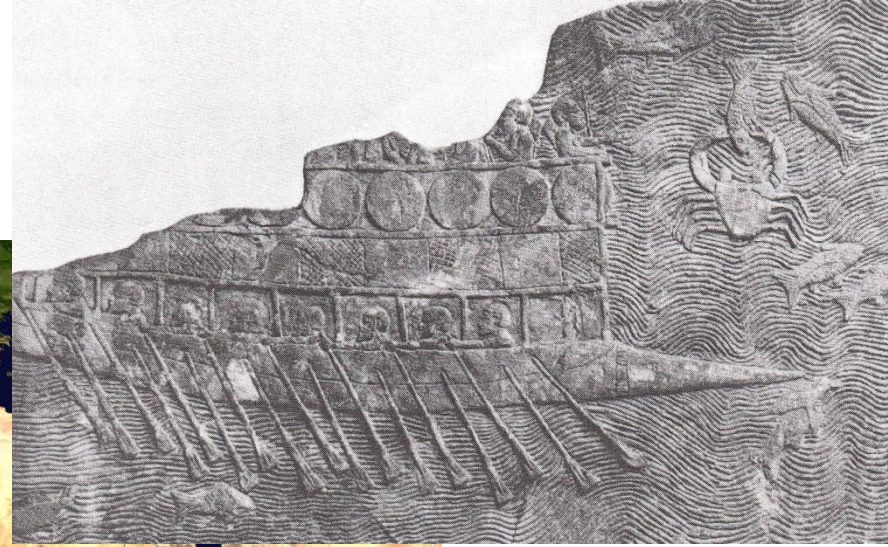
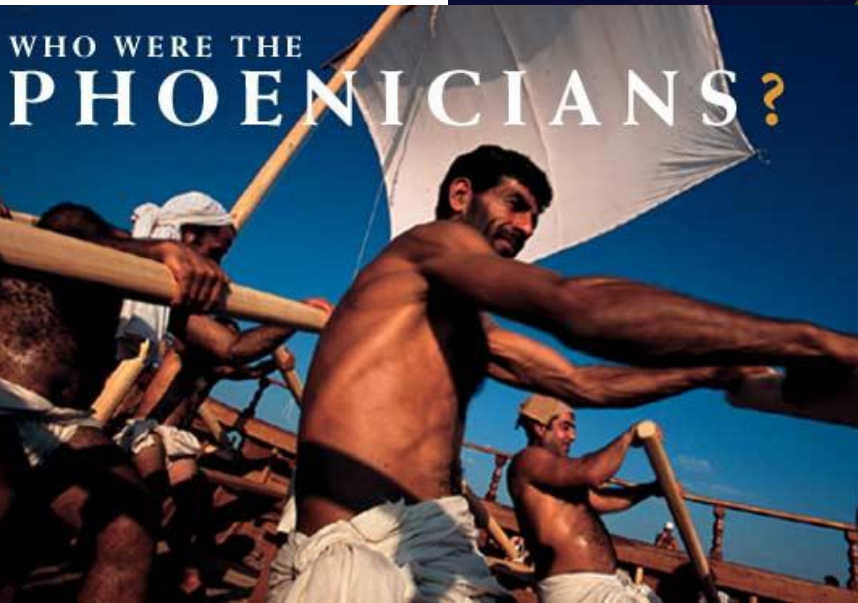


# Phoenician seafaring and seafarers

Tarshish



Ophir



Today: from the perspectives of biblical sources  
(*Kings, Chronicles, Ezekiel*)



ancient chroniclers (Herodotus)



and the Assyrian Empire  
(iconography from palace reliefs)

# Wednesday from the perspective of shipwrecks and ship sheds

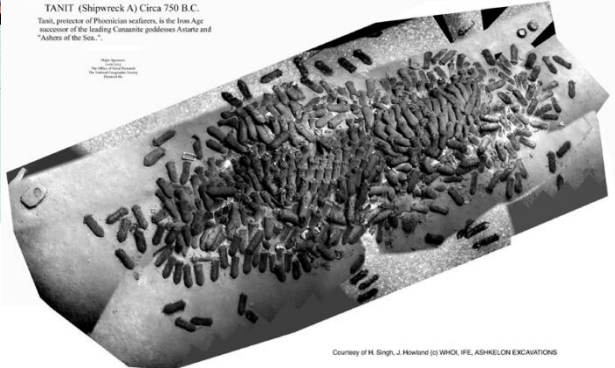


- Area of Phoenician settlement
  - Phoenician colony
  - Phoenician trade route
- Traded goods:
- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| ◇ glass  | ◻ copper    |
| ● ivory  | ● lead      |
| ● oil    | △ salt      |
| ● silver | ▲ cedarwood |
| ● gold   | ● grain     |



