

The Philistine, The



Answer: The Philistines were an aggressive, warmongering people who occupied territory southwest of Israel between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan. The Philistines were an Iron Age people who settled (primarily) on the coastal strip of what is today Israel after fleeing the collapse of the Mycenaean palace. They would be immortalized as ancient Israel's worst enemy in the scriptures of the Old Testament. They are the Philistines. Much like the Palestinians don't see themselves as descendants of the Biblical invaders, but they are named for the Philistines just the same. The area contained the five cities (the Pentapolis) of the Philistine confederacy (Gaza, Ashkelon [Ascalon], Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron) and was known as Philistia, or the Land of the Philistines. It was from this designation that the whole of the country was later called Palestine by the Greeks. The Philistines are referred to as the descendants of the Casluhim in Genesis 10:14 and Exodus 13:17. Known as a seafaring nation, the Philistines were called Pulisata or Pulista on the Egyptian monuments, the land of the Philistines (Philistia) being termed Palastu and Pilista in the Assyrian. The Philistines go nearly all the way back to the very beginning in biblical history where they were traced to the descendants of Noah and his sons. The Philistines were a group of people who arrived in the Levant (an area that includes modern-day Israel, Gaza, Lebanon and Syria) during the Iron Age. Word History: The ultimate origin of the Philistines, the inhabitants of the ancient city-states of Philistia (located in what is now the Gaza Strip and the southern coastal strip of southwestern Canaan. Very little is known about them. Few peoples are described in the Bible with as much hostility as the Philistines, who lived in the coastal plain during the period it documents. General: The Philistines have traditionally been seen as one of a number of Sea Peoples who reached the eastern Mediterranean region during the final years of the Late Bronze Age. Even though the Philistines are not portrayed in the Bible and history as traders and seafarers, they were closely identified with the Phoenicians.