117. 2200, Nahariyah and Ashrath-Yam

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- and - liberate female spirituality.

(RGS.)

* * *

Nahariyah Sanctuary.

Canaanite – Phoenicians had strong reverence for the dark mother goddess along with her rites, rituals, sacred figures, and temples such as the Nahariyah sanctuary. (DM: 57.)

The Canaanite Nahariyah temple center is Middle Bronze Age, 2200-1570 BCE.* (CAH: Vol. 1I, Part 1, 111.) The Nahariyah site, excavated between 1954-1955, CE is located about 100 meters from the Mediterranean shore on the seacoast just south of Tyre and Sidon. This center, also similar to Megiddo, includes three temple layers. As Nahariyah is an isolated sanctuary with no associated settlements, it gives rise to the possibility that it was a wayside shrine or ancient caravanserai with an adjacent temple room as was Kuntillet. (CAH: Vol. 1I, Part 1, 110-111.)

* (Alternative dating for Middle Bronze Age Crete is, 2000-1450 BCE.)

The most compelling Nahariyah finds are numerous bronze, silver, and pottery figures from the temple center of dark African goddess, Ashrath—Yam or Ashtoreth of the Sea, also known as Ishtar and Asherah. * The pottery figures date from M. B. I through M. B. II. Other discoveries include horned goddesses in molds of gold sheets, six/seven sprouted lamps plus Cypriot pottery shards. (CAH: Vol. 1I, Part 1, 110-111; TTM: 34; MASC-R: 325.)

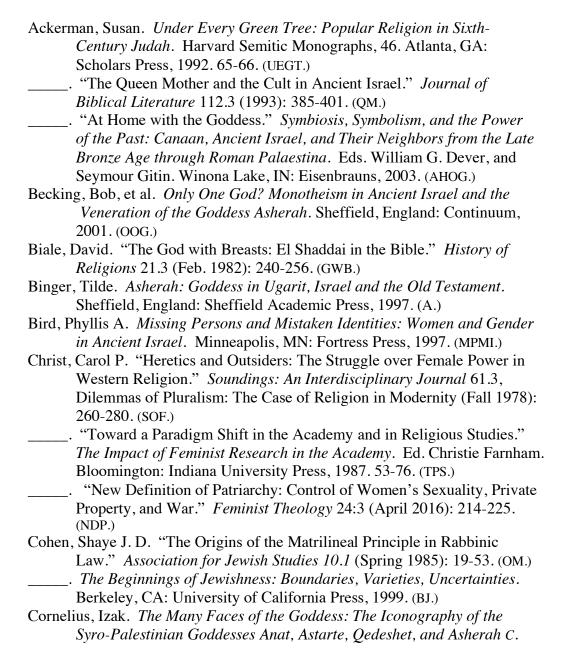
* Ashtoreth is a northwest Semitic goddess whereas Asherah is Ugaritic. (COA: 38-54, 59.) A further consideration is that Ashtoreth is the Phoenician (Sidonian) name form of Hebrew Ashtaroth. (DDDB: 113.)

Canaanites, also called Phoenicians by the Greeks, descended from Africa and following 11,000 BCE, they are credited for having started a maritime empire with numerous ports and settlements in and around the Mediterranean. (DM: 44.) In the narrower biblical context, the term Canaanite can refer to those who lived in Israel pre-the Israelites and included numerous ethnic groups. In addition to a vast

maritime empire, the Canaanite/Phoenicians had strong reverence for the dark mother goddess along with her folk rites, rituals, sacred polytheistic figures, and temples such as the Nahariyah sanctuary. (DM: 57). Birnbaum says, "The memory and values of the African dark mother persists in the common epoch in everyday cultures of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam." (DM: 44.) For a further discussion about the Israelites, see:

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Goddess Tanit and Sacrifice; 800-700, Kuntillet Ajrud and Khirbet El-Qom; 630-620, Goddess Kore, Izmir, Turkey; 600-398,

Astarte/Anat/Ashtaroth/Asherah/Ishtar and Yahweh, Egypt; 600, Goddess Kaabou at Petra, Jordan plus Mecca, Saudi Arabia; 370, Isis and Philae, Egypt; 323-30, Kom Ombo Temple; and 100, Mecca, the Ka'aba and Sacred Stones. (RGS.)

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* Although Stone Age female (i.e. vulva) finds are abundant, archaeological male (phallus) discoveries are rare and timeline starts around 28,000-26,000 BCE. (Don Hitchcock. Donsmaps.com/venustimeline.html)

Further Menorah research: 3000, Earliest Menorah Finds; 2000, Bethel, Almond City, and Asherah; 2000, Asherah; 1500, Lachish Ewer, Triangle, and Menorah; 970, First Temple, Menorah, and Weavings; 900, Taanach, Canaanite Libation Stand; and 586, Destruction of the First Temple, Jerusalem Exile. (RGS.)

Further Asherah research: 2000, Bethel, Almond City, and Asherah; 2000, Asherah; 2000-1200, Ras Shamra; 1500, Lachish Ewer, Triangle, and Menorah; 970, First Temple, Menorah, and Weavings; 900, Taanach, Canaanite Libation

Stand; 800-700, Kuntillet Ajrud and Khirbet El-Qom; and 600-398; Astarte/Anat/Ashtaroth/Asherah/Ishtar and Yahweh, Egypt. (RGS.)

IMAGE: DARK MOTHER GODDESSES (ASTARTE?) WITH HORNED HEADDRESS: NAHARIYA, CANAANITE.

PHOTO GSA DESCRIPTION: CANAANITE GODDESSES (ASTARTE?) FROM NAHARIYA INC. HORNED HEADDRESS AND HIGH PEAKED CAP, BRONZE CAST OR GOLD MOLD. SLIDE LOCATION BIB ARCH, SHEET 1, ROW 2, SLEEVE 2, SLIDE #5, 2000-1500 BCE. CO_BAR_S1_R2_SL2_S5.jpg CO_BAR_S1_R2_SL2_S5_ILL.jpg

LOCATION: NAHARIYA, CANAANITE.

NOTE 1: FIELDWORK PROJECT.

PHOTO NOTE: © BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY (1989).

PHOTO NOTE: ILLUSTRATION ENHANCEMENT, CHRISI KARVONIDES' TEAM.

IMAGE: SEVEN BRANCHED MENORAH ENGRAVED ON ARCH OF TITUS, ROME, ITALY.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: MENORAH (TREE – OF – LIFE), RE. TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM.

SLIDE LOCATION MSC. ITALY/PHOTOS TBD, SHEET , ROW , SLEEVE , SLIDE #, 81CE. CO_MIT_S_R_SL_S .jpg

SHOT ON LOCATION: ROME, ITALY, 2016. ZD.

IMAGE: SEVEN BRANCHED MENORAH ENGRAVED ON ARCH OF TITUS, ROME, ITALY.

PHOTO: © GSA. DESCRIPTION: MENORAH (TREE — OF — LIFE), RE. TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM.

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