X Bajo de la Campana

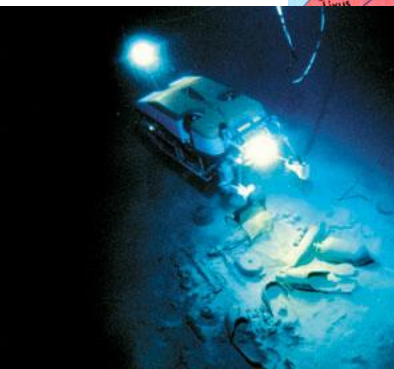
X Ashkelon



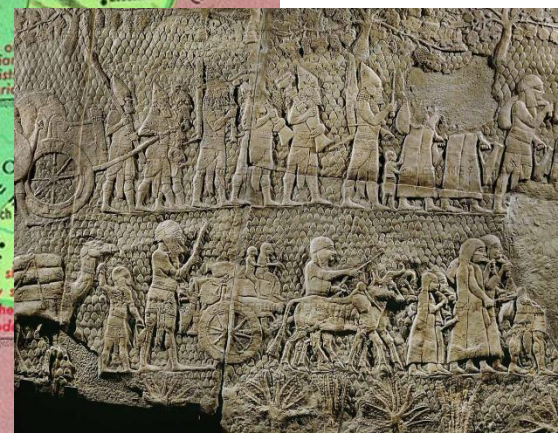
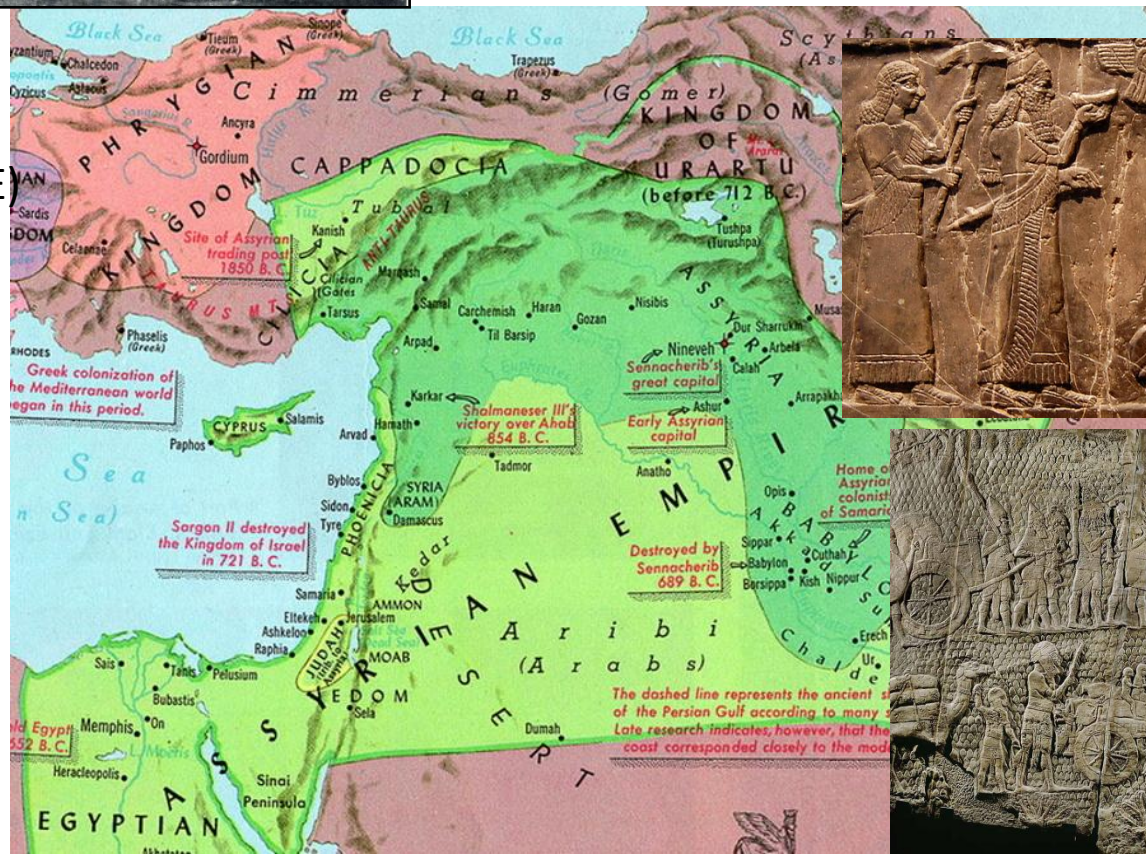
TANIT (Shipwreck A) Circa 750 B.C.  
Tank, protector of Phoenician seafarers, in the Iron Age  
recovered of the leading Carthaginian goddess Anate and  
"Athena of the Sea..."



