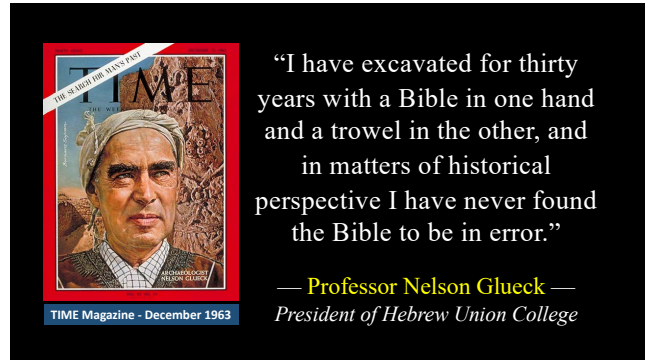




1




2

1990s

 "The actual evidence concerning the Exodus resembles the evidence for the unicorn."
— Baruch Halpern, University of Georgia —

 "The period of the patriarchs, exodus, conquest, or judges as devised by the writers of Scriptures... never existed."
— Robert Coote, San Francisco Theological Seminary —

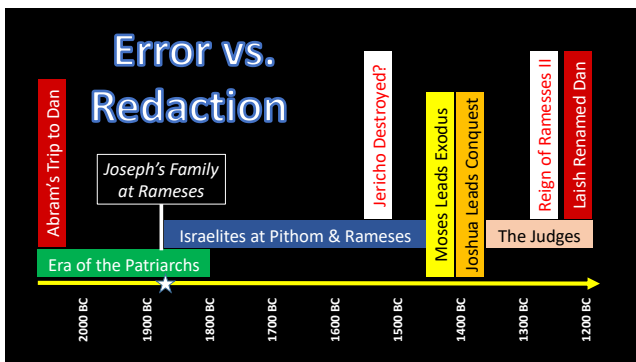
 "The Israelites never were in Egypt.... This whole chain is... not a historical one. It is a later legendary reconstruction... of a history that never happened."
— Dr. Ze'ev Herzog, professor at Tel Aviv University —

3

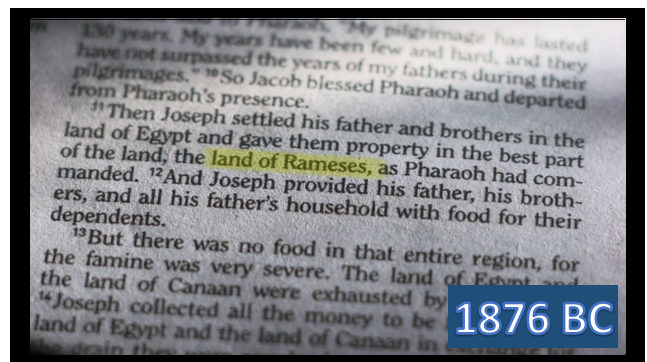
Minimalists vs. Maximalists

Biblical archaeology features two camps. **Minimalists** generally believe that the Bible is an unreliable collection of fables and any historical claims prior to the exile (586 BC) are likely exaggerated or false. **Maximalists** generally believe that the Bible is historically reliable and can serve to guide archaeologists. In the 1950s, the minimalists pointed to chronological problems with the biblical slave city of Rameses (Rameses II, 1279-1213 BC) and the heavily disputed dating of Jericho's destruction (1550 BC). However, due to an avalanche of discoveries in the past two decades, the maximalist camp is steadily gaining momentum once again.

