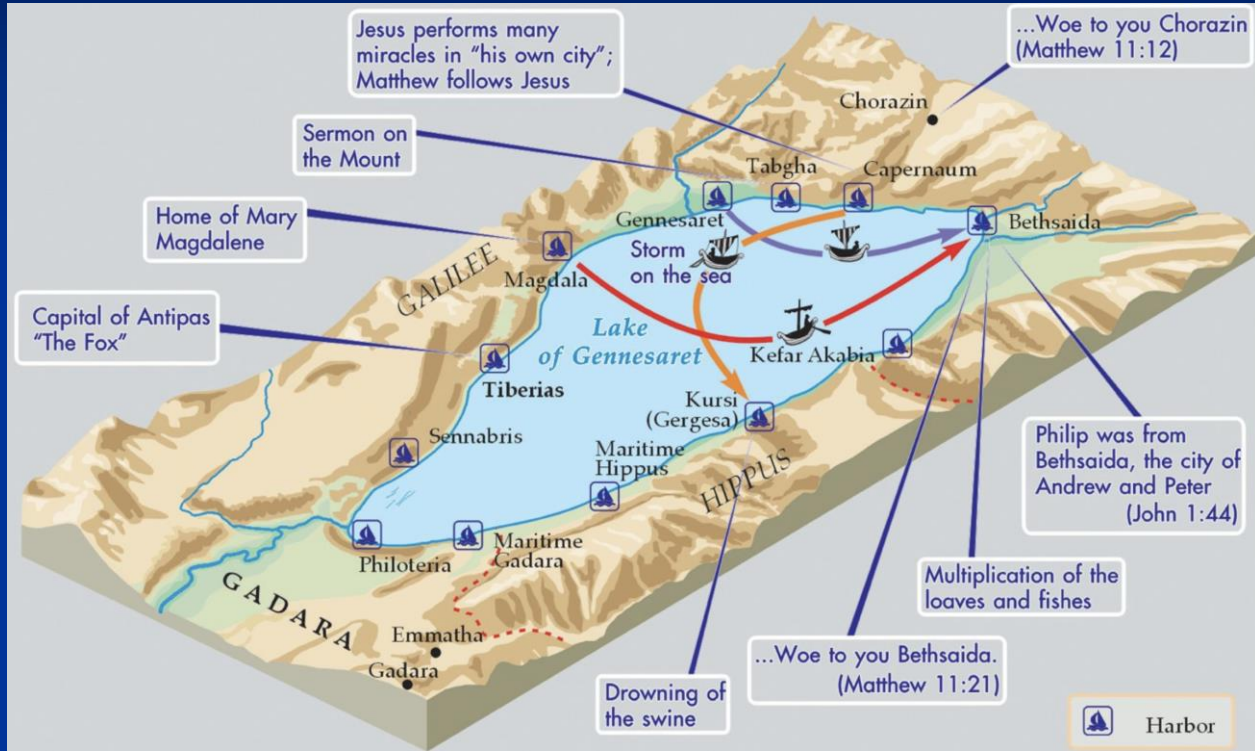


# Korazin, Tyre, Nineveh and The Great White Throne Judgment

Future Events Sunday School  
29 October 2023



# Location Location



# Jesus Compares Cities

- Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of His works of power were done, because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you...” (Matt. 11:20-22)

# Blessings for Korazin

- Korazin's grain harvest ripened before other nearby villages because of volcanic soil that warmed more quickly and provided a quick start for young grains.
- During Jesus' ministry, Korazin included 15 acres with 500-1000 people.
- Korazin was part of the "Orthodox triangle" in Jesus' day. The other two parts of the triangle were the nearby towns of Bethsaida (home to Peter, Andrew and Philip) and Capernaum. Those three towns were filled with devout Jews who took the Law seriously.
- Korazin had plenty of grain plus fish from the Sea of Galilee, beautiful weather from its elevated location; quite a few wealthy residents and convenient travel west to Nazareth, around the lake to Tiberius, or along good roads to Jerusalem for the required feasts.
- What miracles did Jesus do in Korazin? "Did he give sight to the blind? Did he cure a sick child? Did he heal a withered hand? Did he cleanse a leper? Did he cause the lame to walk? Did he cast out demons? Did he raise the dead?" People in Korazin heard Jesus' words, "listened to his message, knew who he was, and they saw the miracles he performed."

