

THE STORY OF MOSES AND THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT

Lesson Two: EXPLORING THE BIBLE TIMELINE

People of the Bible lived and events of the Bible occurred in real time and history. Abundant historical evidence about ancient peoples and societies has come to light from archaeology and other disciplines over the last two hundred years. When the correlation is made between the Bible and this evidence, a valuable historical background is provided that informs and strengthens the faith of the believer. This helps us as we encounter the skeptics and liberal religious thinkers that fill our societies and universities who make false accusations against the truthfulness and accuracy of the Biblical text.

I) Establishing Old Testament Chronology

A) *Key Date* – 966 BC (1 Kings 6:1)

1) Fourth year of Solomon's reign and 480 years *after* the Exodus

B) *Date of the Exodus* – 1446 BC

1) Moses was 80 years old at the time of the Exodus (Ex. 7:7; Acts 7:23, 30)

C) *Date of Moses' Birth* – 1526 BC

D) *Date of Moses' Death* – 1406 BC (Lived 120 years – Deut. 34:7)

E) *Jacob entered Egypt* – 1876 BC (430 years before Exodus – Ex. 12:40)

1) Joseph had already been in Egypt at least twenty years (Gen. 37:2; 41:46, 53)

2) Jacob was 130 years old when he entered Egypt (Gen. 47:9, 28)

F) *Date of Jacob's Birth* – 2006 BC

1) Isaac was 60 years old when Jacob was born (Gen. 25:26)

G) *Date of Isaac's Birth* – 2066 BC

1) Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born (Gen. 21:5)

H) *Date of Abraham's Birth* – 2166 BC

1) Abraham was 75 years old when traveling to Canaan – 2091 BC

2) Abraham journeyed to Egypt soon after arriving in Canaan (Gen. 12:10)

II) Date of the Exodus Controversy

A) Liberal scholars overwhelmingly date the Exodus late to c. 1290 BC, during the reign of Ramses II, the son of Seti I. While this may be the popular scholarly consensus today, it is an outright denial of the revealed OT timeline.

Acceptance of it will cause a shipwreck of one's faith in the inerrancy of inspired Scripture.

- B) Objections to the Biblical chronology are based on opinions and claims of certain archaeologists, historians, and other scholars. The hard evidence uncovered is the same for all, but interpretations of that evidence differ according to prior assumptions. The prior commitment either to human wisdom or divine wisdom will determine how one interprets the evidence. No evidence has been found to contradict the chronology revealed in Scripture. Abundant evidence has been found to demonstrate its accuracy.
- C) Modern liberal scholarship argues against the Bible chronology revealed in Scripture (and sustained by historical and archaeological evidence) because of a *subjective preference* for the late date. The evidence of Scripture is arbitrarily reinterpreted, if not wholly dismissed as unreliable. This is unacceptable for the Christian whose "faith comes by hearing the word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

III) Correlating Egyptian History and the Biblical Text

Egyptian History

Biblical Storyline

First Intermediate Period (2180-2040 BC)

Dynasties 9 & 10

Abraham's journey to Egypt
(c. 2091-2085)
(Gen. 12:10-20)

Middle Kingdom (2039-1782 BC)

Dynasty 12 Senusret [Sesostris] I
(1897-1878)

Senusret [Sesostris] II
(1878-1841)

Joseph taken to Egypt (c. 1896)
Joseph's promotion (c. 1883)
Jacob entered Egypt (1876)
(Gen. 37-47)

Amenemhet III
(1842-1797)

Death of Joseph (c.1803)
(Gen. 50:22-26; Ex. 1:6)

Second Intermediate Period (1781-1570 BC)

"The children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them" (Ex. 1:7)

Dynasty 15 Hyksos rulers Foreign Semitic “Desert Princes” (1663-1555)	“Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph” (Ex. 1:8) Oppression of children of Israel (Ex. 1:9-12)
<i>New Kingdom</i> (1569-1070 BC) Restoration of native Egyptian rule Dyansty 18 Ahmose I (1569-1546)	Continued oppression of children of Israel (Ex. 1:13-14)
Amenhotep I (1551-1524)	Pharaoh commands destruction of male Hebrew children (Ex. 1:15-22) Birth of Moses (1526) Adopted by daughter of Pharaoh (Ex. 2:1-10)
Tuthmosis I (1524-1518)	“And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds” (Acts 7:22)
Tuthmosis II (1518-1504)	
Tuthmosis III (1504-1450) [Queen Hatshepsut (1498-1483)]	Moses kills Egyptian; identifies with his brethren (Heb. 11:24-26) Leaves Egypt [1486 BC] (Ex. 2:11-15) Dwells in Midian forty years (Acts 7:30)
Amenhotep II (1453-1419)	Moses informed of previous pharaoh’s death (Ex. 2:23; 4:19); returns to Egypt to face new pharaoh (1446) Ten plagues on Egypt Crossing the Red Sea (Ex. 5-14)
Tuthmosis IV (1419-1386)	Death of Moses (1406)

The evidence fits! Tuthmosis III reigned long enough to seek Moses’ life and then die near the end of the 40-year sojourn. His son, Amenhotep II, was the new pharaoh when Moses returned to Egypt. The Late Date theory (1290 BC) does *not* work! Seti I did not reign long enough (13 years) to seek Moses’ life and die 30+ years later before his son, Ramses II took the throne.

We know about the pharaohs that reigned during Moses' life. In fact, their mummies have been found and identified from the Valley of the Kings near Thebes, Egypt. Through these rulers, we learn of the times of Moses and Israel.