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The Phoenicians – A Lost Civilisation?

(Markoe, 2000)

A Timeline

	MILESTONE
ca. 2650 BC	Archaeological remains of Royal Ship of CHEOPS - second pharaoh, fourth dynasty - (estimated 43x5x2metres, weight 38.5 tons), built largely of Cedar from modern Lebanon, is earliest evidence of timber supplied from this area. (Steffi, 1994:25)
	MILESTONE
ca. 1550 BC	Phoenician cities begin to emerge as urban centres (Markoe, 2000:11)
ca. 1530 BC	Expulsion of the Hyskos from Egypt (Markoe, 2000:14)
ca. 1450 BC	Tuthmosis III (1479-1425BC) burning and destruction of cities following incursion into Syria/Palestine (lays foundation for Egyptian Western Asiatic empire) (Markoe, 2000:14)
	MILESTONE
ca. 1450 BC	Copper imported into Egypt from Cyprus and Phoenician coastal cities - leads to re-invigoration of cities? (Markoe, 2000:17)
C14th BC	Tyre resettled (from archaeological record) (Markoe,2000:17)
	Growing Cedar trade under TUTHMOSIS III – exports to Egypt for temple estates, roof beams, shrines, altars (Markoe, 2000:19)

MILESTONE

- ca.1415BC Peace between Egypt and Phoenicia sealed by marriage alliance: TUTHMOSIS IV m. daughter of ARTATAMA I (Markoe, 2000:18)
- ca. 1370BC Under AHMHOTEP III (1391-1353BC), Egyptian economy grows rapidly. Gold from Nubia and Eastern desert. Imports grow strongly (Markoe, 2000:18).
- ca. 1250BC Under RAMESES II (1290-1224BC) a period of stability and prosperity for Egypt and Phoenicia (Markoe, 2000:20)
- ca. 1200BC Ulu Burun (off Cape Gelydonia, modern Turkey) shipwreck containing Cypriot copper ingots. Ship of Levantine origin dated by dendro. to this time, indicating continued growth in range and trade. (McGrail, 2014:66)

MILESTONE

- ca. late C13 and early C12 Incursion of “The Sea Peoples” and rise in temperatures and sea levels leads to abandonment of Northern cities (Markoe, 2000:23)
- ca. 1150BC Papyrus Harris of RAMESES II indicates only two seagoing Mediterranean trading vessels built in this period showing effects of incursions and cessation of maritime trade with Phoenicia. (Markoe, 2000:25)
- ca. 1100BC Tribute paid to Syrian king (5th Regnal year) by Byblos, Sidon, Arwad – indicative of re-emergence of city states in the new Iron Age (Markoe, 2000:26)

MILESTONE

- 1102BC “Report of WENAMUN” indicates that in fifth regnum year of RAMESES XI (1107-1078BC) Wenamun made a voyage from Tanis to Dor “to fetch cedarwood for the construction of a sacred barge to Amen”. Account shows Byblos is no longer subservient to Egypt and that this was a purely commercial transaction for profit (Markoe, 2000:27)
- late C11 Introduction of Bi-chrome pottery – archaeological record shows widespread trade across Levant (Markoe, 2000:28)

1100 BC	Byblos listed in Omasticon of AMENEMOPE – Egyptian scribe – again indicative of re-establishment of trade links (Markoe, 2000:26)
mid C10	Archaeological evidence indicates Phoenician expansion to Crete and further Westward focus (Markoe,2000:33)
	MILESTONE
mid C10	Joint Tyrian and Israelite expedition in search of gold under Hiram I (971-939BC) and Solomon (961-922BC) – launched from modern Elat towards Eritrean-Somalian coast. Ships built at Red Sea ports. (Markoe, 2000:33, Thompson Bible, 1984:360)
early C9	Further Tyrian expansion under Ithobaal I (887-856BC). Building of the southern “Egyptian” port. (Markoe, 2000:37)
	MILESTONE
mid-late C9	Sidon comes under Tyrian control; Ithobaal known as “King of the Sidonians” and founds colonies at Auza (in modern Libya) and Batroun (north of Byblos). Carthage and Utica founded even further west indicating long-distance trade into the Western Mediterranean. (Markoe, 2000:39)
early C8	Tyrian trade focussed on Aram (Damascus) and Israel. Aram supplies Tyre with wine and wool – lucrative Tyrian died-garment trade. Earliest architectural evidence of Phoenician colonisation seen in overseas territories – Cyprus, Sardinia, North Africa, Spain. (Markoe,2000:41)
	MILESTONE
738 BC	Assyrian king TILGATH-PILESER III (744-727BC) conquers Unqi (a northern coastal kingdom) resulting in all Levantine states coming under Assyrian authority (Markoe, 2000:42)
late C8	Assyrian rule continues under SARGON II (721-705BC) and SENNACHERIB (704-681BC) by taking control of Cyprus and extracting tribute from all Phoenician states (Markoe, 2000:42).
677 BC	ESARHADDON (680-669BC) seizes Sidon and annexes surrounding territory. City was demolished and palace

sacked. City rebuilt by the Assyrians and re-named 'Kar Esarhaddon' – 'Port Esarhaddon'. (Markoe, 2000:43)