[\\*https://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2009-10-31-korazin-knowing-too-much-and-believing-too-little/](https://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2009-10-31-korazin-knowing-too-much-and-believing-too-little/)

# Woe to You Korazin!



Korazin may have been destroyed an earthquake that took place sometime in the fourth century AD. Further evidence suggested that the town was reborn again in the fifth century. But today only ruins remain.

# Tyre — A Commercial Powerhouse

**Tyre's Trading Partners**  
Ezekiel 27:12-25

Name	Location	Merchandise
1. Tarshish	Spain (?)	Silver, iron, tin, lead
2. Greece	Modern Greece	Slaves, bronze implements
3. Tubal	Eastern Turkey	Slaves, bronze implements
4. Meshech	Central Turkey	Slaves, bronze implements
5. Beth Togarmah	Eastern Turkey	Work horses, war horses, mules
6. Rhodes*	Modern Rhodes	Ivory tusks, ebony
7. Aram (or Edom)†	Syria (or Jordan)	Turquoise, purple fabric, embroidered work, fine linen, coral, rubies
8. Judah	Palestine	Wheat, olive oil, balm, confections, honey
9. Israel	Palestine	Wheat, olive oil, balm, confections, honey
10. Damascus	Syria	Wine, wool
11. Danites‡	Aden(?)	Wrought iron, cassia (a bark for perfume), calamus (an herb)
12. Greeks§ from Uzal	Yemen (or southeastern Turkey)	Wrought iron, cassia, calamus
13. Dedan	Arabia	Saddle blankets
14. Arabia	Arabia	Lambs, rams, goats
15. Kedar	Arabia	Lambs, rams, goats
16. Sheba	Southern Arabia	Spices, precious stones, gold
17. Raamah	Southern Arabia	Spices, precious stones, gold
18.-23. Haran, Canneh, Eden, Sheba, Asshur, Kilmad	Mesopotamia	Blue fabric, embroidered work, multicolored rugs

\*The Hebrew has "Dedan" (*d'dān*) while the Septuagint has "Rhodes" (*rodān*). The difference in the Hebrew consonants is between a "d" (ד) and an "r" (ר). Since "Dedan" occurs again in verse 20, it is better to see "Rhodes" here.

†Most Hebrew manuscripts have "Aram" (*ārām*) but some Hebrew manuscripts and the Syriac read "Edom" (*ēdōm*), and the Septuagint reads "men" (*ādām*). The difference in the Hebrew consonants is between an "r" (ר) and a "d" (ד).

‡The "Danites" are not the tribe of Dan which had already been taken into captivity. The NASB translates the word as "Vedan." The best conjecture is that it should be associated with the city of Aden on the Persian Gulf.

§"Greeks" is the translation of "Javan" (cf. v. 13), but the Javan in verse 19 must be different from that of verse 13. "Javan" could be referring to a tribe by that name in Yemen, or "Uzal" could refer to the city of Izalla in the Anatolian foothills of Asia Minor.

Tyre is one of the oldest cities in the world, dating back over 4,000 years, during which it has been inhabited almost continuously.

The Tyrians were known as workers in dye from the shells of the Murex shellfish. This purple dye was highly valued and held royal connotations in the ancient world. It also gave the Phoenicians their name from the Greeks - Phoinikes - which means "purple people".

The prosperity of Tyre attracted the attention of King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon who besieged the city for 13 years in the (586-573BC) without breaking its defenses.

# Tyre (~June-July, 586 BC)

- Now in the eleventh year, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Son of man, because Tyre has said concerning Jerusalem, ‘Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has opened to me. I shall be filled, now that she is laid waste,’ therefore, thus says Yahweh, ‘Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves...I will scrape her debris from her and make her a bare rock. She will be a place for the spreading of nets...’” (Ezek. 26:1-3a, 4b-5a).
- Tyre: “sōr” means “rock” or “hard pebble”; a busy city built on rock would become a barren rock

# Tyre



Aerial View of Tyre (1934 French Army photo from wikimedia.org)

The people of Tyre were fond of money and very cruel (Ezekiel 26-28, and Isaiah 23). Amos spoke against the people of Tyre. They had attacked the Israelites when they were weak. Then they sold the Israelites as slaves to their worst enemies, who were the people in Edom (Amos 1:9, 10).