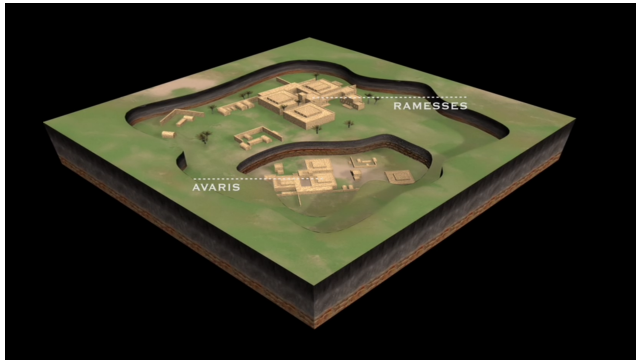
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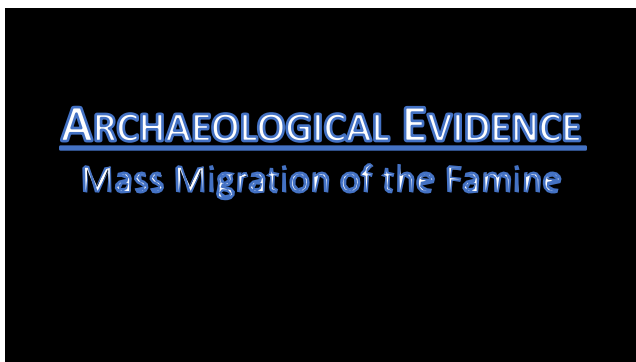
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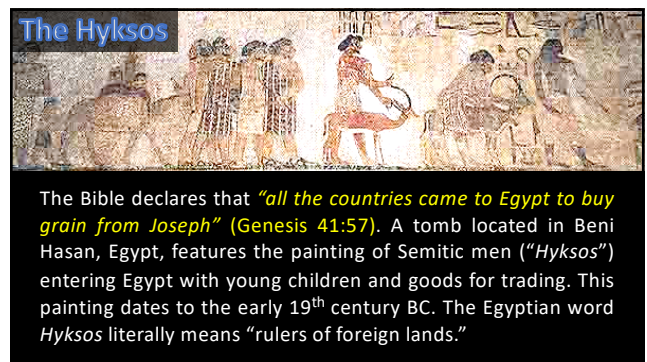
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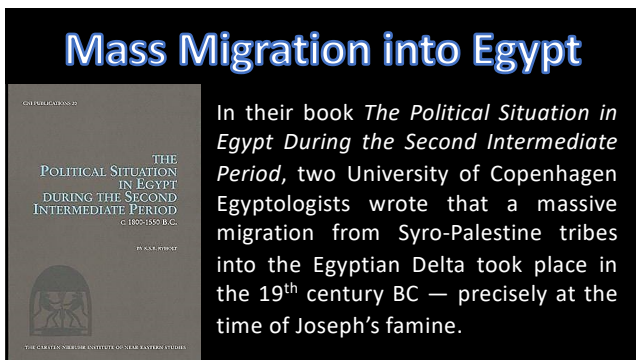
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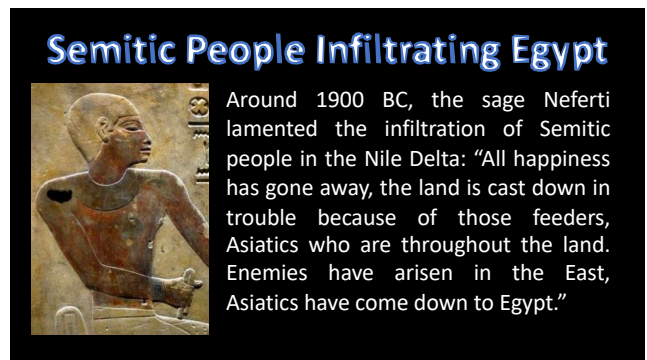
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10



11



12

The 15th Dynasty – Rise of the Hyksos

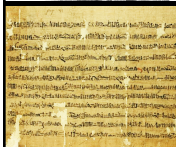
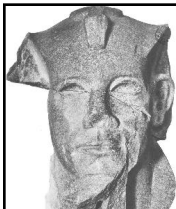
The *Encyclopedia Britannica* declares, “The rise of the Hyksos kings in Egypt was made possible by an influx of immigrants from Palestine into Egypt.... Modern scholarship has identified most of the Hyksos kings’ names as Semitic.” These Hyksos kings ruled over the Israelites, and they worshipped the Egyptian god Set. These were NOT Israelites, but they came from the land of Canaan — fueling later Egyptian animosity.



13

Hyksos Pharaoh Apophis

Papyrus Sallier 1 (c. 1274 BC) describes the reign of Apophis, the last Hyksos pharaoh in clear non-Israelite terms. This Egyptian wrote: “King Apophis adopted Set for himself as lord, and **he refused to serve any god that was in the entire land except Set.**” Syrian and Hittite cultures later incorporated the worship of Set — god of storms, chaos, and war — in their native lands, but the Israelite communities *never* worshipped Set.



14



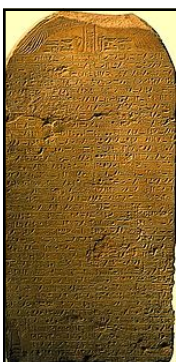
Kamose I

During the Hyksos reign, native Egyptians were sandwiched between the Hyksos and the Nubians. In roughly 1580 BC, the Pharaoh Kamose I sought to overthrow his enemies and to unify the lands of Upper and Lower Egypt.

15

The Stele of Kamose I

Pharaoh Kamose I (1581-1576 BC) wrote of his plans to overthrow the Hyksos: “**One chief is in Avaris, another in Kush, and I sit associated with an Asiatic and a Nubian! Each man has his slice in this Egypt and so the land is partitioned with me! No one can be at ease when they are milked by the taxes of the Asiatics.... I shall grapple with him that I might crush his belly, for my desire is to rescue Egypt which the Asiatics have destroyed.**”



16

Kamose Ignores Council

In opposing the war, the council advised: “Their free land is cultivated for us, and **our cattle graze in the Delta**, while corn is sent for our pigs. **Our cattle have not been seized....** He has the land of the Asiatics, we have Egypt. Only when comes one who [acts against us] should we act against him.” Kamose rejected this advice, claiming that the Hyksos would “never respect me.” So he launched a war.



17

Pharaoh’s Last Charge to Joseph

In Genesis 47, we are told that Pharaoh, owner of all livestock, kept his flocks in Goshen. “Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘Settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. **Let them live in Goshen.** And if you know of any among them with special ability, **put them in charge of my own livestock.**’” (Genesis 47:5-6)



18

Second Stele of Pharaoh Kamose



Kamose recorded a plot of the Hyksos to compel the Kushite king to invade Egypt while pharaoh was in the north. "Come north! See, Kamose is here with me: There is none who will stand up to you in Egypt. See, I will not give him a way out until you arrive! Then we shall divide the towns of Egypt." Filled with rage, Kamose responded, "The mistresses of Avaris shall not conceive... once the war-whoop of my troops is heard!"