2 PHOENICIA, PHILISTIA, ISRAEL AND JUDAH  
— Border of kingdom

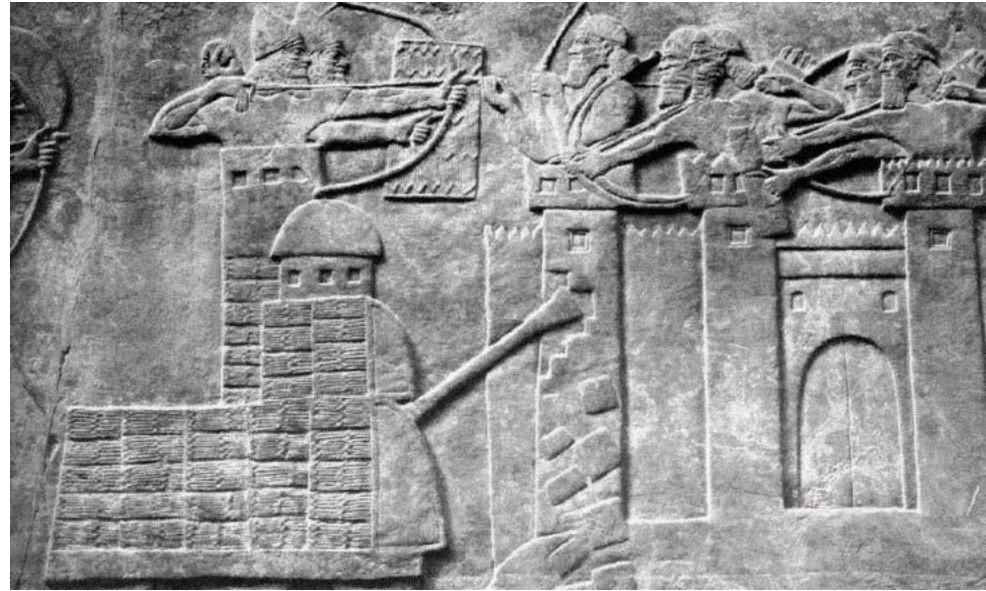


# The Assyrian onslaught begins ca. 1100 BCE



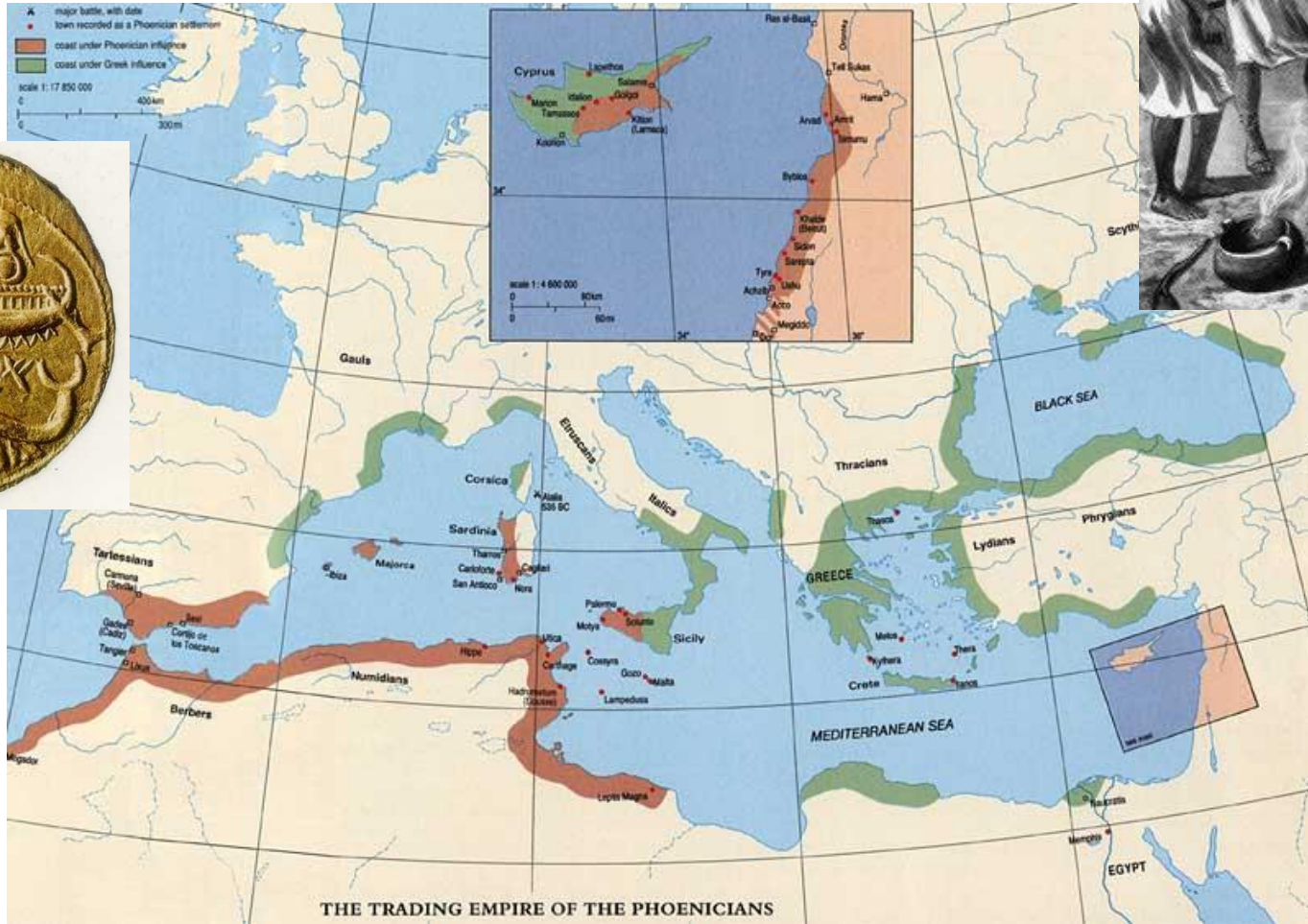
Assyrian king Tiglath Pileser I (1114-1076 BCE) invades Phoenicia and demands tribute from Phoenician kingdoms of Sidon, Byblos and Arwad

One context for vigorous Phoenician commercial activity in the Mediterranean: huge metal demands paid in tribute to the Assyrian Empire (ca. 1100-600 BCE)



# Herodotus (ca. 484-425 BCE) on trade between the Phoenicians and Tartessians (in modern Spain)

‘After importing to that place oil and other small wares of maritime commerce, they obtained for their return cargo so great a quantity of silver that they were no longer able to keep or receive it, but were forced when sailing away from those ports to make of silver not only all other articles which they used but also all of their anchors.’



Phoenician gold coin

## Phoenicians in the *Odyssey*



Phoenician *hippos* (horse) ship in background  
Odysseus claims to have fled the island of Crete  
on a Phoenician ship, buying his voyage with a  
part of the booty he was hauling from Troy



Phoenician merchant sailors 'famed for their ships'  
but greedy and deceitful

# Phoenician seafaring from biblical sources (*Kings, Chronicles, Ezekiel*)

The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, 924 to 722 B.C.



King Solomon (left, ca. 970-930 BCE) and a perhaps too humble Phoenician gesture of tribute (Hiram I, King of Tyre: ca. 980-940 BCE)