“Alexander the Great, who lacked his own navy, had his army spend seven months progressively piling rocks from the shoreline out to create a land bridge, or causeway, to the island. In 332 BC, when Alexander reached the city, his army largely destroyed it. He sold nearly 30,000 of its inhabitants into slavery.”

<https://www.stephensbrother.com/post/jesus-encounter-with-woman-in-tyre-1>

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# Great Faith vs Unbelief

Jesus leads his disciples to the district of Tyre and Sidon. “And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-oppressed.’ But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, ‘Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us. But He answered and said, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’ But she came and began to bow down before Him saying, ‘Lord, help me!’ And He answered and said, ‘It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.’ But she said, ‘Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table. Then Jesus said to her, ‘O woman, great is your faith; it shall be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed at once”(Matt. 15:21-28).



Christ and the Canaanite Woman  
Germain Jean Drouais

The Pharisees and Sadducees came up and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them an attesting miracle from heaven...”An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah. And he left them and went away... (Matt. 16:1-4)

# Mighty Works in Tyre would have brought Repentance

- Repentance is the goal of the mighty works. Usually we think that human health or benefit is the goal of the mighty works. Where healing happens but repentance is lacking, then woes are going to come. Denounce cities where most of Jesus' mighty works had been done because not connected with faith. Where there is no repentance, there is no faith.
- Most mighty works were done in cities where people did not believe in Jesus. Jesus heals the man born blind in John 9, but he doesn't even know who Jesus is! See also Matthew 13:57-58. If Jesus resolves to connect doing mighty works with repentance, then believing is connected with doing mighty works. No repentance means no genuine faith.
- Jesus knows what mighty works it would have taken to bring Tyre and Sidon to repentance. But His first priority was to help the lost sheep of Israel. He is saying, "I'm not Jonah sent to preach to Nineveh. I'm greater than he was." In 1 Timothy 2:1-4 God desires all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. In 2 Timothy 2:24-26 God is in charge of giving the gift of repentance leading to knowledge of the truth. God decides when he will grant repentance and when he won't.
- The kindness, tolerance and patience of God leads people to repentance. But because of their stubbornness and unrepentant hearts, they store up for themselves wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God... (Rom. 2:4-5)

\*From John Piper <https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/miracles-are-meant-to-drive-repentance> (January 18, 2020)

# More Tolerable Judgment

- “Few things Jesus might have said could have stunned Jews more than to be unfavorably compared to Gentiles. ‘Nevertheless, I say to you,’ Jesus continued, ‘it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you....’ Matt. 11:22
- Jesus tells a parable about the faithful and sensible steward who fulfills responsibilities at the proper time. This steward “pictures the genuine believer, who manages well the spiritual riches God has put in his care for the benefit of others” who was given much and from whom much is required (Luke 12:47-48)
- “Jesus makes it plain that people who are the most blessed by God will receive the worst punishment if they reject Him. Judgment against the moral abominations of Sodom will be exceeded by judgment against the spiritual indifference of Capernaum. For the respectable and upright unbelievers of Capernaum, Hades will be hotter than for the crude and immoral unbelievers of Sodom. The self-righteous orthodox person is even more repulsive in God’s sight than the idolatrous and immoral pagan. “But My people did not listen to My voice, and Israel did not yield to Me. So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own devices” (Psalm 81:11-12).

\*From John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary on Matthew 11

# Jesus Compares Generations

- Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You. But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet...The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.” (Matt. 12:38-39, 41; see also Matt.16:4)

# The Pharisees and Scribes

- The Pharisees (means separated ones) were a legalistic, ritualistic group in Israel that strictly promoted the ceremonial details of the Law. Jesus rebuked them for their human traditions that nullified Scripture and for widespread hypocrisy.
- The Scribes were the teachers of the Law. They composed legal documents and copied the OT Scriptures. They studied the law and determined how to apply it to daily life. They identified doctrines and historical references in the Scriptures. Their interpretation of Scripture influenced others to put Jesus to death. They were strongly rebuked by Jesus. They persecuted Jesus' disciples and pushed for Stephen's death (Acts 4:5; 6:12).