671 BC Esarhaddon launches attack on Egypt and en route attacks Tyre. BAAL I, ruler of Tyre, capitulates and agrees to heavy tribute payments. Shown in victory stele of King Esarhaddon (Markoe, 2000:46)

MILESTONE

mid C7 Following the disintegration of the Assyrian empire, Phoenician coast come under the influence of Egyptians under PSAMETTICUS I (644-610BC) (Markoe, 2000:47)

605 BC Babylon, under NEBUCHADNEZZAR II (604-562BC) defeats an allied Egyptian and Assyrian force and commences a period of hegemony over the Levant (Markoe, 2000:47)

mid C6 Carthage gradually assumes greater independence (Markoe, 200:54)

mid-late C6 Under NABONIDUS (556-539 BC) Babylon re-instates Tyrian dynastic line. Other exiled Phoenician ruling families also re-instated. (Markoe, 2000:49)

MILESTONE

late C6 BC Persians under CYRUS the Great (559-530BC) conquer Sippar and Babylon in 539BC. Phoenicians begin to enjoy favoured status under the Persians because of their maritime importance. Phoenicians support Persian wars against Egypt and Greece. (Markoe, 2000:50)

535 BC Carthage and Etruscans defeat Greek Phocaeans in sea battle off Corsica (Markoe, 2000:55)

525 BC Carthage independent by this time (Markoe, 2000:54)

494 BC Herodotus wrote (much later) that Phoenicians were 'the most zealous' of Persia's allies at the Battle of Lade (against the Ionian Greeks and the city of Miletus) (Markoe, 2000:50)

early C5	Sidon emerges as pre-eminent city under the Persians (possibly due to superior naval strength); becomes the administrative centre, the governor's residence and a garrison town. Coinage depicts the Persian king, a royal privilege. (Markoe, 2012:51,52)
499BC	Cyprus joins the Ionian revolt. Persians invade at Salamis with the help of the Phoenician fleet. Revolt defeated (Markoe, 2000:53)
480 BC	Persian king XERXES forms offensive pact with Carthaginians during Greek campaign. Carthaginians invade Sicily and southern Italy. Carthaginians defeated at Himera and forced to pay reparations. Resulted in Punic-Greek status quo for the next seventy years. Carthage turns to gain control of Tunisian interior (Markoe, 2000:56)
mid C5	After three, unsuccessful, attempts by Delian confederacy ARTAXERXES IV (464-424 BC) mediates the Peace of Kallias in 449BC. Divides Mediterranean Sea into and Persian sections of control, bringing a time of peace. Phoenician (Cypriot) Kition grows to control neighbouring Salamis and further expands to annexe Idalion and Golgoi. Period of influence lasts for a hundred years sustained by trade in copper. Recent excavations (1990's) show extensive shipyards at Kition (Markoe, 2000:53)
late C5	Persians enter into alliance with the Spartans against Athenians. DARIUS II (423-405 BC) promises Phoenician ships in support. By 405 BC Persians lose control of Egypt after a century of rule. Phoenician focus shifts to western Mediterranean. (Markoe, 2000:58)
373BC	Persian attempt to re-conquer Egypt, supported by fleet including Phoenician, Cypriot and Cilician ships. Failure resulted in rebellion of Persian western provinces. (Markoe,2000:58)
362 BC	Sidonian revolt -unsuccessful. Persian military control until 356 BC. (Markoe, 2000:59)
ca. 350 BC	Following a further revolt, Persian armies under ARTAXEXES III (359-338 BC) sack Sidon on their way to

reconquer the Nile Delta and send captives to Babylon and Susa. (Markoe, 2000:60)

348 BC Carthage makes treaty with Rome. Reasserts trade interests in Sardinia and northern African coast. Tyre a separate, but equal co-signatory. (Markoe, 2000:66)

MILESTONE

333 BC Byblos and Arwad surrender to ALEXANDER of Macedonia. Phoenician and Cypriot fleets defect and Alexander welcomed into the city of Sidon. Tyre falls only after a protracted siege and the building of a causeway to facilitate siege. Conquest “marks the beginning of the end” of the Phoenician civilisation (Markoe, 2000:61)

310 BC Carthage attacked and defeated by AGATHOCLES of Syracuse (Markoe, 2000:66)

306 BC Romano- Punic Treaty signed. Tyre subservient to Rome. (Markoe, 2000:67)

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