

as men and women who share fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us never forget the words of Jesus in his prayer in John 17, words which relate directly to each of us, words to which John alluded in 1 John 1:

“Neither pray I for these [the apostles] alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that

they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me. And the glory which Thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and Thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved me” (Jno. 17:20-23).
(Concluded)

Prophecy

Today’s global economic crisis—the final migration of Tyre (3)

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Although the original Tyre was destroyed for its greed, corruption and betrayal of Jewry, its trading role migrated to a new location. In the last article of this short series these typical features are considered in order to allow the modern-day Tyre to be identified. The article concludes with a number of important developments that can be expected to provide signs of the progressing purpose of God.

ONE OF THE SYMBOLS of Tyre was the phoenix, a mythical bird which lived 500 years before self-incinerating. From the ashes of the old bird a new bird arose. God may be alluding to this myth in Ezekiel 28:18: “Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.”

The fall of Tyre—the migrating sojourner

The myth of the phoenix is an apt symbol for the migration of the money powers. In Ezekiel 29 we have an insight into this when Nebuchadnezzar tried to take Tyre. After a fifteen-year siege he broke through the walls but found no plunder: “Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon

made his army labour hard against Tyre. Every head was made bald, and every shoulder was rubbed bare, yet neither he nor his army got anything from Tyre to pay for the labour that he had performed against her” (v. 18, ESV).

The nobles who owned most of the wealth had taken their capital and fled to a new location. From the ashes of the old, a new Tyre emerged in Cyprus. We see a similar transfer of wealth happening to the USA today, with its productive capacity drained, its population and government hopelessly in debt and the corporations which placed America on the map setting up shop elsewhere.

In Isaiah Tyre is described as a sojourner who plunders the wealth of an existing location before carrying herself on her own feet to a new location listed as Tarshish: “Pass ye over to Tarshish; howl, ye inhabitants of the isle. Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days? her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn” (23:6,7).

So Tyre in Isaiah may have been destroyed as a geographical location, but Tyre is much more than that; it is a system, a type, an entity, whose characteristics, like those of Babylon and Assyria, can be traced throughout history to wherever the centre of world trade has sojourned. Isaiah 23

gives proof for this in the last verse, where Tyre is represented in the Kingdom age when Christ returns. Brother Thomas wrote an article on the migrating sojourning characteristics of Tyre to which we will refer later.

Why was Tyre judged?

Two things caused Tyre to migrate. Ezekiel 27,28 lists the greed and corruption that climaxed in judgement, but chapter 26 lists another reason which is critically important: "Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken that was the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, now she is laid waste: therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up" (vv. 2,3). Amos 1:9 also attributes Tyre's judgement to its persecution of the Jews, as does Joel 3:4 speaking of the latter days. But Amos uses the most interesting language. By turning on the Jews, Tyre was betraying "the covenant of brotherhood" (ESV).

Tyre and the Jews

Something that has interested me is the influence of Tyre on Israel, and the strong possibility that the Phoenicians, as the Greeks understood them, were more than likely made up of Canaanites and Jews from the northern ten tribes, in particular Dan, Issachar and Asher:

- The apostasy of Dan in the north of Israel was cemented by the adoption of the gods of the Zidonians, Baal and Ashtoreth, with whom they mingled after moving north.
- By the time of Deborah the men of Dan and Asher could not fight Sisera because they had migrated to the coast and were too busy trading in ships in the region of Tyre (Judg. 5:17).
- In 2 Chronicles 2:14 there is a Danite woman married to a man of Tyre whose son Hiram helped to build the temple. In fact, Tyrian craftsmen were considered to be the best in the world and contracted themselves to many countries other than Israel. The Freemasons trace their history back to Hiram, the part-Jew part-Tyrian craftsman.
- During the reign of David and Solomon there existed a close relationship between Tyre and Israel. Tyrian labour and materials built and furnished the temple.
- Sailors of Tyre and Solomon built ships together and forged mutual trading links,

roaming the seas together, possibly as far as India (1 Kgs. 9:26-28).¹

- Amos 1:9 speaks of the covenant of brotherhood that existed between Tyre and Israel.
- Ahab forged an economic alliance with the cities of Tyre and Zidon by marrying Jezebel. It is fair to say that the terrible trouble the northern ten tribes had with idolatry was a direct result of the influence of Tyre and Zidon, with whom they maintained close connections for economic reasons.

The fate of Tyre has been very much tied up in its attitude to the Jews, as well as the excessive greed and corruption that led to their fall. When Tyre became anti-Semitic and betrayed its alliance to the Jews it was then that its fate was sealed. This is another key characteristic of the type of Tyre wherever it has sojourned. Tyre throughout history has risen to its peak when it has allowed the Jews to trade in its streets and provided them protection. The moment Tyre turned its back on the Jews and became a persecuting power it lost its preeminence as a trading centre, partly because the Jews left and took their brains with them, but mostly by the decree of God Himself. The decline of Venice, Lisbon and Amsterdam can be traced to a departure of Jewish brains and capital because of persecution by the Catholic Church.