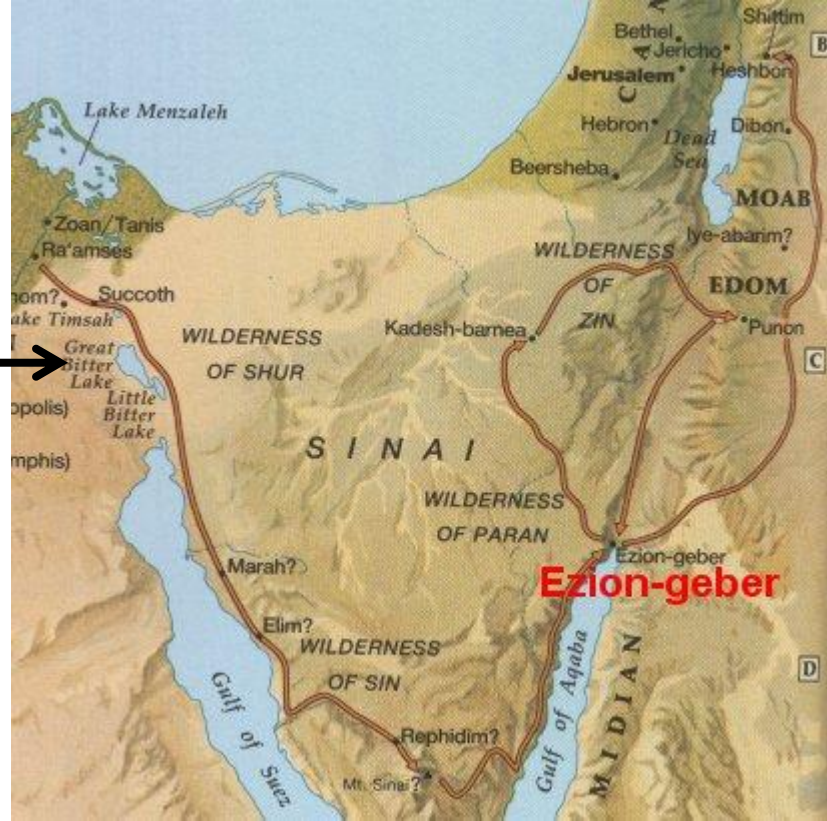
# Phoenician seafaring from biblical sources (*Kings*, *Ezekiel*)

The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, 924 to 722 B.C.



Phoenicians were:  
‘men who knew the sea’ (*Kings*)  
‘princes of the sea’ (*Ezekiel*)  
‘doing business with the nations in innumerable islands’ (*Ezekiel*)

# 'Tarshish Fleets' set sail from the Red Sea (!)



Kings Hiram and Solomon jointly build the port of Ezion-geber at the northern extremity of the Red Sea: Tarshish ships could sail from the Red Sea (Ezion-geber) to Tarshish (*Chronicles*)

Hebrew *Ophir* (in the Bible): a distant land (and source of gold and exotica) that could only be accessed by the Red Sea (and with Phoenician seafarers)

Herodotus (*Histories*, ca. 440 BCE) corroborates Phoenician circumnavigation of Africa implied in *Chronicles* (Tarshish fleets in *Chronicles* also sailed 3 year return journeys)



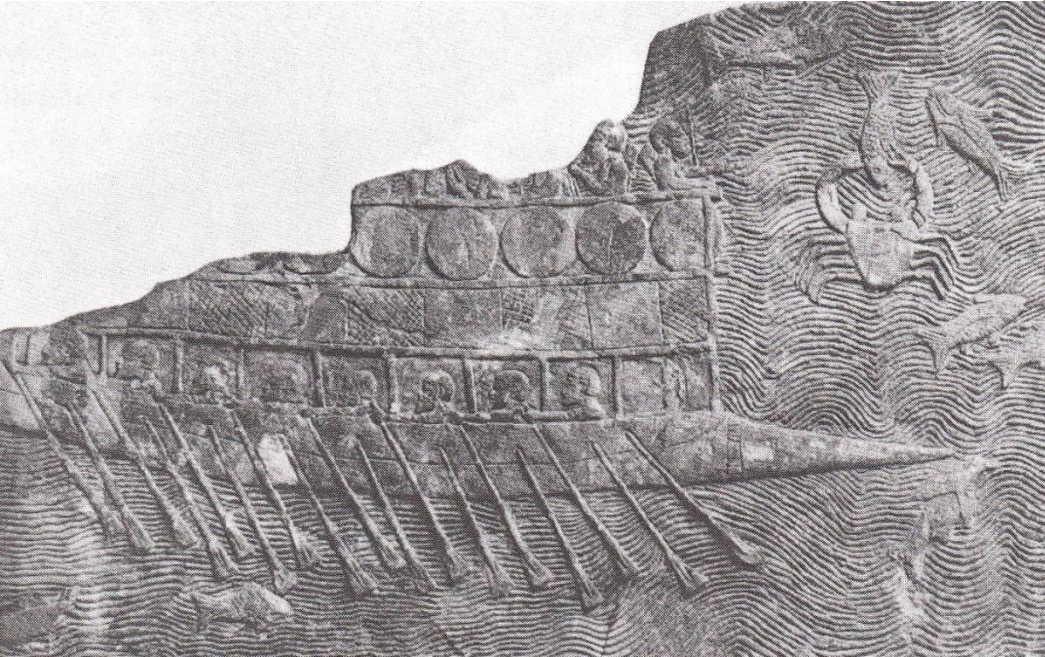
‘The Phoenicians sailed from the Arabian gulf into the southern ocean, and every autumn put in at some convenient spot on the Libyan coast, sowed a patch of ground, and waited for next year's harvest. Then, having got in their grain, they put to sea again, and after two full years rounded the Pillars of Heracles in the course of the third, and returned to Egypt. These men made a statement which I do not myself believe, though others may, to the effect that as they sailed on a westerly course round the southern end of Libya, they had the sun on their right - to northward of them. This is how Libya was first discovered by sea.’

Phoenicians in a tribute scene from the palace of King Ashurnasirpal II (ca. 859-839 BCE); this tribute was probably acquired in a journey to Ophir



