

~LIBYA (186)

(Lib'y-a)[Libyans, Lib'y-ans, Hebrew, *Lu-vim*]

- Ancient **Libya** occupied an area of northern Africa West of Egypt. Its inhabitants are generally thought to have been designated by the Hebrew term *Lu-vim*.
- With twelve hundred chariots and with sixty thousand horsemen, and there was no number to the people that came with him out of Egypt, **Libyans**, Sukkiim and Ethiopians. (**2 Chronicles 12:3**)
- **Libyans**, LXX, NW, RS, if *Lu-vim* is a variant of *Leha-vim*, **Lehabim**, this may indicate that at least some of the **Libyans** descended from Ham through **Mizraim**.
- And Mizraim became father to Ludim and Anamim and **Lehabim** and Naphtuhim (**Genesis 10:13**)
- The traditional Jewish view found in the writings of **Josephus** [**Jewish Antiquities**, I, 130-132, vi, 2] makes the **Libyans** descendants of Ham through Put.
- And the sons of Ham were Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan. (**Genesis 10:6**)
- Also, the **Greek Septuagint** and the **Latin Vulgate** read, **Libyans** in
- Go up, O you horses, and drive madly, O you chariots! And let the mighty men go forth, Cush and Put, who are handling the shield, and the Ludim, who are handling and treading the bow. (**Jeremiah 46:9**)
- Persians and Ludim and men of Put, they happened to be in your military force, your men of war. Shield and helmet they hung up in you. They were the ones that caused your splendor. (**Ezekiel 27:10**)
- Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with buckler and helmet. (**Ezekiel 38:5**)
- Where the Hebrew text says, Put. It is possible, of course, that descendants of both Put and Mizraim settled in the geographic region

of northern Africa that came to be called **Libya**. This would mean that the designation **Libyans** is more comprehensive than the Hebrew term *Lu-vim'*.

- Egypt's King Shishak, regarded as the founder of the **Libyan** dynasty, captured numerous cities when he invaded Judah in the fifth year of King Rehoboam **993 B.C.E.**
- His powerful force of chariots and horsemen included Libyans. Although Jerusalem itself was spared, Shishak stripped the city of its treasures.
- And it came about in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. (**1 Kings 14:25**)
- And he got to take the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the house of the king, and everything he took. And he went on to take all the gold shields that Solomon had made. (**1 Kings 14:26**)
- And it came about in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, for they had behaved unfaithfully toward Yehowah. (**2 Chronicles 12:2**)
- With twelve hundred chariots and with sixty thousand horsemen, and there was no number to the people that came with him out of Egypt, **Libyans**, Sukkiim and Ethiopians. (**2 Chronicles 12:3**)
- And he got to capture the fortified cities that belonged to Judah and finally came as far as Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 12:4**)
- Now as for Shemaiah the prophet, he came to Rehoboam and the princes of Judah who had gathered themselves at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and he proceeded to say to them; This is what Yehowah has said; You, for your part, have left me, and I, too, for my part, have left you to the hand of Shishak. (**2 Chronicles 12:5**)
- At that the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said; Yehowah is righteous. (**2 Chronicles 12:6**)
- And when Yehowah saw that they had humbled themselves, the word of Yehowah came to Shemaiah, saying; They have humbled

- themselves. I shall not bring them to ruin, and in a little while I shall certainly give them an escape, and my rage will not pour forth upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. (2 Chronicles 12:7)
- But they will become servants of his, that they may know the difference between my service and the service of the kingdoms of the lands. (2 Chronicles 12:8)
 - So Shishak the king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem and took the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the king's house. Everything he took, and so he took the gold shields that Solomon had made. (2 Chronicles 12:9)
 - About 26 years later 967 B.C.E, the Libyans were represented among the troops of Zerah the Ethiopian, which penetrated Judah but suffered humiliating defeat.
 - Later Zerah the Ethiopian went out against them with a military force of a million men and three hundred chariots, and came as far as Mareshah. (2 Chronicles 14:9)
 - Then Asa went out against him and they drew up in battle formation in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. (2 Chronicles 14:10)
 - And Asa began to call to Yehowah his God and say; O Yehowah, as to helping, it does not matter with you whether there are many or those with no power. Help us, O Yehowah our God, for upon you we do lean, and in your name we have come against this crowd. O Yehowah, you are our God. Do not let mortal man retain strength against you. (2 Chronicles 14:11)
 - At that Yehowah defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians took to flight. (2 Chronicles 14:12)
 - And Asa and the people that were with him kept pursuing them as far as Gerar, and those of the Ethiopians continued falling down till there was no one alive of them, for they were broken to pieces before Yehowah and before his camp. Afterward they carried off a very great deal of spoil. (2 Chronicles 14:13)
 - Did not the Ethiopians and the Libyans themselves happen to be a very great military force in multitude, in chariots and in horsemen, and because of your leaning upon Yehowah did he not

give them into your hand? (2 Chronicles 16:8)

- In the **Seventh Century B.C.E**, the assistance of the **Libyans** and others was seemingly of no avail in saving the Egyptian city of No-amon from calamity at the hands of the Assyrians.
- And it must occur that everyone seeing you will flee away from you and will certainly say; Nineveh has been despoiled! Who will sympathize with her? From where shall I seek comforters for you? (**Nahum 3:7**)
- Are you better than No-amon, that was sitting by the Nile canals? Waters were all around her, whose wealth was the sea, whose wall was from the sea. (**Nahum 3:8**)
- Ethiopia was her full might, also Egypt, and that without limit. Put and the **Libyans** themselves proved to be of assistance to you. (**Nahum 3:9**)
- She, too, was meant for exile, she went into captivity. Her own children also came to be dashed to pieces at the head of all the streets, and over her glorified men they cast lots, and her great ones have all been bound with fetters. (**Nahum 3:10**)
- It was foretold that the **Libyans** and Ethiopians would be at the steps of the king of the north, implying that these former supporters of Egypt would come under his control.
- And he will actually rule over the hidden treasures of the gold and the silver and over all the desirable things of Egypt. And the **Libyans** and the Ethiopians will be at his steps. (**Daniel 11:43**)
- In the year **33 C.E**, among the Jews and proselytes at Jerusalem for the Festival of Pentecost were persons from the parts of **Libya**, which is toward Cyrene, that is, the western part of **Libya**.
- Likely some of these were baptized in response to Peter's discourse and later carried the message of Christianity back to the land of their residence.
- And Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of **Libya**, which is toward Cyrene, and sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes. (**Acts of Apostles 2:10**)

