

The program is sponsored by Sarena and David Koschitzky, in memory of Riva Koschitzky z"l

*This session is dedicated by Rina and Irving Gottesman in honour of our grandchildren,
Ezra, Ariella, Jackson, Tyler and Dylan. May they be blessed with always wanting to learn more.*

This session is dedicated by Dianna and Ricky Zauderer

Who is Tyre?

1. Bereishit 10:15, 10:19

And Canaan produced Tzidon, his firstborn, and Chet.

And the Canaanite border was from Tzidon...

2. Yechezkel 27:3-4

And tell Tyre, who dwells on the entrances of the sea, merchant of the nations to many islands... In the heart of the seas is your boundary...

The Problem

3. Shemuel II 5:11

And Hiram king of Tyre sent agents to David, and cedar wood and carpenters and stoneworkers, and they built a home for David.

4. Melachim I 5:15, 5:26

And Hiram, king of Tyre, sent his servants to Solomon, for he had heard that they had anointed him as king in place of his father. For Hiram loved David always...

...And there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a covenant.

5. Melachim I 9:11-13, Divrei haYamim II 8:2

... Then King Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the Galil. And Hiram left Tyre to see the cities Solomon gave him, and they were not fit in his eyes. And he said, "What are these cities you have given me, my brother?" And he called them "the land of Kavul" to this day.

And the cities that Hiram gave to Solomon, Solomon built them up, and he settled Jews there.

6. Melachim I 9:26-28

And Solomon made boats in Etzion Gever... And Hiram sent on the boats his servants, sailors who knew the sea, with Solomon's servants. And they came to Ophir, and they took gold from there... and they brought it to King Solomon.

7. Yeshayahu 23:1, 8-9

A *masa* upon Tyre: Wail, boats of Tarshish; for it is despoiled... Who has planned this upon Tyre, the crown city, whose merchants were nobles, whose peddlers were the honoured of the land? Hashem, Master of Multitudes, planned this, to desecrate the power of all desire, to bring shame upon all of the honoured of the land.

8. Yoel 4:4-7

And also, what are you to Me, Tyre and Tzidon and all of the regions of the Philistines? Are you paying [them] back for Me? And if you are paying back for Me, I will swiftly bring back your payback upon your own heads. You have taken My silver and gold, and you have brought My treasures into your palaces. And the Judeans and Jerusalemites you have sold to the sons of the Greeks, to distance them from their land. I will bring them back from the place to which you sold them, and I will return your payback upon your heads...

9. Amos 1:9-10

For the three sins of Tyre, and for the fourth I will not turn them back, for sealing a total exile to Edom, and they did not remember the covenant of brothers. And I will send fire upon the wall of Tyre, and it will consume her palaces.

10. Yechezkel 26:2, 28:2-7

Because Tyre declared upon Jerusalem: Aha! The one who was the gateway of the nations is broken; she has turned to me, I will be filled by the ruined one.

Tell the leader of Tyre: So declares Hashem! Because your heart was haughty, and you said, "I am a god, I have dwelled in the place of Gd in the heart of the seas," and you are [only] a man, not a god, and you set your heart like the heart of Gd... Therefore, so says Hashem: Because you place your heart as the heart of a god, therefore, I will bring upon you strangers, the cruelest of the nations, and they will draw out their swords upon the beauty of your wisdom and desecrate your radiance.

11. Talmud, Bava Batra 75a-b

What is "the work of your settings and your holes was in you" (Yechezkel 28:13)? Rav Yehudah cited Rav: Gd said to Hiram, king of Tyre: I looked at you and I created holes in human beings. And some say He said: I looked at you and decreed death for Adam the First.

12. Talmud, Yoma 9b-10a

[Reish Lakish said that the second Beit haMikdash fell because Jews did not return en masse from Babylon.] When [Reish Lakish] came to Rabbi Yochanan, he said: That wasn't the reason. Even if all of them had ascended in Ezra's day, the Shechinah would not have been manifest in the second Sanctuary, for it says, "Gd should expand Yefet, and He will dwell in the tents of Shem" – even though Gd will expand Yefet, the Shechinah will only be manifest in Shem's tents.

Three approaches

13. Radak to Amos 1:9

This was also in the exile of the Second Temple, for Tyre was close to Israel. Therefore it said, "For handing them over."

14. Abarbanel, Introduction to Yeshayahu 23

Both of them were near Israel, to the point that they kidnapped youths from there and sold them to the Greeks, distancing them from their borders, or they took them captive in exile.

15. Amos Chacham, Daat Mikra to Yeshayah 23, pg. 248

But it would be logical to say that the central intent of this *masa* is to say that the sin of Tyre was in her commerce, and therefore the prophet used *zenut* as a metaphor for Tyre's commerce. This is the lesson learned by future generations from this prophecy, that commerce is wrapped up with the sin of trickery and flattery and taking money improperly. The corrective for a Gd-fearing merchant is not to seek to amass profits in the money he makes in his commerce, but to dedicate his profits philanthropically.

16. Yeshayahu 23:15-18

And on that day, Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years, like the days of one king. At the end of seventy years, Tyre will experience like the song of the *zonah*. Take a harp and circulate in the city, forgotten *zonah*. Play well, increase song, that you might be remembered. And it will be, at the end of seventy years Gd will recall Tyre and she will return to her *etnan* and she will be a *zonah* with all of the empires of the land, across the face of the earth. And her commerce and her *etnan* shall be sacred to Gd, it shall not be stored or stockpiled, for her commerce shall be for those who sit before Gd, to eat to satiation and for elegant garb.

17. Melachim I 16:31

And [Achav] took a wife, Izevel daughter of Etbaal king of Tzidon. And he went and served the Baal and bowed to it.

18. Yeshayah 23:12 and 37:22; Yechezkel 27:3 and Eichah 2:15; Yechezkel 28:12-14

בתולת בת צידון	בתולת בת צידון...
כלילת יפי	כלילת יפי
פה אמר ד' אלקים אתה חותם תכנית מלא חכמה וכליל יפי: בעדן מן אלקים היית כל אבן וקרה מסכתה אדם פטדה ויהלם תרשיש שהם ונשפה ספיר נסך וברקת ונהב מלאכת תפיד ונקביו בך ביום הבראך כוננו: את קרוב ממשח הסוכך ונתתיה בחר קדש אלקים היית בתוך אבני אש התהלכת:	

King Solomon's covenant

19. Rabbi Yitzchak Levy, 'מלכות שלמה בירושלים (ג) – פועלו של שלמה למען בית ד'

An added trait of Tyre is its cosmopolitan character – she was “peddler to the nations.” (Yechezkel 27:3) Tyre's location on the Mediterranean coast converted her into an international locus of trade and culture, as explained further in that chapter (27:12, 27:25, and see Yeshayah 23:8). In this sense, Tyre is a microcosm of all of the nations, and its participation in building the Sanctuary may herald the vision of the prophets, that in the future all of the nations will recognize the monarchy of Gd and ascend for judgment in Jerusalem. In other words: at that time, Tyre was a suitable channel to connect the entire world with the construction of the Sanctuary, and at the right time to arrive at the Sanctuary and to recognize the Divine monarchy.

20. Ibn Ezra to Yeshayah 23:18

To those who sit before Gd – the exile of Jerusalem, returning in the time of Cyrus

Review questions

- 1> Where do we see a good relationship with Tyre?
- 2> Where do we see a bad relationship with Tyre?
- 3> What did Tyre do wrong?
- 4> Why did King Solomon want a covenant with Tyre?