# Phoenician seafaring from biblical sources (*Ezekiel* and the 'ship of Tyre')

Phoenician war galley on an Assyrian palace relief

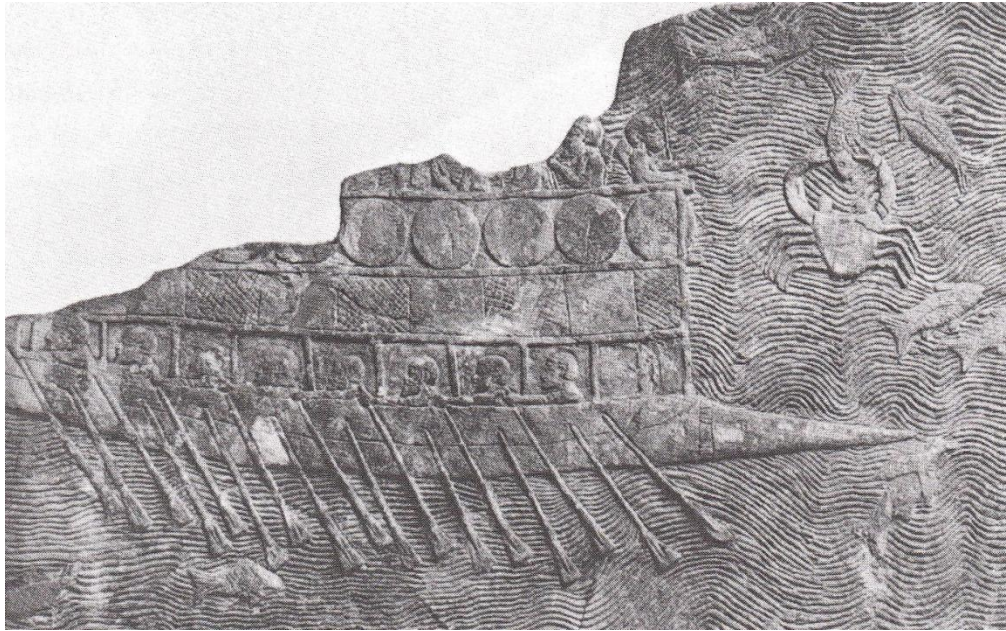


The prophet *Ezekiel* compares the Phoenician city of Tyre to a magnificent war galley

The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, 924 to 722 B.C.



# *Ezekiel* eulogizing the 'ship of Tyre' before prophesying its doom



'...of juniper of Senir they built for you all planks on both sides, cedar from Lebanon they took to make a mast over you

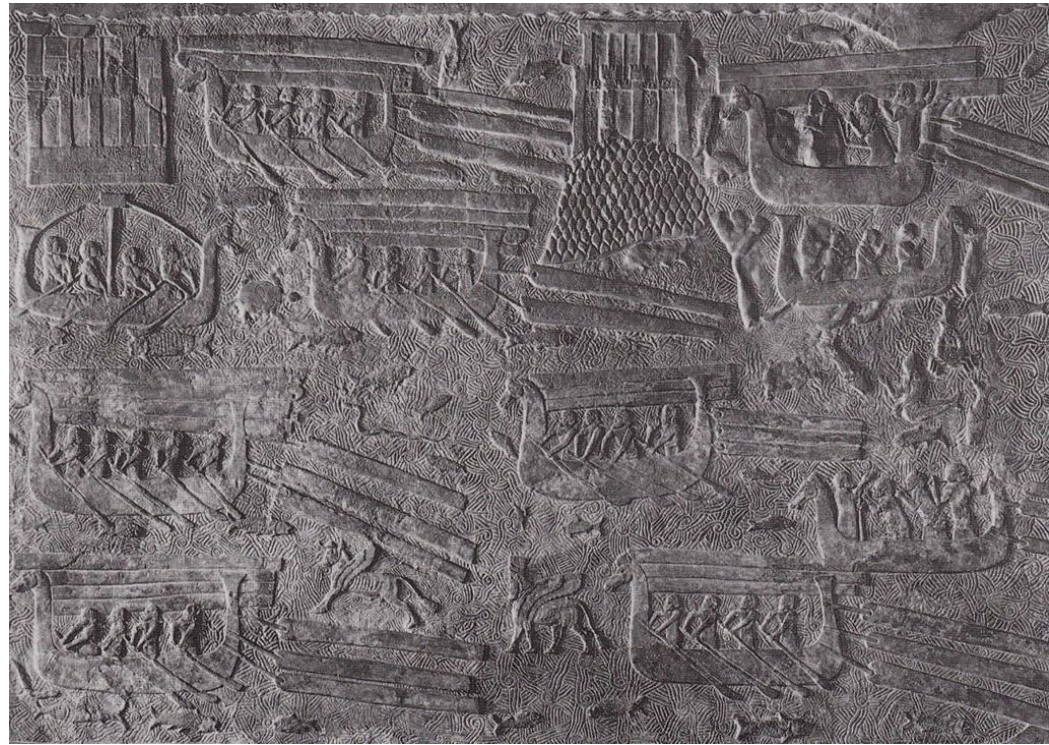
'of oaks of Bashan were made your oars, Your benches they made of ivory (inlaid) in cypress wood from the island of Cypriots'

'byssus with embroidery from Egypt was to be your sail, to be rigged for you to the yard;

'the inhabitants of Sidon and Arwad were oarsmen for you; you had your own wise men, o Tyre, and they were your helmsmen'

'you had the elders of Byblos and its wise men; caulkers of your seams'