19

The End of the Hyksos Dynasty

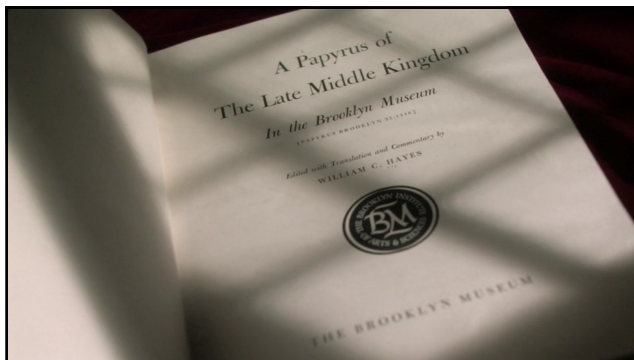


Pharaoh Ahmose I
(1576-1551 BC)

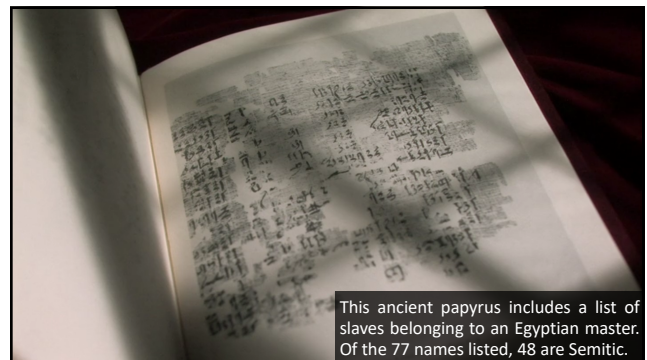
Pharaoh Ahmose I was the brother of Kamose I. After the death of Kamose, he intensified the war against the Hyksos. One of his soldiers ("Ahmose son of Ebana") recorded the war:

"When the town of Avaris was besieged, I fought bravely... My captives were given to me as slaves." After another victory over Aata, Pharaoh Ahmose gave "all his people as booty."

20

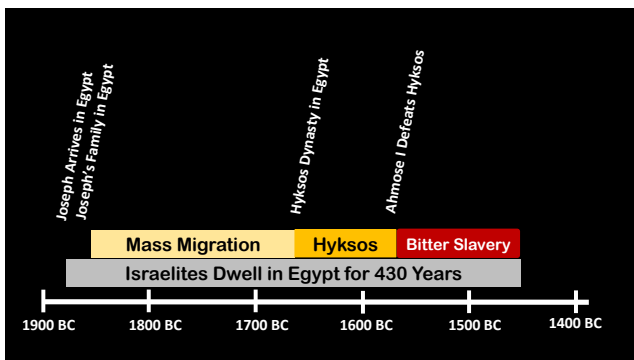


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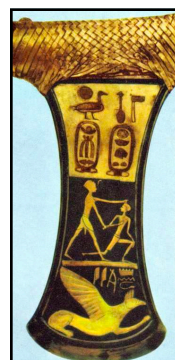


This ancient papyrus includes a list of slaves belonging to an Egyptian master. Of the 77 names listed, 48 are Semitic.

22



23




The New Kingdom Period

Ahmose I launched the 18th Dynasty — the first dynasty of the "New Kingdom Period."

"Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, but the Israelites were fruitful and multiplied greatly and became exceedingly numerous, so that the land was filled with them. Then a *new king*, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt" (Exodus 1:6-8).

24




The New Kingdom Period

“Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become much too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, *if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.*’ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as *store cities for Pharaoh.*” (Exodus 1:9-11)


25

The Maniacal Decree of Pharaoh



“The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, ‘When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, *if it is a boy, kill him;* but if it is a girl, let her live.’ The midwives, however, feared God.... Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: ‘Every boy that is born you must *throw into the Nile,* but let every girl live.’” (Exodus 1:15-22)

26



Familiar Concerns?

These two fraternal pharaohs (Kamose and Ahmose) were committed to expelling the Hyksos from the north. Both were clearly concerned over the possible alliance between the Hyksos and the Kushites. This same concern is expressed by the pharaoh of Exodus 1. Interestingly, Kamose warned that the consequence of his concerns would be the prevention of any new births.

27




Any Questions?

28

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

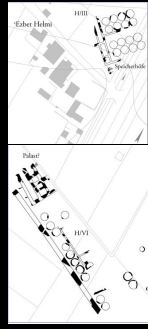
Evidence of Hebrew Slavery

29



Hebrew slaves “*built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh*” (Ex. 1:11). In their 2011 archaeological report, the team recorded: “A residential quarter with several buildings with attached courtyards and **granaries separated by streets** was unearthed in the uppermost layer, which can be dated to the very end of the Second Intermediate Period [1570 BC],” adding that many of the buildings harbored “small brick-lined **storage caves** under the floor.”

30



Discovery of Grain Silos

Dr. Manfred Bietak from the University of Vienna explained that the excavations at Avaris exposed a massive "storage compound" atop the ruins of the Hyksos settlement. They discovered "at least 30 round grain silos" and many others on the south side of the city. Bietak added, "This amenity was used to store enormous quantities of grain and probably other foodstuff for a considerable number of people. It could have been a makeshift military facility for supplying troops."

