

Chronology is a subject inherent in all discussion of ancient history.

We will look at timing of the Ice Age; and where Abraham, Joseph and the Exodus sit in Egyptian history.

Timeline is not only about how old the universe is. We all know what our differences with the secular world are on that score. This is about when historical events actually occurred.

Background material for this talk

This talk on revising the Egyptian timeline of events is based on two papers presented at the International Conference on Creationism 2014:

1. *Ancient Egypt, the Ice Age, and biblical chronology*, at http://www.creationsixdays.net/2013_ICC_Habermehl_AncientEgypt.pdf
2. *Revising the Egyptian chronology: Joseph as Imhotep, and Amenemhat IV as pharaoh of the Exodus*, at http://www.creationsixdays.net/2013_ICC_Habermehl_Joseph.pdf

Why is timeline revision needed ?

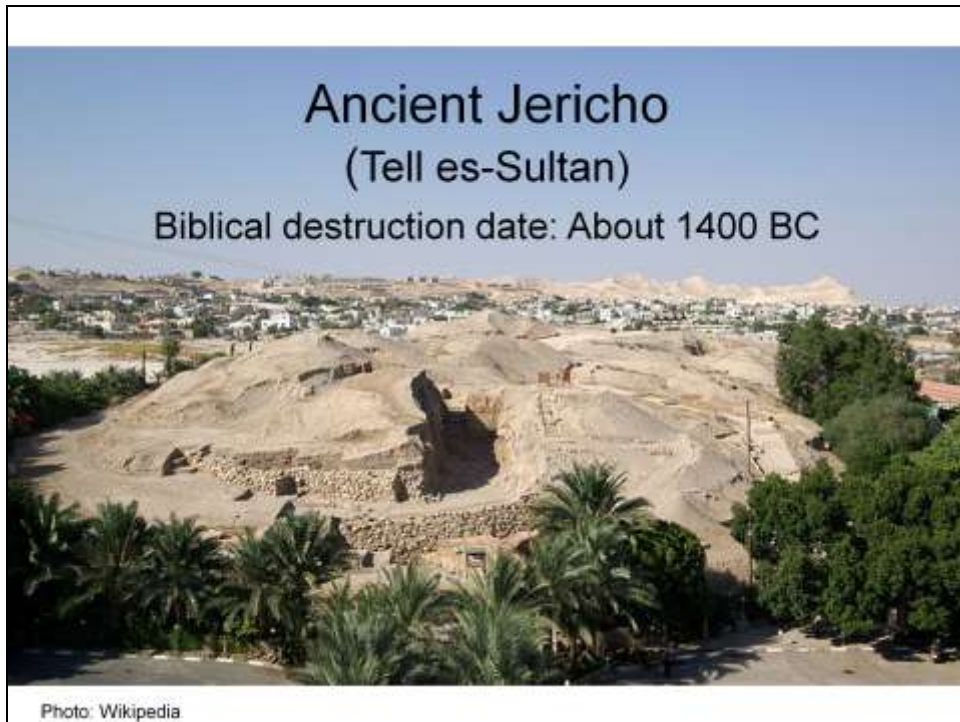


- There is a well-known inherent problem
- The biblical timeline of history does not match the secular timeline
- Before 600 BC, the secular and biblical timelines start to diverge

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Why does this matter?

- This discrepancy between the biblical and secular timelines is used by unbelievers to declare the Bible unreliable
- Timeline is therefore an important apologetics matter



A familiar example is the taking of Jericho by the Children of Israel. If we use a date of about 1450 BC for the Exodus, the destruction of Jericho would have occurred about 40 years later in 1410. Secular historians and archaeologists claim that Jericho was unoccupied at that time. We will return to the matter of dating Jericho's fall later on.

Does it matter exactly when Jericho fell? Well, not really, except for one thing. The secular people dismiss the date that we calculate from biblical timeline information, and they declare the Bible unreliable. Indeed, I sometimes wonder whether these unbelieving scholars try to find the Bible incorrect. After all, if the Bible were to be found true, this might upset their unbelief.

What is the secular chronology?

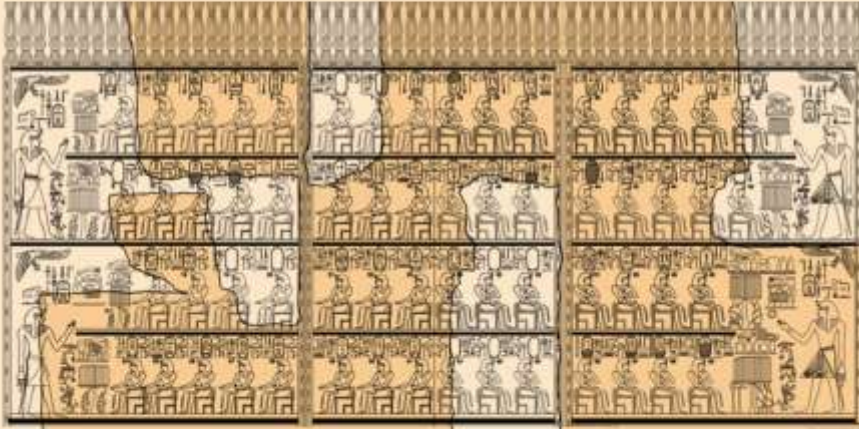
- Definition: this is the standard chronology currently used by historians at large
- Originated with Manetho: 3rd-century BC Egyptian scholar, historian, priest
- Based on length of reigns of Egyptian pharaohs
- His timeline has been modified over the years, but it is the underlying basis of secular history
- All world history is attached to this timeline

The last point is especially important. It's not just Egyptian history that hangs on this timeline.