# A visual record of Phoenician ships in Assyrian palace iconography

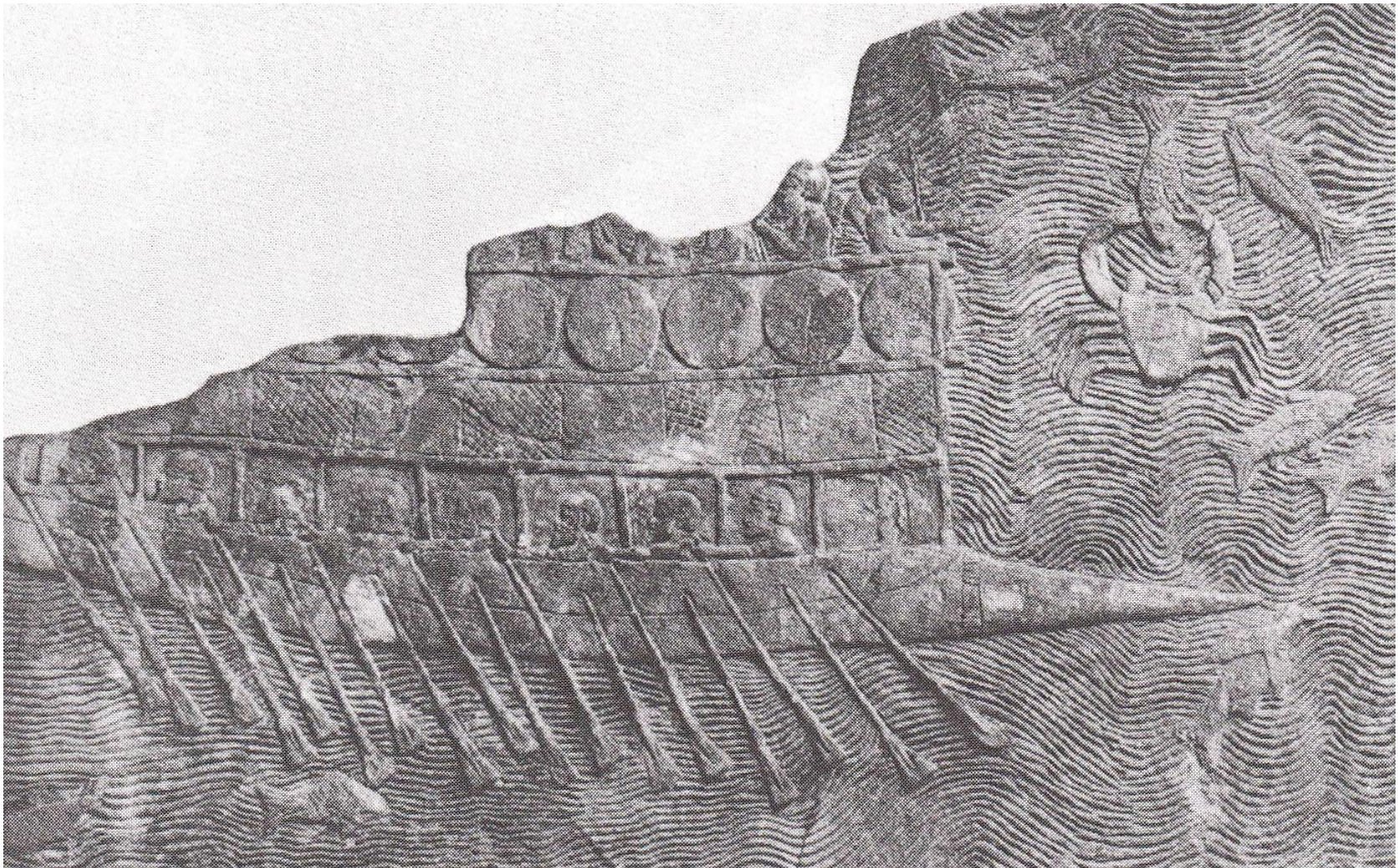


Drawing of an Assyrian relief (that now no longer exists) from the palace of Sargon II (ca. 722-705 BCE)

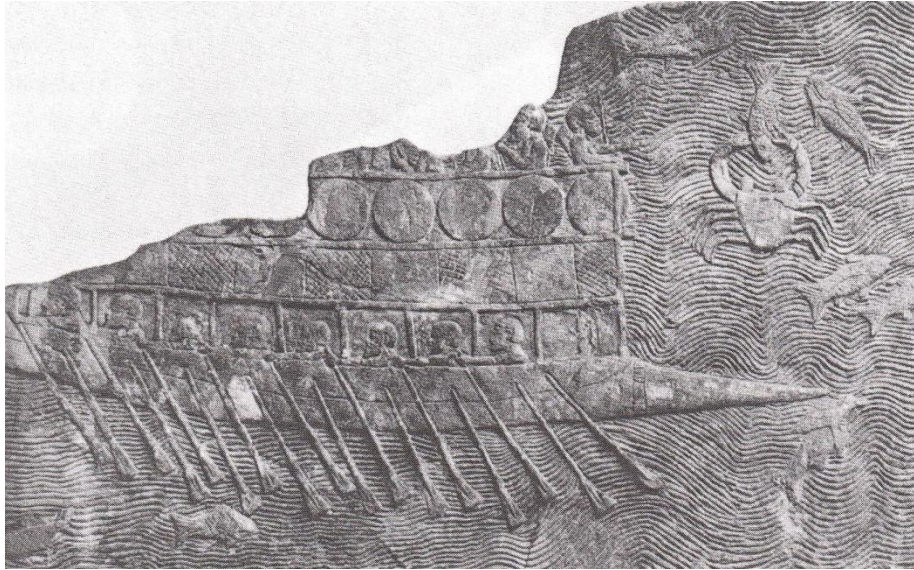


Phoenician evacuation of the cities of Tyre and Sidon to Cyprus before the advancing Assyrian army of Sargon II

A more detailed view of a Phoenician warship from a relief in the Assyrian palace of Sennacherib (ca. 705-682 BCE)