31



32



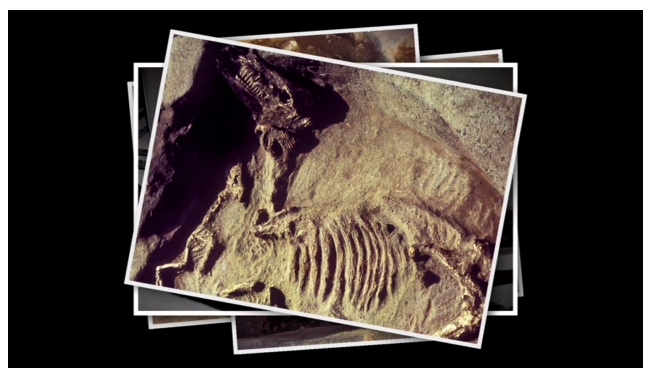
33



34



35



36



37



38



39

A Checklist Worthy of Skepticism

- ✓ Why would Pharaoh's daughter be in a slave city?
- ✓ Why would Moses (a royal prince) live in a slave city?
- ✓ Why was Pharaoh in Avaris? Moses spoke to Pharaoh twelve times. Neither Thebes or Memphis is remotely close to Avaris.
- ✓ Moses was able to reach Pharaoh in only minutes (Ex. 8:20).
- ✓ Why would Pharaoh have had a temple or a court of magicians present in the midst of a slave city (Ex. 7:20)?
- ✓ Why would pharaoh's chariots be found in a slave city?
- ✓ The archaeological record must demonstrate a storage city constructed by slaves who suddenly vanished from the record.

40

Understanding the Biblical Timeline

The Bible provides helpful clues for the dating of the Exodus. Most notably, we are told that Solomon began construction of the temple during the fourth year of his reign and in the 480th year after the Exodus (1 Kings 6:1). Most historians are confident that Solomon's reign began in 970 BC.

*** 966 BC + 480 years = **1446 BC** (*Time of the Exodus*) ***

The Bible tells us that Moses was eighty years old when he returned to Egypt to face the Pharaoh (Exodus 7:7). Thus, if Moses was 80 when he led the exodus, then he was born in 1526 BC.

*** 1446 BC + 80 years = **1526 BC** (*Birth of Moses*) ***

41

Hatshepsut: Pharaoh's Only Daughter

Moses was found by "Pharaoh's daughter" in the Nile River. Records show that Thutmose I and Queen Ahmose had only one child, and **her** name was Hatshepsut. Exodus states, "**When the child grew older... he became her son**" (Exodus 2:10). Children were typically nursed until the age of three, and they began formal education at the age of five. Incredibly, only half of Egyptian children reached the age of five.

18 th Dynasty Pharaohs	
Ahmose I	1576-1551
Amenhotep I	1551-1530
Thutmose I	1530-1517
Thutmose II	1517-1504
Hatshepsut	1504-1483

42

Moses – What’s in a Name?

If Moses was born in 1526 BC, it was during the reign of Pharaoh Thutmose I. The reigning pharaohs of the 18th dynasty include Ahmose I (brother of Kamose), Thutmose II, III, and IV. The Egyptian word *mes* (i.e. “mose”) can mean “son” or “born of.” *Rameses* means “born of Ra.” Thutmose means “born of Thoth.”: Given this period’s *unusual* affinity for this root, it seems that the daughter of Pharaoh offered Moses a name fit for a prince.



43

Avaris in the Early 18th Dynasty

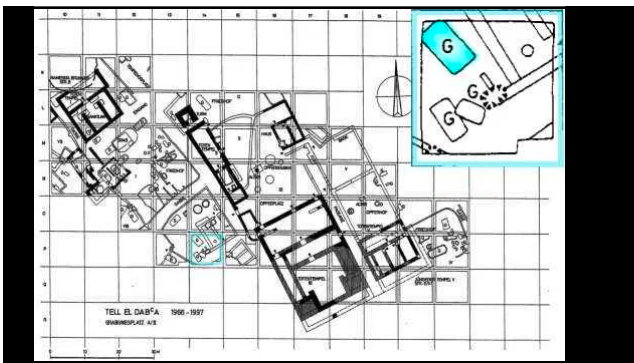
CHART 1: EGYPTIAN DYNASTY 18

AHMOSE I	1576-1551
AMENHOTEP I	1551-1530
THUTMOSIS I	1530-1517
THUTMOSIS II	1517-1504
HATHEPSUT	1504-1483
THUTMOSIS III	1504-1450
AMENHOTEP II	1452-1417
THUTMOSIS IV	1417-1390
AMENHOTEP III	1390-1352
AKHENATON	1352-1336
SMENHARE	1338-1336
TUTANKHAMON	1336-1327
AYE	1327-1323
HOREMHAB	1323-1295

Dates are those found in P. Ray (1997: 4)

Why would Pharaoh’s daughter have been at Avaris in 1526 BC? Thebes was the capital of Egypt — 500 miles south. New excavations at Avaris uncovered a royal structure built shortly after the fall of the Hyksos kingdom. The team’s report claims that it dates to “the beginning of the 18th Dynasty after the fall of Avaris (after c. 1530 BC).”

