

~ELISHAH (86)
(E-li'shah)

- Son of Javan and a family head from whom the population of the isles of the nations was spread about.
- And the sons of Javan were **Elishah** and Tarshish, Kittim and Dodanim. (**Genesis 10:4**)
- From these the population of the isles of the nations was spread about in their lands, each according to its tongue, according to their families, by their nations. (**Genesis 10:5**)
- And the sons of Javan were **Elishah** and Tarshish, Kittim and Rodanim. (**1 Chronicles 1:7**)
- The only other Biblical mention of **Elishah** is in the dirge pronounced against Tyre, where the name appears as that of a land or region trading with Tyre.
- Tyre is represented as a figurative ship, outfitted by many nations, with the islands of Elishah providing the blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple for the ship's deck covering, perhaps a type of awning to protect from sun and rain.
- And the word of Yehowah continued to occur to me, saying; (**Ezekiel 27:1**)
- And as for you, O son of man, raise up concerning Tyre a dirge. (**Ezekiel 27:2**)
- And you must say to Tyre; O you who are dwelling at the entrances of the sea, the tradeswoman of the peoples for many islands, this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; O Tyre, you yourself have said; I am perfect in prettiness. (**Ezekiel 27:3**)
- In the heart of the seas are your territories. Your own builders have perfected your prettiness. (**Ezekiel 27:4**)
- Out of juniper timbers from Senir they built for you all the planks. A cedar from Lebanon they took to make a mast upon

you. ([Ezekiel 27:5](#))

- Out of massive trees from Bashan they made your oars. Your prow they made with ivory in cypress wood, from the islands of Kittim. ([Ezekiel 27:6](#))
- Linen in various colors from Egypt your cloth expanse happened to be, in order for it to serve as your sail. Blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple from the islands of **Elishah** are what your deck covering proved to be. ([Ezekiel 27:7](#))
- First-century Jewish historian Josephus applied the name of Halisas or **Elishah** to the Halisaens or Aeolians, one of the parent branches of the Greek peoples. [[Jewish Antiquities, I, 127, vi, 1](#)]
- By Ezekiel's time the name Aeolis had come to designate only a portion of the West coast of Asia Minor. A similarity to the name of **Elishah** is noted in the district of Elis on the Northwest coast of the Peloponnesus, the southern peninsula of Greece.
- The Greeks are also known to have established colonies in southern Italy and on the island of Sicily, and the [Aramaic Targum](#) in commenting on;
- Linen in various colors from Egypt your cloth expanse happened to be, in order for it to serve as your sail. Blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple from the islands of **Elishah** are what your deck covering proved to be. ([Ezekiel 27:7](#))
- Identifies **Elishah** as the province of Italy. Any of these locations would fit the account in Ezekiel in the sense of being regions productive of the purple dye so highly prized, but nothing conclusive can be stated as to their definite connection with **Elishah**, except that the weight of evidence points in the direction of Greece rather than North Africa or Cyprus.
- It is also reasonable that the descendants of **Elishah** may not have remained fixed but that over the centuries the region of their settling may have altered or expanded and that the name of Elishah may thus have applied to different areas at different times.