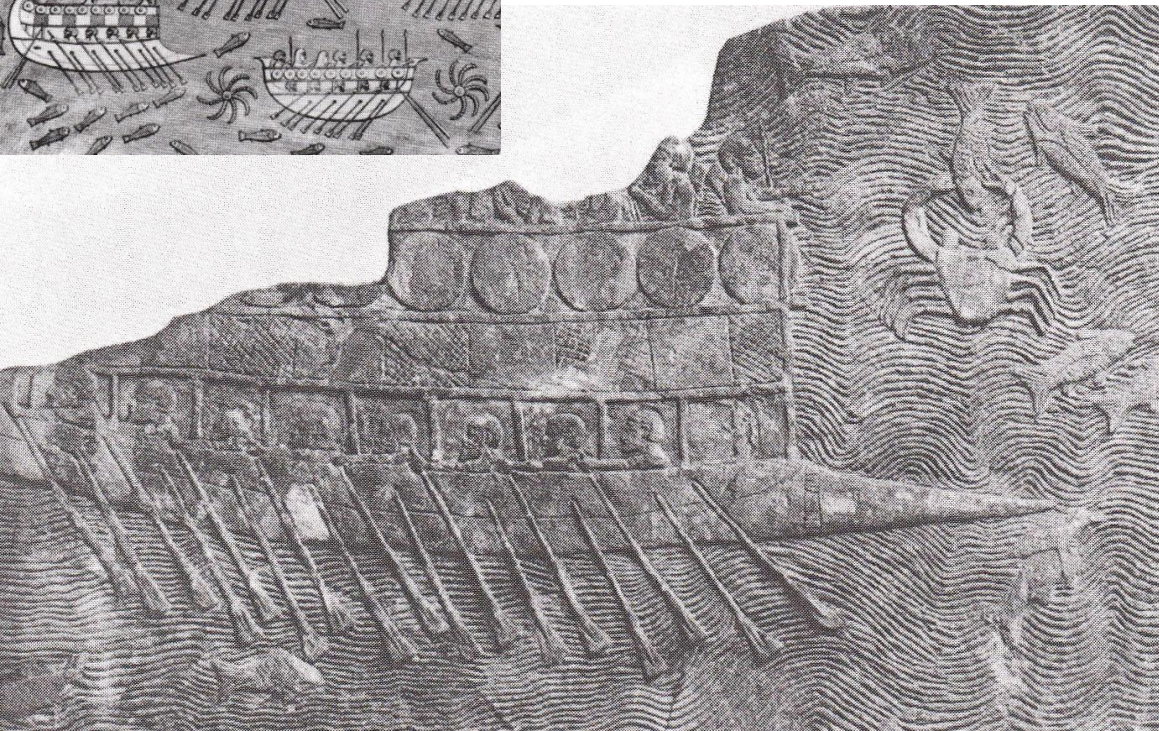
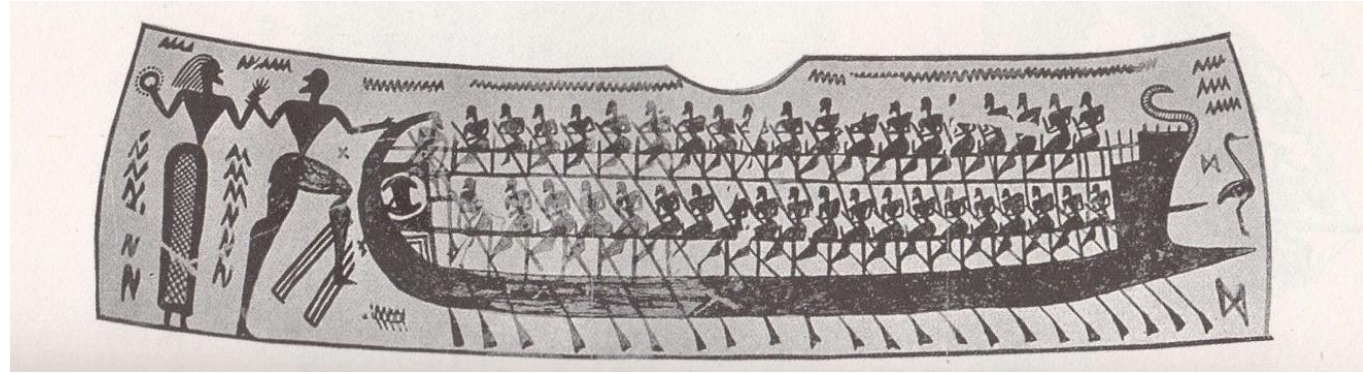
Herodotus (*Histories*): Phoenician warships also served in the later Persian fleet in the Mediterranean (e.g. Phoenician ships prominent in the Battle of Salamis, 480 BCE)



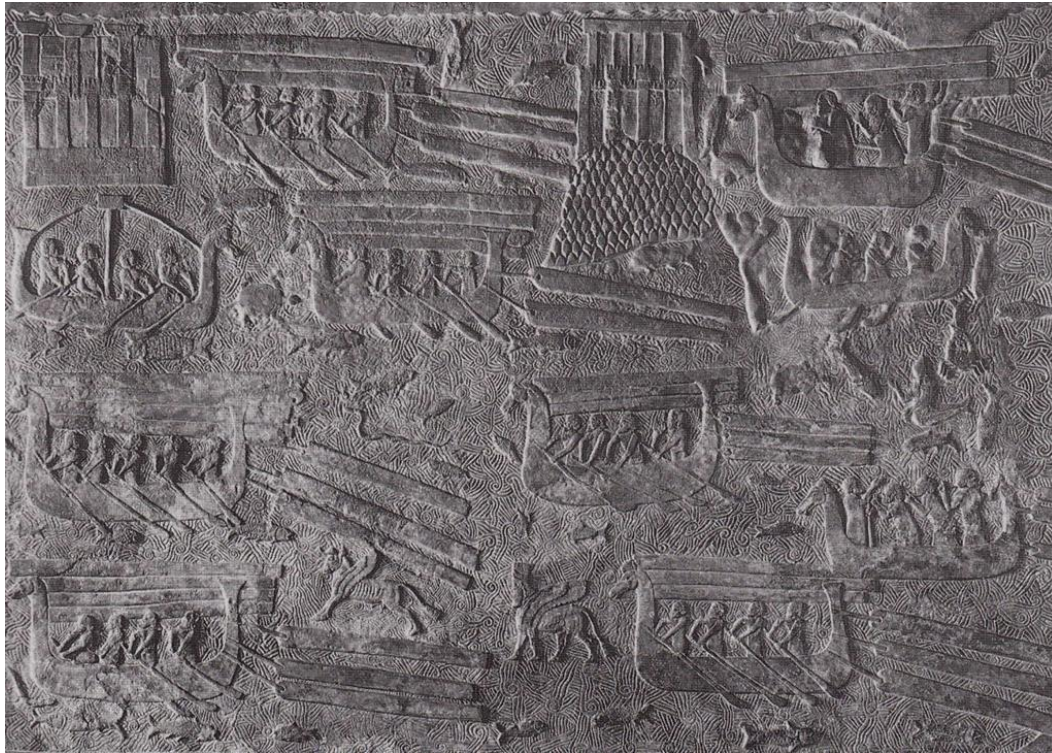
Assyrians showing Phoenician two-banked galleys (ca. 700 BCE)



