT. This one is in Luke 21:24 where he is speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem. "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Now we don't know just when the times of the Gentiles will come to an end. But we do know from this that a very long period is implied, a long period after the time when Jesus said, "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Jerusalem was captured == attacked by the Romans after it had revolted in A.D. 70 and was destroyed. Then there was another Jewish revolt in 132 A.D. The Emperor Hadrian attacked these who had built a new wall rapidly around Jerusalem and destroyed them and then he made a law that no Jew could come within several miles of Jerusalem upon pain of death. The city was truly trodden down of the Gentiles for many years.