44



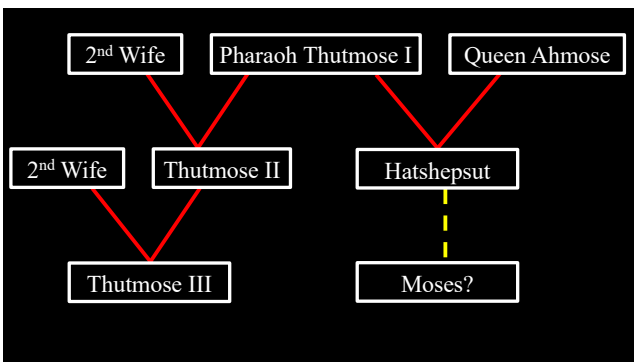
45

Hatshepsut: Ruler of Egypt



Thutmose I and Queen Ahmose had no sons, so they arranged the marriage of Hatshepsut and Thutmose II (son of a secondary wife). They too failed to have a son, so Thutmose III (also son of a secondary wife) would inherit the throne. But he was too young to take the throne at the time of his father’s death. As a result, Thutmose III and Hatshepsut shared a co-regency for twenty-two years. Initially, Hatshepsut assumed virtually all authority.

46



47

Hatshepsut: Restoration of Avaris



Hatshepsut sought to restore Avaris. In the “Speos Artemidos Inscription,” Hatshepsut wrote, “I have done these things through the counsel of my heart. I have not slept forgetfully, but I have restored that which had been ruined. I have raised up that which had gone to pieces formerly, since the Asiatics were in the midst of Avaris of the Northland, and vagabonds were in the midst of them.”

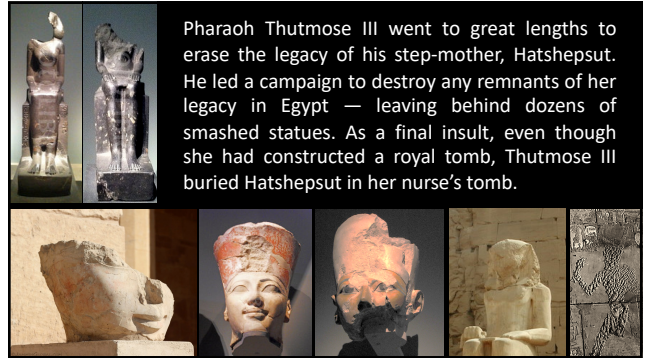
48

Hatshepsut: Ruler of Egypt



Hatshepsut quickly consolidated all power — taking all honorary titles from the gods and wearing all the regalia of a male pharaoh, including a false beard. She sent Thutmose III away into the military ranks, where he grew extremely skilled and popular among Egypt's soldiers. While Hatshepsut desired peace-time economic prosperity, Thutmose III desired military expansion. In **1483 BC**, as Thutmose III was vying for the throne, Hatshepsut died.

49



Pharaoh Thutmose III went to great lengths to erase the legacy of his step-mother, Hatshepsut. He led a campaign to destroy any remnants of her legacy in Egypt — leaving behind dozens of smashed statues. As a final insult, even though she had constructed a royal tomb, Thutmose III buried Hatshepsut in her nurse's tomb.

50

Hatshepsut's Mummy Discovered



Hatshepsut's mummified remains were recently discovered in an obscure grave. Mitochondrial DNA tests revealed that this mummy was, indeed, biologically related to Queen Ahmose, Hatshepsut's mother. Later tests revealed that she had diabetes, arthritis, and advanced bone cancer. Experts believe that she died in her late 50s. If she died in her late-50s in 1483 BC, then she would have reached Egypt's typical age of marriage and childbearing around 1526 BC.

51

Pharaoh Thutmose III

Thutmose III reigned until 1450 BC, leading Egypt to its pinnacle of power. Nicknamed the "Napoleon of Egypt," he led 17 successful military campaigns into Syria and Palestine, subduing "this entire land as vassals." He was likely the pharaoh who forced Moses to flee Egypt (1486 BC). Thutmose III had a motive to kill or expel Moses, the princely son of Hatshepsut.



52

The Death of Thutmose III



Remains of Thutmose III
1504-1450 BC

Thutmose III was the longest reigning pharaoh of the 18th dynasty. This is significant, because Moses fled Egypt and spent 40 years in the wilderness. Meanwhile, Thutmose III reigned over Egypt for another 36 years. Exodus states, "During that long period, the king of Egypt died" (Exodus 2:23-24). The Lord told Moses, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who wanted to kill you are dead" (Exodus 4:19).

53

A wall painting from the tomb of Rekhmire, the vizier and highest ranking official under Thutmose III, shows both Nubian and Semitic slaves mixing water and mud to create bricks while an armed Egyptian official (upper right) supervises their work.



"The rod is in my hand; do not be idle."

54

The Pharaoh of the Exodus?



Pharaoh Amenhotep II (1452-1417 BC) reigned over Egypt immediately following Thutmose III. Many biblical scholars believe that he is the "pharaoh of the Exodus." Amenhotep II was **NOT** the firstborn son of Thutmose III. Instead, Prince Amenemhat was the firstborn son of Thutmose III, and he predeceased his father. This opened the door for Amenhotep II to take the throne.