Late Early Iron Age Greek pottery showing two-banked galleys (ca. 800-700 BCE)



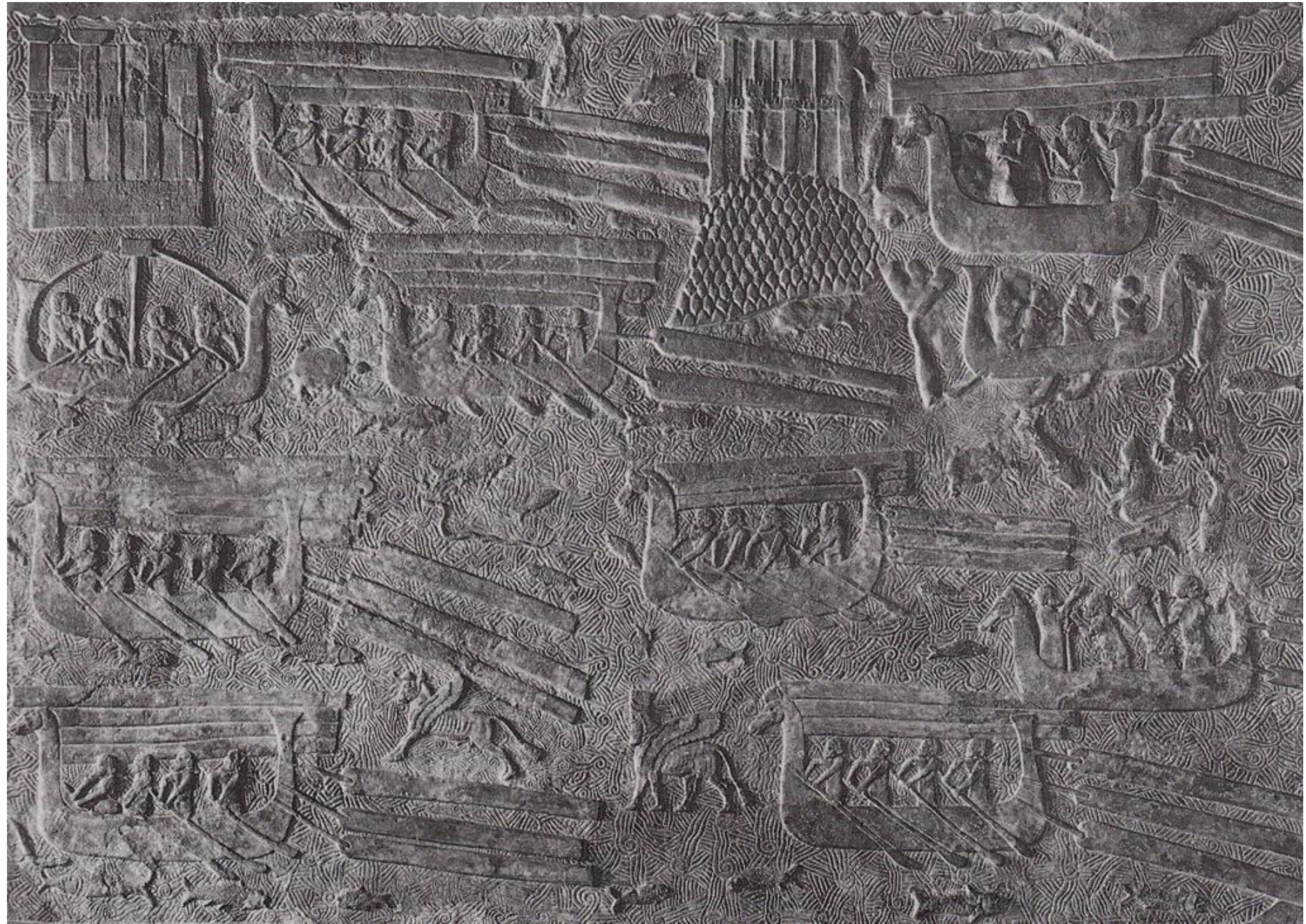
# Phoenician ships of commerce



Phoenician 'hippos (horse) ships': (*hippoi* at stem and stern described in Pliny, *Natural Histories*)



Phoenician 'hippos (horse) ships': (*hippoi* at stem and stern described in Pliny, *Natural History*, ca. AD 78)



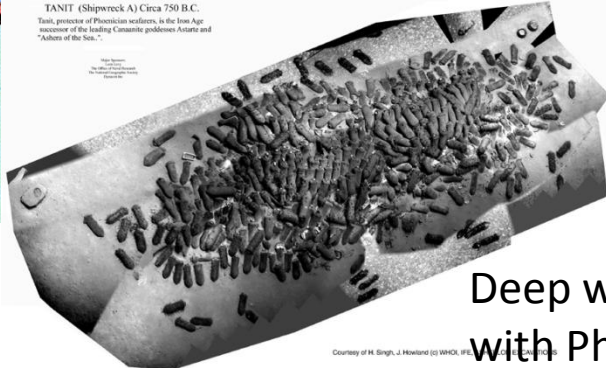
A non-Assyrian representation of a Phoenician *hippos* ship, on a seal inscribed in Hebrew (ca. 700 BCE)



# For Wednesday: Phoenician shipwrecks: on the Med. coast of Spain with tusks bearing Phoenician inscriptions—ca. 650 BCE



- Area of Phoenician settlement
  - Phoenician colony
  - Phoenician trade route
- Traded goods:
- ◇ glass
  - ivory
  - oil
  - ⊠ silver
  - ⊠ gold
  - ⊠ copper
  - lead
  - △ salt
  - ▲ cedarwood
  - grain



Deep water Ashkelon shipwrecks with Phoenician amphoras --ca. 750 BCE

Courtesy of R. Singh, J. Nowland (2) WHCC, 2011