

The Problem of Unfulfilled Prophecy

Mr. Taylor

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scholars think that that means: according to the way that kings count time-- kings count the system of 70 years according to days of a king, as if a king had a man who recorded each of the 70 years for him, and you had a cycle for one king's rule.

"According to the days of one king, after the end of seventy years shall Tyre sing as an harlot (or sing the song of an harlot)

But the 70 year emphasis on Tyre is that they will be forgotten, the city will be forgotten, the inhabitants forgotten that period of time, and then at the end of 70 years it does not appear that there is a great ~~repentance~~ repentance on Tyre's part but in verse 16 the writer says, Take an harp. Go about the city, thou harlot that hast been forgotten. Make sweet melodies. Sing many songs that thou mayst be remembered. Seventy years of obscurity and now an attempt to regain fame. Tyre is famous in the O. T. alongside Sidon for the place where the gods of sea ~~were~~ worshipped and where there was a great fertility cult gathered. So he says, Seventy years you will live in obscurity and then make a great noise so that you will be remembered. Now in verse 17, It ~~shall~~ shall come to pass that in the end of seventy years that the Lord will visit Tyre, and she shall turn ~~from her~~ to her hire and shall commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth, and her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the Lord, and shall not be treasured nor laid up, for her merchandise shall be for them ~~that~~ dwell before the Lord to eat ~~sufficiently~~ sufficiently and for durable things -- durable clothing. What it sounds like is that after 70 years of obscurity, Tyre will come back to prominence, and then for a period of time will really prosper enormously and the amount of goods that she lays up in the ~~city~~ city will then be confiscated by the Lord for the sustenance of His people, or for the maintenance of His people. I tell you that that is a highly problematic section in the prophetic passages. Most preachers that preach through Isaiah just kind of bluff over it quick like and don't come back soon. It is a complicated passage but you can see it without my being overly obscure that in the first phrase he says, Tyre will be forgotten. In the second phrase, Tyre will be remembered. In the third phrase, ~~Tyre~~ Tyre will revert to her old practices of seducing the nations of the world, etc. And in the fourth phrase, All the gain that she gets from that will be consecrated to the Lord. Not because she by wicked practices dedicates it to the Lord, but because it is somehow grabbed and taken by the Lord for the sustenance and the benefit of His people. You have a rough parallel in Egypt, but it is only rough. In the days before the Exodus when the