55

Arrogant Amenhotep II



Amenhotep II is known for his arrogance. In the Memphis Stela describing a military campaign into the Levant, he boasts that "there was no one with his Majesty except himself with his valiant and mighty arm. His Majesty killed them by shooting arrows." He also claimed that his arrows could penetrate metal plates (*see left*) and that he could row a ship faster and farther than two hundred Egyptian soldiers.

56

No Firstborn Heir for Amenhotep II



Thutmose IV, reigned as pharaoh after Amenhotep II. **He was NOT the firstborn son of Amenhotep II.** In a stela found beneath the paws of the great Sphinx of Giza, Thutmose IV claimed that his legitimacy stemmed from a dream, not a birthright. He was promised ascension to Egypt's throne in exchange for restoring the Sphinx.

57

The Firstborn of Amenhotep II



In 1898, Victor Loret, head of the Egyptian Antiquities Service, discovered the tomb of Amenhotep II. Inside the chamber immediately next to him, Loret found the mummified remains of Prince Webensenu (age 10), perhaps the firstborn son of Amenhotep II. He is the only son (of perhaps ten) buried with Amenhotep II.

58

Any Questions?



59

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

A Major Egyptian Calamity

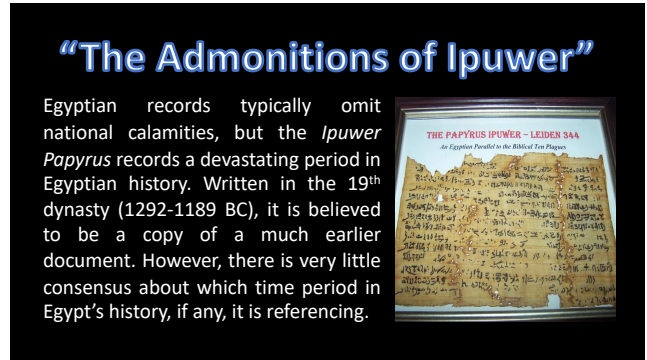
Ten Plagues & Mass Exodus

60



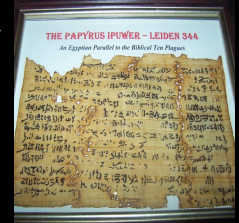
Mass Graves

61

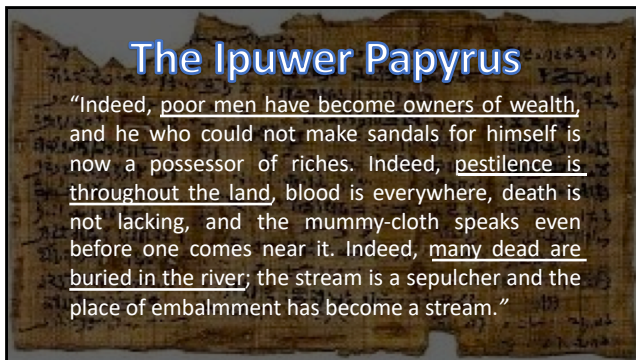


"The Admonitions of Ipuwer"

Egyptian records typically omit national calamities, but the *Ipuwer Papyrus* records a devastating period in Egyptian history. Written in the 19th dynasty (1292-1189 BC), it is believed to be a copy of a much earlier document. However, there is very little consensus about which time period in Egypt's history, if any, it is referencing.



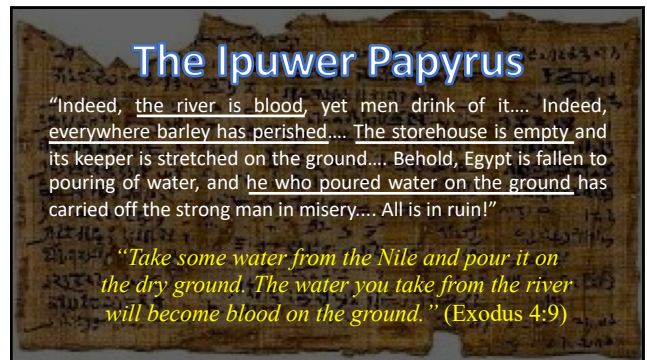
62



The Ipuwer Papyrus

"Indeed, poor men have become owners of wealth, and he who could not make sandals for himself is now a possessor of riches. Indeed, pestilence is throughout the land, blood is everywhere, death is not lacking, and the mummy-cloth speaks even before one comes near it. Indeed, many dead are buried in the river; the stream is a sepulcher and the place of embalmment has become a stream."

63

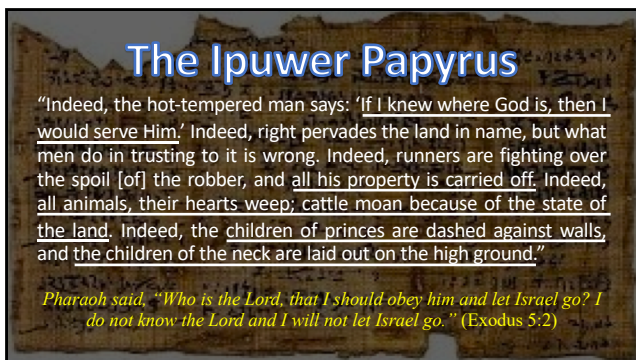


The Ipuwer Papyrus

"Indeed, the river is blood, yet men drink of it... Indeed, everywhere barley has perished... The storehouse is empty and its keeper is stretched on the ground... Behold, Egypt is fallen to pouring of water, and he who poured water on the ground has carried off the strong man in misery... All is in ruin!"