# Nineveh



First mentioned about 1800BC and connected with Nimrod ('rebel') (Gen. 10:11) the hunter who also began two world powers—Babylon and Assyria—enemies of Israel. Assyria was known as the land of Nimrod (Micah 5:6). Psalm 83:8 includes Assyria in the list of nations conspiring to wipe out Israel so that the name of Israel is remembered no more. These nations make a covenant against God. Nimrod also founded Babylon and led the building of the tower as a monument to human pride and rebellion against God (Gen. 10:10; 11:1-4).

Nineveh's area (20 miles x 10 miles = 60 miles perimeter) with about 600,000+ inhabitants built on the east side of Tigris River about 250 miles north of Babylon. Nineveh centrally located on main highway between Europe and Asia. Walls 100 feet high with a moat 150 feet wide and 60 feet deep. Nineveh attacked by Scythians and Babylonians after a flood carried away part of the city wall, and the city was destroyed with fire about 612BC (Nahum 1:8, 2:6, 3:13,15).

Assyrian people developed several inventions we use today: door locks and keys, circle divided into 360 degrees, paved streets, postal system, iron, library system, plumbing and flush toilets, aqueducts, first use of local governmental rule connected to central authority.

# The Sign of Jonah

- “According to Jonah 1:1, 2, the word of the Lord came to Jonah saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it.” To understand what this meant for Jonah, it may help to remember that about this time Amos was crying out against the sins of Israel and saying that God was going to raise up a nation against her, namely, Assyria (722BC) (Amos 6:14). Nineveh was the chief city of Assyria. So just about the time Amos was prophesying the doom of the homeland at the hand of Assyria, God told Jonah to go preach to Assyria's chief city, Nineveh (~760BC).
- “If you ask how a man can survive in the belly of a fish three days, the answer is, he probably can't—any more than a person can stay three days in the grave and live again. That's why Jesus called it a "sign." Jesus knew this was no ordinary event. It was a miraculous sign of God's gracious and powerful intervention. There is no point in trying to explain it scientifically any more than the miraculous signs of Jesus' ministry. Jonah cried for help, and God saved him miraculously with a fish.
- “The book of Jonah shows that God’s mercy is not confined to Israel but extends to any people who will trust him and repent of their sin. What saves is not nationality but faith. God had mercy on Jonah in spite of his guilt (see also Psalms 107:10-15; 116:3-4). God had mercy on Jonah in spite of his sentence of judgment (see also Job 36:15). God saved him from impossible circumstances. God delivered him at the last possible moment by commanding a fish to save his life. Jonah sang thanksgiving for God’s mercy and vowed loyalty to Him. Jonah is to show mercy, even as God has been merciful to him... The ultimate lesson about prayer in the book of Jonah is that God answers us in mercy to make us merciful.”

\*From John Piper <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/cry-of-distress-and-voice-of-thanks> November 21, 1982

# The People of Nineveh

- “The people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them...The king of Nineveh...issued a proclamation...let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw his burning anger so that we will not perish.” (Jonah 3:5-9) They had repented at the preaching of Jonah.
- Old Testament Saints? “You have taken hold of my right hand. With Your counsel You will guide me, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:23b,24,25,26
- A Future Event: “The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.” (Matt. 12:41)
- Which future judgment does Jesus refer to?



# Revelation 20:11-15

- “And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away and no place was found for them. “And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne and books were opened, and another book was opened which is the book of life and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books according to their deeds, and the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them, and they were judged, every one of them, according to their deeds, and death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. “This is the second death, the lake of fire, and if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

# The Great White Throne Judgment

- “At the great white throne judgment, the dead of all the ages will be brought before the throne of God to be judged and sentenced to eternal punishment. All the places, then, that hold the unrighteous dead, both body and spirit, are going to yield them up. There’s no more sea to keep them. There’s no more earth to act as a grave. There’s no more death to hold them. There’s no more Hades to imprison them. The whole universe is uncreated, and everyone comes to the great white throne. And at that judgment the unbelieving Gentiles of Tyre and Sidon will fare better than the unbelieving Jews of Korazin and Bethsaida.”
- “This is man’s last day in God’s court. This day of judgment, this tribunal, this court, this trial will not be like the familiar trials held on earth for those on trial this day will experience a very different kind of court. There will be no debate about guilt or innocence. There will be a prosecutor but no defender. There will be an accuser but no advocate. There will be an indictment, but no case for the charged. There will be a swift presentation of the convicting evidence, but no rebuttal, a testimony with no cross-examination.

