

CHRISTIAN, BEAUTY AND WISDOM

Ezekiel 28

Backi Petrovac, 13th November 2016

Ezekiel 28:12-19

12 בְּרֹאשׁוֹ שָׂא קִינָה עַל־מֶלֶךְ צוּר וְאָמַרְתָּ לוֹ כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה אֲתָה חוֹתָם תְּכִנִּית מְלֵא חֲכָמָה וְכָלִיל יָפִי
 13 בְּעֵדֶן גֶּן־אֱלֹהִים הָיִיתָ כָּל־אֲבָן יְקָרָה מִסַּכְתָּךְ אָדָם פַּטְרָה וְיָהֳלֵם תְּרַשִּׁישׁ שָׁהֵם וְיִשְׁפָּה סַפִּיר נֶפֶךְ וּבְרָקַת וְזָהָב
 מְלֵאכֶת תְּפִיד וְנִקְבִיד בְּךָ בַּיּוֹם הַבְּרָאָךְ כּוֹנֵנוּ
 14 אֲתִּכְרוּב מִמְּשַׁח הַסּוּכָךְ וְנִתְתִּיד בְּהַר קָדֵשׁ אֱלֹהִים הָיִיתָ בְּחוּף אַבְנֵי־אֵשׁ הַתְּהַלְכֶתָ
 15 תָּמִים אֲתָה בְּדַרְכֶיךָ מִיּוֹם הַבְּרָאָךְ עַד־נִמְצָא עוֹלָתָה בְּךָ
 16 בָּרַב רִבְלֶתְךָ מָלוּ תוֹכְךָ חֲמָס וְתַחֲשָׂא וְאֶחְלָלְךָ מֵהַר אֱלֹהִים וְאֶבְדְּךָ כְּרוּב הַסַּכָּךְ מִחוּף אַבְנֵי־אֵשׁ
 17 גָּבַה לְבָךְ בְּיַפְיֶךָ שַׁחַת חֲכָמְתְּךָ עַל־יַפְעֶתְךָ עַל־אֲרֶץ הַשְּׁלֵכְתִיךָ לִפְנֵי מַלְכִים נִתְתִּיד לְרֵאוֹה בְּךָ
 18 מָרַב עוֹנִיד בְּעוֹל רִבְלֶתְךָ חֲלַלְתָּ מִקְדָּשֶׁיךָ וְאוֹצְאֵ־אֵשׁ מִתוֹכְךָ הִיא אֶכְלֶתְךָ וְאֶתְנֶךָ לְאַפְרַי עַל־הָאָרֶץ לְעֵינֵי כָּל־רְאוֹיךָ
 19 כָּל־יֹדְעֶיךָ בְּעַמִּים שָׁמְמוּ עָלֶיךָ בַּלְהוֹת הָיִיתָ וְאִינְךָ עַד־עוֹלָם פ

"Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius [red], topaz [wine red, yellow], and diamond [white], beryl, [golden, morganite, aquamarine] onyx (all colours), and jasper (brown, green), sapphire (blue), emerald (aquamarine), and carbuncle (red); and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. ¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. ¹⁸ By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹ All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever."

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION

- 0.1. WHO IS THE TEXT TALKING ABOUT?
- 0.2. PROGRESS, TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN, QUALITY OF LIFE

1. (SATAN'S) DOWNFALL

- 1.1. ATTRACTIVE (v.12)
- 1.2. TOO MANY, TOO MUCH (v.16)
- 1.3. USING VIOLENCE (v.16)

2. THE COUNTER-ACTION

- 2.1. GIVING THANKS AND PRAISE
- 2.2. FOCUSING
- 2.3. WAITING ON GOD

3. TO REMEMBER**0. INTRODUCTION****0.1. WHO IS THE TEXT TALKING ABOUT?**

- the human king of Tyre (the “prince” and “king”)
the spiritual power ruling through the prince of Tyre (Eze 28:2 זר ונייד)

0.2. PROGRESS, TECHNOLOGY, DESIGN, QUALITY OF LIFE

- "...the ubiquity of vision as the master sense of the modern era..."¹
- "...the world of our making, how we have used our wealth, our literacy, our technology, and our progress, to create the thicket of unreality which stands between us and the facts of life."²
- progress: "... The passage in Lucretius at the end of his fifth book on the Nature of Things is so true and brilliant and anticipates so many points in later thought..."³

1. (SATAN'S) DOWNFALL

1.1. ATTRACTIVE (V.12)

- The attraction of *good* things!
- **perfect model** (הוֹתָם תְּכִנִּיחַ): (1) wisdom (מִלֵּא הַכְּמָה) & (2) beauty (וּכְלִיל יָפִי)
- superlatives "paradigm" → the best; the highest; looking *up* to...

