

Doctrine of the Greek Sea People

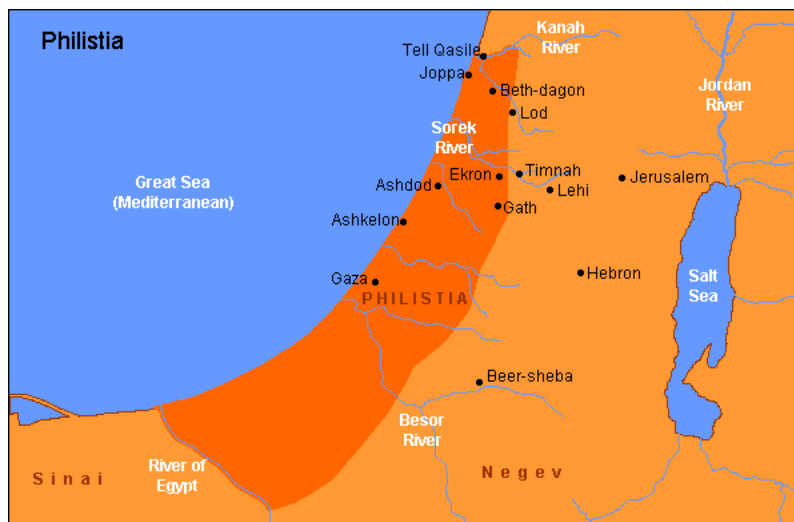
1. The Bible speaks of a people called the Philistine, a word meaning “the head or dominant tribe.”

2. They are not Canaanites. By comparing archeology and extant writings we can declare with some assurance their origin.

2.1 Around 1,000 or 800 B.C. several Judges, King Saul and King David encountered a loose federation known as the Philistine.

2.2 They seemed to have settled in 5 city-states along the Mediterranean Sea Plain just southwest of Jerusalem.

2.3 The cities were Gath, Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod and Ekron. There were other smaller cities in this federation.



2.3.1 Let's look at several Scriptures describing this federation and their wars with Israel.

JOS 11:22 No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.

JOS 13:3 from the Shihor River on the east of Egypt to the territory of Ekron on the north, all of it counted as Canaanite (the territory of the five Philistine rulers in Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron -- that of the Avvites);

JDG 1:18 The men of Judah also took Gaza, Ashkelon and Ekron -- each city with its territory.

JDG 14:19 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Samson ... He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of their belongings and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. Burning with anger, he went up to his father's house.

1SA 5:1 After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.

1SA 5:2 Then they carried the ark into Dagon's temple and set it beside Dagon.

1SA 5:3 When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place.

1SA 5:4 But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained.

1SA 5:5 That is why to this day neither the priests of Dagon nor any others who enter Dagon's temple at Ashdod step on the threshold.

1SA 5:6 The LORD'S hand was heavy upon the people of Ashdod and its vicinity; he brought devastation upon them and afflicted them with tumors.

1SA 7:9 Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it up as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel's behalf, and the LORD answered him.

1SA 7:10 While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites.

3. The Philistines were Greek Sea Peoples.

4. The Greek Sea People:

4.1 We know a great deal about the Greeks of the 5th century B.C., but they are but a small part of the entire Greek race.

4.1.1 The 5th century Greeks were the Ionian Greeks who came from several islands west of Greece and east of Italy. The islands from which they came were located in the Ionian Sea. The Ionian Greeks may have come from Italy.



4.1.2 The Ionians settled Attica. Most people know a lot about Athens and their contributions, certainly to include the writings of Socrates, Plato, etc.

4.1.3 Very few Greeks are related to the Attic Greeks. Attica is a small portion of Greek history.

4.2 One of the great Japhetic peoples are the Greeks.



4.3 Greeks should be classified into four basic groups:

4.3.1 Achaeans – those settling the southern part of Greece in what we call Achaia.

4.3.2 Ionians – they settled Athens on the coast of south eastern Greece.

4.3.3 Aeolian – came from Sicily and settled in what we know as Arcadia. Arcadia was a mountainous area in the central part of the Peloponesos. We know little of these people.

4.3.4 Dorians – They were a most war-like people who settled Macedonia, these people we think came from Asia Minor. There were large settlements in Phrygia and Thrace which have significant Dorian evidences. They also established the city state of Sparta.



5. During the Bronze Age (2,100 – 1,500 B.C.) the Achaeans controlled all of Greece.

5.1 They also dominated Crete and became known as the Minoans. They were great traders and became an “Empire,” developing trade with Spain, Italy, Southern France, those settlements along the coast of the Black Sea and North Africa.

5.2 They gave us Greek mythology.

5.3 The Achaeans are said by most to be the Hyksos Kings of Egypt.

5.3.1 This would have meant they had made a successful military Campaign into Egypt in approximately 1,800 B.C. and thus ruled at the time of Joseph's sojourn.

5.4 In about 1,200 B.C. the Dorians attacked and eventually conquered Achaia, Crete and the numerous islands in the Aegean Sea where the Achaeans had earlier settled.

5.5 Those Achaeans forced to leave Crete attacked Egypt where they encountered Ramses III.

5.6 Ramses defeated the Achaeans who again retreated north eastward into what is known as Philistia. Many believe these people who were forced to retreat northward into what we know today as Gaza are the original Palestinians who later migrated in great numbers to Jordan.

6. The Greek Sea People would become a factor in Bible history for many years to come. Paul on his Second Missionary Journey evangelized first Macedonia and then Achaia.

