

~JAVAN (140)
(Ja'van)

- Fourth-listed son of Japheth and the father of Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim, or Rodanim. As post-Flood descendants of Noah, they are included among those populating, the isles of the nations, which phrase can also refer to the coastlands and not simply to islands surrounded by water.
- The sons of Japheth were Gomer and Magog and Madai and **Javan** and Tubal and Meshech and Tiras. (**Genesis 10:2**)
- 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**)
- The sons of Japheth were Gomer and Magog and Madai and **Javan** and Tubal and Meshech and Tiras. (**1 Chronicles 1:5**)
- And the sons of **Javan** were Elishah and Tarshish, Kittim and Rodanim. (**1 Chronicles 1:7**)
- Historical evidence indicates that the descendants of **Javan** and his four sons settled in the islands and coastlands of the Mediterranean Sea from Cyprus or Kittim to the western Mediterranean.

See Also DODANIM

See Also ELISHAH

See Also KITTIM

See Also TARSHISH 1

- **Javan** Hebrew, *Ya-wan'* is identified as the progenitor of the ancient **Ionians**, called by some **the parent tribe of the Greeks**.
[Commentary on the Old Testament, by C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, 1973, Vol. I, The First Book of Moses, p. 163]

- The name *I-a'o-nes* is used by the poet Homer, of perhaps the **Eighth Century B.C.E**, as referring to the early Greeks, and beginning

with Sargon II, **Eighth Century B.C.E**, the name *Jawanu* begins to appear in Assyrian inscriptions.

- In course of time the name Ionia came to be restricted to Attica, the region around Athens, the western coast of Asia Minor, corresponding to the coasts of the later provinces of Lydia and Caria, and the neighboring islands of the Aegean Sea.
- The sea that lies between southern Greece and southern Italy still retains the name Ionian, and this name is acknowledged to be of very ancient origin, supporting the view that this form of the name of **Javan** once applied to the mainland of Greece as well as to the later smaller area designated, **Ionia**.
- Following the Genesis account, the descendants of **Javan** first begin to be mentioned about the latter part of the **Ninth Century B.C.E**. by the prophet Joel.
- The prophet there condemns the Tyrians, Sidonians, and Philistines for selling the sons of Judah and Jerusalem in their slave trade with the sons of the Greeks, literally, the Ionians.
- And, also, what do you have to do with me, O Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia? Is it the treatment that you are giving me as a reward? And if you are giving such treatment to me, swiftly, speedily I shall pay back your treatment upon your heads. (**Joel 3:4**)
- Because you men have taken my own silver and my own gold, and you have brought my own desirable good things into your temples. (**Joel 3:5**)
- And the sons of Judah and the sons of Jerusalem you have sold to the sons of the Greeks, for the purpose of removing them far from their own territory. (**Joel 3:6**)
- Isaiah, in the **Eighth Century B.C.E**, foretells that some of the Jews surviving God's expression of wrath would travel to many lands, including **Javan**, there proclaiming Yehowah's glory.
- And I will set among them a sign, and I will send some of those who are escaped to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, those drawing the bow, Tubal and **Javan**, the faraway islands, who have not heard a report about me or seen my glory, and they will

for certain tell about my glory among the nations. (**Isaiah 66:19**)

- **Slaves and copper articles were listed in the late seventh or early Sixth Century B.C.E, as items being supplied by Javan, Tubal and Meshech, these latter places evidently being located in eastern Asia Minor or to the North thereof to the wealthy commercial center of Tyre.**
- **Javan, Tubal and Meshech themselves were your traders. For the souls of mankind and articles of copper your articles of exchange were given. (Ezekiel 27:13)**
- **Verse 19 of the same prophecy again mentions Javan, but the fact that the other places mentioned in the context are in Syria, Palestine, and Arabia has led some to view the appearance of the name there to be the result of a scribal error.**
- **Rather than reading, and Javan from Uzal, the Greek Septuagint renders Javan as wine, thus reading, and with wine.**
- **From Asel Uzal [LXX, Thomson] The Revised Standard Version reads, and wine from Uzal. Others, however, suggest that Javan may here refer to a Greek colony located in Arabia or that it may perhaps be the name of an Arabian tribe or town.**
- **In Daniel's prophecy Javan is usually rendered by translators as Greece, since the historical fulfillment of Daniel's writings makes this meaning evident.**
- **And the hairy he-goat stands for the king of Greece, and as for the great horn that was between its eyes, it stands for the first king. (Daniel 8:21)**
- **So he went on to say; Do you really know why I have come to you? And now I shall go back to fight with the prince of Persia. When I am going forth, look! Also the prince of Greece is coming. (Daniel 10:20)**
- **And now what is truth I shall tell to you; Look! There will yet be three kings standing up for Persia, and the fourth one will amass greater riches than all others. And as soon as he has become strong in his riches, he will rouse up everything against the kingdom of Greece. (Daniel 11:2)**

- So, likewise, Zechariah's prophecy, **520-518 B.C.E**, foretelling the successful warfare of the sons of Zion against **Javan**, **Greece**.
- For I will tread as my bow Judah. The bow I will fill with Ephraim, and I will awaken your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O **Greece**, and I will make you as the sword of a mighty man.
(**Zechariah 9:13**)