"Take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground." (Exodus 4:9)

64

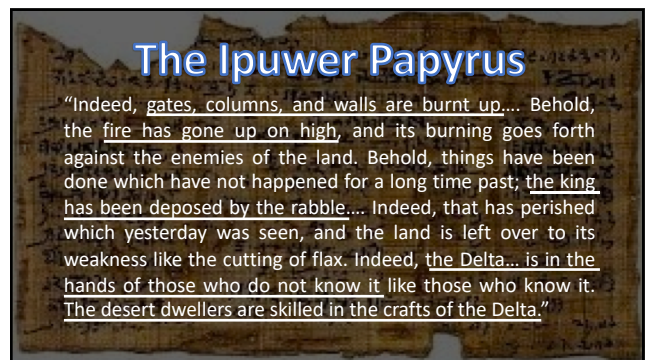


The Ipuwer Papyrus

"Indeed, the hot-tempered man says: 'If I knew where God is, then I would serve Him.' Indeed, right pervades the land in name, but what men do in trusting to it is wrong. Indeed, runners are fighting over the spoil [of] the robber, and all his property is carried off. Indeed, all animals, their hearts weep; cattle moan because of the state of the land. Indeed, the children of princes are dashed against walls, and the children of the neck are laid out on the high ground."

Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go." (Exodus 5:2)

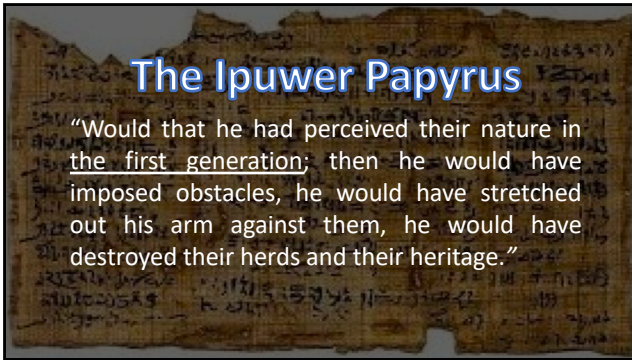
65



The Ipuwer Papyrus

"Indeed, gates, columns, and walls are burnt up... Behold, the fire has gone up on high, and its burning goes forth against the enemies of the land. Behold, things have been done which have not happened for a long time past; the king has been deposed by the rabble... Indeed, that has perished which yesterday was seen, and the land is left over in its weakness like the cutting of flax. Indeed, the Delta... is in the hands of those who do not know it like those who know it. The desert dwellers are skilled in the crafts of the Delta."

66



The Ipuwer Papyrus

“Would that he had perceived their nature in the first generation; then he would have imposed obstacles, he would have stretched out his arm against them, he would have destroyed their herds and their heritage.”

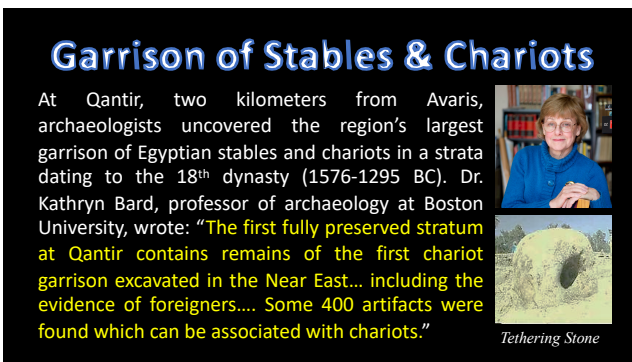
67



Pharaoh Pursues the Israelites

“When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them.... So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. **He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt**, with officers over all of them. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites” (Exodus 14:5-8).

68



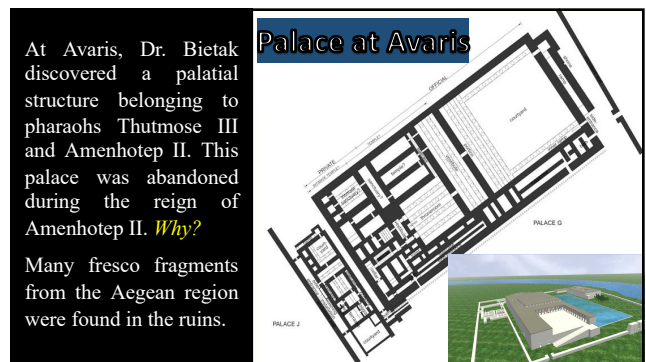
Garrison of Stables & Chariots

At Qantir, two kilometers from Avaris, archaeologists uncovered the region’s largest garrison of Egyptian stables and chariots in a strata dating to the 18th dynasty (1576-1295 BC). Dr. Kathryn Bard, professor of archaeology at Boston University, wrote: “**The first fully preserved stratum at Qantir contains remains of the first chariot garrison excavated in the Near East... including the evidence of foreigners.... Some 400 artifacts were found which can be associated with chariots.**”



