

~PEACOCK (73)

[Hebrew, *tuk-ki-yim'* plural]

- The brilliantly colored male of the **peafowl**. It is a large bird of the **pheasant** family, about the size of a turkey. The **peacock**, *Pavo muticus* and *Pavo cristatus* is particularly noted for its magnificent **train of iridescent green and gold feathers marked with large eyespots of blue**.
- The train can be spread at will to form an impressive semicircular screen, or fan, touching the ground on either side. The **peacock** shakes the fanned train, producing a rustling sound and causing the feathers to shimmer with their iridescent hues.
- The neck and breast are also of a beautiful metallic greenish-blue color. Because of its majestic beauty, the bird was greatly prized from ancient times.
- In King Solomon's time his fleet of ships of Tarshish made triannual voyages, bringing cargoes of gold and silver, ivory, and apes and **peacocks**.
- For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish on the sea along with Hiram's fleet of ships. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish would come carrying gold and silver, ivory, and apes and **peacocks**. (1 Kings 10:22)
- While certain of Solomon's ships made trips to Ophir, evidently in the Red Sea area.
- And there was a fleet of ships that King Solomon made in Ezion-geber, which is by Eloth, upon the shore of the Red Sea in the land of Edom. (1 Kings 9:26)
- And Hiram kept sending in the fleet of ships his own servants, seamen, having a knowledge of the sea, along with the servants of Solomon. (1 Kings 9:27)
- And they proceeded to go to Ophir and take from there four hundred and twenty talents of gold and bring it in to King Solomon. (1 Kings 9:28)

- Solomon, in turn, went on to tell her all her matters, and no matter was hidden from Solomon that he did not tell her. (2 Chronicles 9:2)
- Mentions ships, going to Tarshish, likely in Spain, in connection with the carrying of the above commodities, including **peacocks**. It is not certain, therefore, from what place or area the **peacocks** were imported.
- These beautiful birds are held to be native of Southeast Asia and are abundant in India and Sri Lanka. Some believe that the Hebrew name *tuk-ki-yim'* is to be connected with the Old Tamil name for the **peacock**, *tokei*.
- Solomon's fleet could have obtained the **peacocks** when the ships sailed along their usual route and stopped at some trading center that had contacts with India.
- Of interest, also, is the statement in *The Animal Kingdom*, by Frederick Drimmer; For centuries scientists assumed that there were no peacocks in Africa their known dwelling places were the East Indies and southeastern Asia.
- The belief of the naturalists was shattered in 1936 C.E, when the Congo **peacock**, *Afropavo congensis*, was discovered in the Belgian Congo.[1954, Vol. II, p. 988]
- Some prefer to link the Hebrew word *tuk-ki-yim'* to the Egyptian *ky*, a kind of ape.