\*From John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary on Matthew 11

- “The Judge of all the earth will deal justly” (Gen. 18:25). “Does God pervert justice?...God will not reject a man of integrity, nor will He support evildoers” (Job 8:3,20). There will be an utterly unsympathetic judge and no jury. There will be a sentence but no appeal, a punishment with no parole in a jail with no escape. The petty courts of earth fall far short of this one. Somewhere unknown to us between earth and heaven, between the world as we know it now and the new heaven and the new earth, this judgment will take place, and it is the last courtroom that will ever convene throughout all eternity. After this, no one will ever be tried again, and God will never again act as a judge.
- “The Scripture before us describes the event and its significance. It is where all unredeemed human beings will eventually arrive. All who have died in their sins apart from the knowledge of God will be there from all of human history, and for all through the centuries, since man sinned and fell in the garden, Satan the liar above all liars has endeavored to deceive man about the reality of this coming event.

\*From John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary on Matthew 11

- “The event that is described here in verses 11 to 15 is the event that Jesus called in John 5:29 the resurrection of damnation or the resurrection of condemnation - you could translate it either way.
- “It is the throne of majesty unlimited. It is the throne of sovereignty unchallenged. It is the final judgment seat for the judge of all the earth to sit and make His judgment. It is the final place of reckoning. It is a dazzling, blinding, blazing, pure, holy, divine throne of the presence of God where He sits in utter and absolute judgment. Perhaps the psalmist had somewhat of a glimpse of this when in Psalm 9, verse 7, he wrote, “The Lord abides forever, He has established His throne for judgment, and He will judge the world in righteousness. He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.”

\*From John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary on Matthew 11

- “And certainly Daniel had this throne in the vision that God gave to him in chapter 7 of his prophecy, when we find in verses 9 and 10, Daniel writes, “I kept looking until the thrones were set up and the Ancient of Days took His seat. His vesture was like white snow and the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames. Its wheels were a burning fire, a river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him. Thousands upon thousands were attending Him,” - the angels, the holy angels” - myriads upon myriads were standing before Him. The court sat, and the books were opened.” It’s got to be the same throne.
- “The apostle Paul, writing in Romans 2: 5, may have been speaking of that very same day and that same throne when he said, “You are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to every man according to his deeds.” There’s the same throne described as a throne where men will be judged according to their deeds as this throne is describing.
- “So the psalmist had a glimpse of it, Daniel had a glimpse of it, even Paul understood it - a great, blazing throne of divine holy energy that uncreates the whole universe and damns the whole sinning humanity. The immensity of it is incomprehensible.

\*From John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary on Matthew 11

# The OT Saints, the Church, the Martyrs

- “The martyrs during the tribulation have already been raised... In Rev. 20: 4, thrones are visible and sitting on the thrones would be the resurrected church, the resurrected Old Testament saints, and then the martyrs who died during the tribulation. So the judgment of the martyrs is already over, and they’ve been translated into glorious form. The church has been raptured, the Old Testament saints have been transformed and resurrected at the coming of Christ to establish His Kingdom, as Daniel pointed out (Dan. 12:1-3)
- “The bride already has her garments and has met her bridegroom in Rev. 19:7-8. The guests are already at the wedding who would be the Old Testament saints. The marriage supper of the Lamb has already embraced all the redeemed of all the ages and been going on in its fullness through the Kingdom.
- In Romans 8:1, Paul says, “There is therefore now no judgment to those who are in Christ.” We’re not going to stand before the great white throne judgment. We’ve already been to the bema seat, received our rewards, gone into our glorified form. The godly have already been transformed.

\*From John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary on Matthew 11

# The Great White Throne Judgment