Tethering Stone

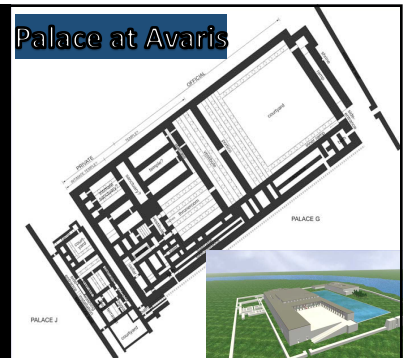
69



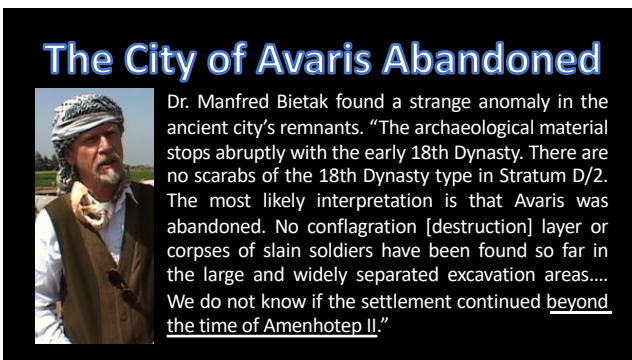
Palace at Avaris

At Avaris, Dr. Bietak discovered a palatial structure belonging to pharaohs Thutmose III and Amenhotep II. This palace was abandoned during the reign of Amenhotep II. *Why?*

Many fresco fragments from the Aegean region were found in the ruins.



70

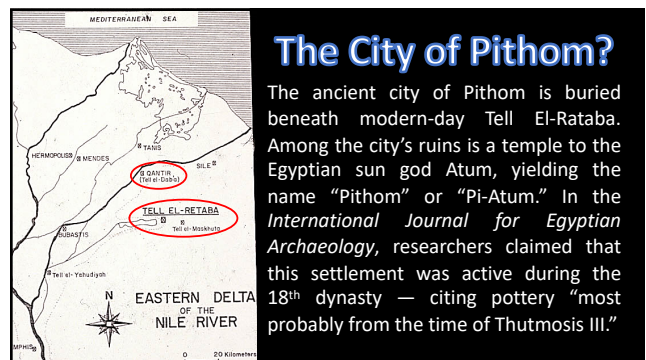


The City of Avaris Abandoned

Dr. Manfred Bietak found a strange anomaly in the ancient city’s remnants. “The archaeological material stops abruptly with the early 18th Dynasty. There are no scarabs of the 18th Dynasty type in Stratum D/2. The most likely interpretation is that Avaris was abandoned. No conflagration [destruction] layer or corpses of slain soldiers have been found so far in the large and widely separated excavation areas.... We do not know if the settlement continued beyond the time of Amenhotep II.”

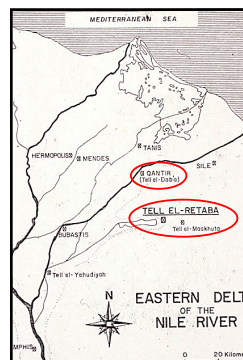


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The City of Pithom?

The ancient city of Pithom is buried beneath modern-day Tell El-Rataba. Among the city’s ruins is a temple to the Egyptian sun god Atum, yielding the name “Pithom” or “Pi-Atum.” In the *International Journal for Egyptian Archaeology*, researchers claimed that this settlement was active during the 18th dynasty — citing pottery “most probably from the time of Thutmosis III.”



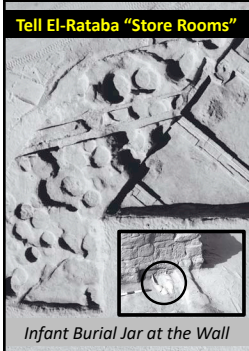
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The City of Pithom Abandoned



In the recent and limited excavations of the 18th dynasty strata, they discovered "a relatively large silo constructed of mud bricks." Unlike later settlements at Pithom, the team found evidence of "a larger group of people" during the early 18th dynasty. These people lived in "small huts...with very thin walls." The team also found a strange and sudden "occupational hiatus" in the strata layers, suggesting that its residents left the city. They theorized that the city's "fortress [much like the palace at Avaris] was abandoned between the reign of Thutmosis III and that of Ramesses II."

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A Peculiar Discovery

During a 1905 excavation, Sir William Petrie was shocked to discover a slain infant at Tell El-Rataba at the base of a wall. In an attempt to dismiss this, he wrote, "This burial, or child sacrifice, was a custom in Syria.... But such a custom has never been found among the Egyptians, and hence we must rather look to a Syrian occupation." Recent excavations uncovered at least six dead infants inside burial jars near this same wall. While the wall is older, each of the jars has been dated to the 19th dynasty based on pottery styles.

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Mycenae Steles

Due to early dating (1500 BC), scholars are skeptical that these steles are capturing the Exodus.



These Mycenae steles were discovered in "a grave circle," and they were dated between 1550 and 1500 BC. This is consistent with other contents found in the grave circle. Only 60 meters away, in the citadel temple, inscriptions bearing the names Amenhotep II and Amenhotep III were found. A scarab of Queen Tiye (wife of Amenhotep III) was also found.

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Any Questions?



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