

PHUT

Founder of Phoenicia – Home of the Seafaring People

Phut was Ham's third son who struck out on his own and found the nation of Libya on the Mediterranean coast of the African continent where Zidonian-Canaanites migrated after leaving their servitude in Lebanon. (1 Kings 9:26)

At that time the land of Phut was called Phoenicia and it was occupied by these black people before Abraham's Arabian descendants invaded North Africa. These Canaanites were slaves in Lebanon where they were known as Zidonians, named after Canaan's son Zidon. (Fig. 8) These Canaanites in particular performed remarkable craftsmanship with the famed cedar trees of Lebanon of which the Scriptures speak.

These black men were so skillful in wood that their reputation attracted the attention of the wisest man in the world. Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, Behold I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God. Now command that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants; and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: **for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like the Sidonians** [Zidonians]."(1 Kings 5:1-15)

Eighty thousand black men were commissioned to build the great temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. (1 King 9:27) These black laborers were skilled with such precision that the Scriptures boast they erected Solomon's Temple without making noise.

"And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.(1 King 6:7)

The temple these black craftsmen built for King Solomon was so magnificent that when it was destroyed and later rebuilt by King Zerubbabel's Jews, the elders of Israel cried because the new temple could not approach the grandeur they witnessed in Solomon's black-built temple. (Ezra 3:12, Haggai 2:3). King Hiram sent these Zidonian-Canaanite craftsmen from Lebanon who were not

only skilled at building magnificent structures on land, but were excellent ship builders and navigators of the sea.

“Hiram sent in the navy his **servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea**, with the servants of Solomon.” (1 Kings 9:27)

Solomon took advantage of the knowledge of this black labor force.

“And king Solomon made a navy of ships... on the shore of the Red Sea.” (1 King 9:26)

The news that Solomon was building his royal “navy” by the hands of these skillful black men caught the attention of Sheba’s Queen. (1 Kings 9:26-10:1) According to the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, the Queen of Sheba was Queen of the Ethiopians, and her inquisitive nature lured her to go see for herself the fame of Solomon’s beautiful temple, his navy, and to hear his wisdom. (1 Kings 10:1)

The Zidionian-Canaanites became legendary mariners prior to the Nordic Vikings of Europe and were well known for their seafaring abilities. The land these Canaanites later occupied was the land of *Phut*, it was next to the Moors of Morocco in North Africa. These Canaanites merchants traversed the Mediterranean as traders with the Greek isles, Rome, Spain and the whole of Europe. Much later in the land of Phut off its Phoenician shores, a child was born and given a Canaanite name that honored Baal, a Canaanite god. His name was Hannibal of Carthage. Hannibal’s name means “Joy of Baal.”

Hannibal was a sworn enemy of Rome, and invaded Italy with his black African swordsmen after trekking over the Alps with a number of African elephants. These Africans in the land of Phut were skilled with the bow and shield. (Jer. 46:9) It is rumored that because of Hannibal’s invasion of Italy, there are few Italians with blue eyes and blonde hair today.

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