

children of Israel were instructed to borrow goods from their Egyptian neighbors and take them when they left the land in the days of the Exodus. The logic behind that was based on Genesis 15. In Genesis 15 the Lord said to Abraham, When your children come out of the land, they will come out very rich. But the Egyptians worked them in slavery until they were very poor, and until they had very little. So the Lord took the wealth of Egypt for the hire and the reward of His people, and when His people came out, they came out legitimately with the wealth promised to them that had been confiscated by the slave masters of Egypt. So the wealth of Egypt ~~became~~ ^{became} the reward of the Lord's people. Now, the wealth of Egypt in the section that we looked at yesterday becomes the reward of Nebuchadnezzar so it is not uncommon for the Lord to say what one wicked power masses up for itself may be seized upon by the Lord to accomplish some purpose with regard to His own ideas -- either to the blessing of His people or for the reward of some temporal force that He uses. (Are you with me on that?) So, when He says, After seventy years Tyre will turn again to her harlotry and become rich again through her intercourse with the nations, then her goods will be dedicated to the Lord -- holiness to the Lord "kabosch" (?) to the Lord, will be set apart to the Lord -- not because Tyre herself apparently repents, but because the Lord takes those things and uses them for the sustenance of His people. Now, 70 years is a tolerably long period of time and yet if you read over the whole history, it is not long at all. And there are any number of periods in ancient history where Tyre is a nonentity -- a nothing. And, of course, it has been a "nothing" virtually (if you are from Tyre, you will have to forgive me) -- you know the place you are from, it is always big in your own eyes! And I come from a little district in Western Pennsylvania where there isn't a whole lot of anything, but when I heard a fellow on the radio laugh about it here in Philadelphia -- he pronounced the name of a couple of towns, and he laughed about them, and wondered where they were, I felt like writing him a nasty letter. I went to High School ~~in~~ in a town called "Mars" in Western Pennsylvania. Mars is a town of 1500 people, but I lived near a town (lived on a farm near a town) of about 35 people, and, of course, 1500 is big compared to 35. When I went to Mars, and they said, Where are you from and I named the town, why they all look at -- we were all "hicks." And the fellow said, That's wrong with Mars. He says, Getting over run with farmers and coal miners and stuff like that.) So, if you are from Tyre, forgive me. But the essence of it is that from Alexander's day on, Tyre has been nothing -- a place where