It is not the bad that is the enemy of God, but the good that is *not good enough*.⁴

- wisdom → learning; admiring; following (mind);
- beauty (precious stones ~ glitter of Las Vegas) → wonder; stare; artistic experience; transcendence...
- Ecc 1:8 the eye is not satisfied with seeing (לֹא-הִשְׁבַּע עֵינַי לְרְאוֹת) → "more", "more"...
- the problem of the visual culture...

1.2. TOO MANY, TOO MUCH (V.16)

- The number of *legitimate* affairs.
- interests (הֲרַבִּית רַבְלִיךְ מִכּוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם Nah 3:16 → Nah 3:16) (הֲרַבִּית רַבְלִיךְ מִכּוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם)
- cares; → Mt 13 (the parable of the sower)
- busy-ness; → Martha Lk 10

1.3. USING VIOLENCE (V.16)

- → illegitimate means (breaking boundaries) → usurpation
- In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst (בְּרַב רַבְלִיךְ מָלְוּ תוֹכְךָ הַמָּס)
- v. 17 Your heart was proud (גָּבַה לִבְךָ) (beauty)
- v. 17 You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor (שַׁחַתְתָּ חִכְמָתְךָ עַל-יִפְעָתְךָ) → shrewdness; intrigues; manipulation; impatience...
- Saul bringing sacrifice before the time... (1Sa 13:9)
- **Acts 12:22-23** And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!"²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

¹ JAY, M. *Scopic Regimes of Modernity*. In: FOSTER, H. *Vision and Visuality*, Seattle : Bay Press, 1988, p. 3

² BOORSTIN, D. J. *The Image*, New York : Vintage Books, 1992, p. 3/

³ MARVIN, F. S. *The Idea of Progress In: Progress and History*, Oxford : Humphrey Milford, 1916, p. 8.

⁴ CHAMBERS, O. *The Place of Help*.

2. THE COUNTER-ACTION

2.1. GIVING THANKS AND PRAISE

- **Rom 1:21** ...they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, (οὐχ ὡς θεὸν ἐδόξασαν ἢ ὑπαρίστησαν.)
- No beauty/wisdom is self-created...
- Find beauty in holiness (1Chr 16:29; Ps 29:2; 96:9)
 - **Ps 29:2** worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness (הַשְׁתַּחֲוֶי לַיהוָה בְּהַרְרַת־קִנְיָשׁ)
 - **Ps 96:9** Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness (הַשְׁתַּחֲוֶי לַיהוָה בְּהַרְרַת־קִנְיָשׁ); tremble before him, all the earth!

2.2. FOCUSING

- Nothing good must crowd out the thought and time for God (Gn 1 → shabbat)
- **Lk 10:42** ...one thing is necessary.
- **Ps 27:4** One thing have I asked (שְׁאַלְתִּי) of the LORD, that will I seek after (אֶבְקֶשׁ): that I may dwell (שִׁבְתִּי) in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD (בְּיַעַם־יְהוָה) and to inquire (וּלְבַקֵּר) in his temple.

2.3. WAITING ON GOD

- **Ps 62:5** For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.
 - אֵךְ לֵאלֹהִים הוֹמִי נַפְשִׁי כִּי־מִמֶּנּוּ תִקְוֶה
- **Ps 73:25** Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you

3. TO REMEMBER

- The temptation does not have to come from evil – it can be an abuse of the good.
- Whatever is crowding out the thought, the relationship or the admiration of God, leads to violence/idolatry.
- Protection from downfall is in counter-acting divinizing tendencies by focusing on the person of God through Jesus in the Holy Spirit.