Migrating, sojourning, economic power

These reasons and many more are why Brother Thomas, along with John Ruskin and the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, traced the characteristics of Tyre from Canaan to Britain:

"Commerce and trade cannot be taken captive, and be compelled by a conqueror to locate itself where he pleases. They must flow in their own natural channels. A numerous, ingenious, and industrious population will export and import largely; and if it get the start of surrounding nations, it will become a great centre of attraction; and when, in its growth and prosperity, it develops into the old Phœnician similitude, there has Tyre carried herself upon her own feet; and not upon those of another. Nebuchadnezzar and Alexander might plunder her merchandise; but could not transfer her trafficking to Babylon or Macedonia. Tyre has been in Alexandria, in Venice, in Genoa, in Lisbon, in Holland, and lastly, in Britain, 'far

1. See article "Israel and the Eastern Tarshish," *Lampstand*, May-Jun. 2002.

away' from her ancient home; and there 'to sojourn,' until she shall return over the Sea of Tarshish, to her fatherland, there to pursue a course more calculated to bless the world than she has hitherto done in her harlotry with all the kingdoms of the earth."²

Where is Tyre today?

So the questions need to be asked, Where is Tyre today? And where does the Bible tell us that Tyre will be before Christ returns? Great Britain is clearly not as great as it was in 1901, when its global output was larger than France, Germany and the United States combined. Today Britain is still a great power, but she is very much overshadowed economically by the United States, Japan and Germany. The passages that deal with Tyre's greatness do not leave room for second place, and if we think about the following in the light of the last sixty years, there can be only one nation that has filled the role of the world's economic superpower:

- "she is a mart of nations" (Isa. 23:3)
- "the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honourable of the earth" (v. 8)
- "the renowned city, which wast strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants" (Ezek. 26:17)
- "O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles . . . I am of perfect beauty" (27:3)
- "Thy borders are in the midst of the seas, thy builders have perfected thy beauty" (v. 4)
- "thou filledst many people; thou didst enrich the kings of the earth with the multitude of thy riches and of thy merchandise" (v. 33)
- "I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas" (28:2)
- "wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee" (v. 3)
- "with thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches" (v. 4)
- "by thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches" (v. 5).

Applying the Tyrian test

Which country dominates global trade, negotiating free-trade agreements and declaring sanctions at will? Which country exercises control over most of the world's resources? Which country has the most powerful network of multinational companies? Which country was, until recently, the hub of technology, engineering and manufacturing? In which currency is all global trade transacted,

including oil? Which currency do the nations primarily use as a cash reserve since the Breton Woods agreement of World War II? Which country hosts the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank? Which country has been sympathetic to the Jewish cause, providing support and arms to help them in their various fights?

The answer is obvious; the Tyrian power in our day since World War II has been the United States of America. And the island city which is the financial hub of America is New York, where most of America's Jews live and do business.

So what of Britain? There is no doubt that Britain in the days of Brother Thomas was indeed the Tyre of the world. The sun never set on the British Empire, and the pound enjoyed pre-eminence as the currency of world trade. This is clearly not the case anymore. Britain will head up the trading block called in Ezekiel 38 "the merchants of Tarshish." If Britain is Tarshish she cannot also be Tyre, as these two places were always related but ultimately separate entities.

The final migration of Tyre

The days of Tyrian America are numbered. America is bad for business; America has a massive amount of debt; America is fighting a costly, unwinnable war; America imports more than it exports; America has no more oil; and there are moves in America, especially with its lack of response to the threat Iran poses to Israel, to sever or wind back its close ties with Israel.

So where is the final resting place of Tyre before Christ returns? Well, there is another currency belonging to another empire that is currently stronger than the US dollar. It belongs to a union of states that have a population of over 330 million, a large, cheap labour pool in the east, a unifying constitution and a level of economic cooperation which has not been seen in all its 2,000-year history.

The primary symbol of this empire is a woman riding a beast. According to Greek mythology, the name of this woman is Europa; and, according to the legend, Europa was daughter of the king of Tyre. She was kidnapped by the god Zeus disguised as a bull, who carried her away from the shores of Tyre to Cyprus and then to Europe.

In 2005, when Europe stamped a coin commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of peace in

2. John Thomas, *Herald of the Kingdom and Age to Come*, vol. 10, no. 3, p. 53.

In the territory of Phoenician Sidon, Lucian of Samosata (second century A.D.) was informed that the temple of Astarte,* whom Lucian equated with the moon goddess, was sacred to Europa:

“There is likewise in Phœnicia a temple of great size owned by the Sidonians. They call it the temple of Astarte. I hold this Astarte to be no other than the moon-goddess. But according to the story of one of the priests this temple is sacred to Europa, the sister of Cadmus. She was the daughter of Agenor, and on her disappearance from Earth the Phœnicians honoured her with a temple and told a sacred legend about her; how that Zeus was enamoured of her for her beauty, and changing his form into that of a bull carried her off into Crete. This legend I heard from other Phœnicians as well; and the coinage current among the Sidonians bears upon it the effigy of Europa sitting upon a bull, none other than Zeus. Thus they do not agree that the temple in question is sacred to Europa.” [Lucian, *De Dea Syria* 4]

The paradox, as it seemed to Lucian, would be solved if Europa is Astarte in her guise as the full, “broad-faced” moon.

—Wikipedia article on [Europa](#)

* Astarte is called Ashtoreth in Scripture, apparently because the vowels of the Hebrew word *bosheth* ('shame') were inserted into her name.



Greek two-euro coin depicting Europa and the bull.

(Wikimedia Commons)

1945 and the start of a new European era, the symbol it chose was the phoenix, rising once again out of the ashes. This, along with her adoption of the tower of Babel, suggests where Europe’s ambitions lie.

Europe judged with the judgement of Tyre

In Revelation 18 the economic judgement levelled at Babylon the Great is taken in large measure from the judgements of Tyre in Ezekiel 26 and 27. What this tells us is that the circumstances that led to the judgement of Tyre will exist in Europe at the return of Christ. This means that Europe will rise to become a globally dominant



2005 ten-euro commemorative coin depicting the phoenix. (Wikimedia Commons)



trading centre, like Tyre was and like the United States used to be.

A glance at the figures shows that the building blocks to economic greatness are already in place. Germany is currently the number-one exporter in the world, with the euro already a stronger currency than the dollar. Interestingly enough, Germany has some of the strictest anti-Semitism laws in the world, making it a place where Jews could well want to do business, despite its past.

When we look at the decline of the dollar, rising unemployment and crippling United States’ foreign debt, it seems obvious that Tyre is about to migrate again to its final destination before Christ returns, and Germany is the most likely candidate.

Tyre, Babylon and Assyria versus the merchants of Tarshish

But it will only be a partial transfer of economic power, as Ezekiel 38 tells us that the maritime merchants of Tarshish will be in opposition to the Russian/European alliance. The United Kingdom and the United States jointly control all the major maritime sea routes. So we will soon see a divided trading duopoly.

Europe, through the euro or another global currency administered from Europe, will inherit the right to issue the world’s next reserve currency, which is the power that the king of Tyre had. Germany and Russia will make up the manufacturing and resources sector for the European block. Globally, however, the merchants of Tarshish will

The EU Parliament building in Strasbourg is modelled on artistic depictions of the tower of Babel.



control the key commodities, their transit and the major trade routes.

This will result in a trade war. This trade war, like the Punic wars, will be fought for control of the trade routes and pipelines that the king of the south has under his control, and will ultimately lead to Armageddon—which, among other things, will be a battle for control over the currency and commodities of the new world order.

Let us not sleep—let us watch

One of the most misleading aspects of this crisis for those of us living ‘down under’ has been the role of mainstream media. When the sub-prime crisis first erupted, many economists were saying its impacts would be felt globally. These people never had a voice in our mainstream media; only those who put out a reassuring message claiming the crisis would be contained to the United States were heard.

I was living in Europe at the time. When I arrived back in Australia two months later I was stunned at how little people knew. When I checked online, none of our traditional media outlets had been reporting the events with any urgency. Only independent ‘less credible’ media outlets were reporting the events accurately and making forecasts about the direction the crisis was taking.

As true watchmen we need to face the fact that mainstream media has become a tool for propaganda and cannot be trusted. I am sure that this position would be supported by the author of *Milestones*, who has increasingly relied on independent media outlets in the absence of

articles in the mainstream media that illuminate accurately the plan and purpose of God as revealed in Bible prophecy.

Round two is coming

Despite reassuring messages to the contrary, nothing much has changed since the last crisis. The only difference between now and then is that governments have been pushed into taking on massive levels of debt, and are now, like the economies they have been propping up, at risk of default.

Another crisis is coming soon, make no mistake. It is important that we as a community understand the prophecies with regard to the characteristics and movements of Tyre so that we can illuminate the signs and understand the outcomes. Signs to look out for include:

- a continued weakening of the US dollar and economy
- agitations occurring around US spheres of influence to bolster the dollar
- more calls from China, Russia and increasingly Europe to drop the dollar
- an increasingly militant US consolidating her hold over key commodities and trade routes
- Germany consolidating its hold as the dominant economic power in Europe
- the use of the current crisis to centralise financial control in Europe
- the euro or an alternative reserve currency proposed and managed possibly by the Swiss-based Bank of International Settlements
- currency wars between those loyal to the dollar and those loyal to the euro

- more economic tension with China over the dollar peg and declining government bonds, possibly resulting in China refusing to recycle its dollars back into US government bonds
- a financial migration away from Wall Street and a hostile US population to more favourable locations in Europe
- collapse, implosion or revolution in the US, resulting in a smaller, more insular United States
- the rise of the Church and Russia to fill the void left by a weakened US and perhaps disbanded NATO.

(Concluded)