If we change anything in this accepted secular timeline, we are rearranging the history of the entire world.

Therefore, making changes in this timeline is not to be done lightly.

Karnak King List



PLstrom 2009 Wikimedia

This pictorial list engraved in stone is one of the ancient resources for history of the pharaohs. It was originally located on a wall at Karnak and is now on display at the Louvre museum in Paris. Each drawing of a man is a pharaoh. It is damaged. The colored areas are what remains; the light areas are what scholars believe most likely would have been there originally.

Biblical revision of timeline

- On the biblical side, there is impetus to revise the secular timeline to fit the Bible
- However, efforts by many to do this have not been very successful
- The secular Egyptian chronology has been resistant to tampering by revisionists
- We will boldly charge into the fray



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Some past revisionists have been Velikovsky, Courville, James, Reilly, Rohl, Henry, Stewart, Long, Sweeney.

Biblical revisionists have had the same problem as the secular ones: lack of agreement in what should be done.

Secular historians know that their timeline is faulty

- Changing it would mean rewriting all the history books
- This is why their timeline remains essentially the same
- No impetus to make it coincide with the biblical timeline



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Secular scholars dismiss the Bible as a reliable source.

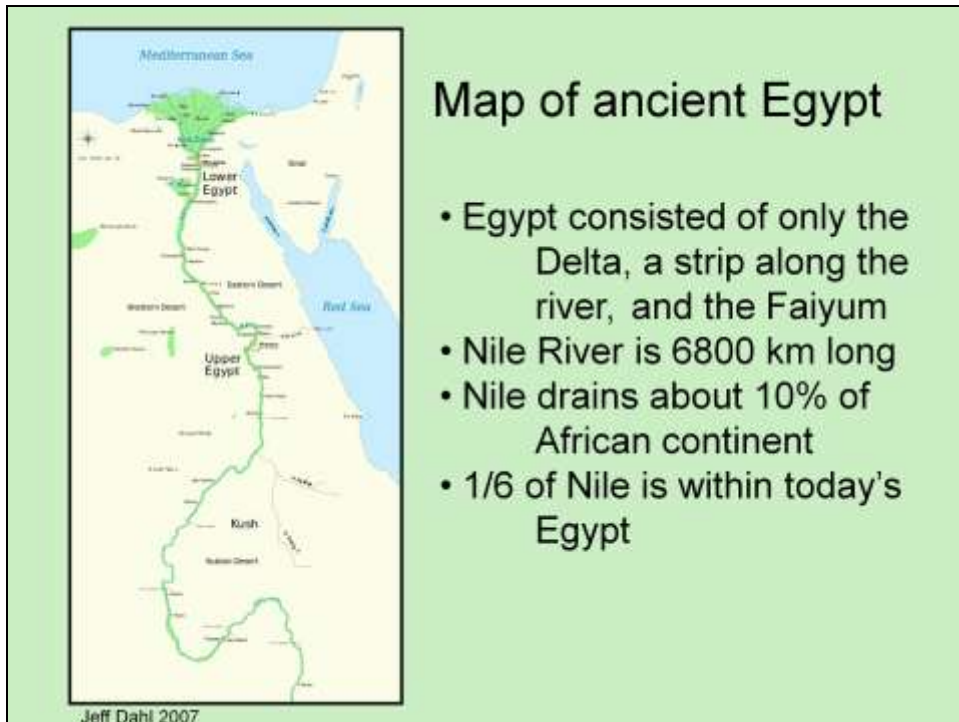
When did the Ice Age occur?

- Historians and archaeologists ignore the Ice Age and related geology
- Scientists ignore history and archaeology in considering the Ice Age
- The two groups do not exchange much information



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As we shall see, this dichotomy is especially evident with respect to the early history of Egypt and the Ice Age.



Any discussion of early Egypt must begin with a look at its geography, because in ancient times its boundaries bore no resemblance to those of the country as it exists today.

Ancient Egypt from predynastic times could be described as a stylized papyrus on a stem with a leaf on the side (this is the Faiyum area). Only the green parts were considered to be Egypt. By comparison, modern Egypt forms a square. The Nile continues south all the way to Lake Victoria in Africa (not all of it is shown on the map).

The Nile famously rose annually

- Rainfall in Egypt itself had little effect on Nile's flow
- It was rainfall far to the south that determined the Nile's flooding
- This fertilized the land anew every year



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This was true throughout Egyptian history until the Aswan dams were built in the last century.

From Dynastic times on, rainfall was as little as 1 1/2.5 cm per yr in Egypt. Dynastic times started about 3000 BC on the secular timeline. Typical heights of flood were 45 feet (13.7 metres) at Aswan in the south, 38 feet (11.6 metres) at Luxor (and Thebes) and 25 feet (7.6 metres) at Cairo. (This was before the construction of the lower and high Aswan dams in modern times.) When the waters receded, a new layer of silt covered the land.

If an annual Nile flood was too high it would wash over mud [dykes](#) protecting a village. A small flood or no flood at all would mean famine. A flood had to be just the right height for a good season. In Old Kingdom times, the pharaoh was responsible for keeping the Nile god (Hapi) pleased. Judging by history, the pharaoh did not always succeed in doing his duty.

The period of the “wild Nile”

- Egypt was arid during the glaciation period
- Abrupt climate change about 11,700 yrs ago
- High Nile flooding at this time
- Materials washed from Nubia all the way to Mediterranean



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But this picture of the Nile was different when we go back into the Ice Age. The figure of 11,700 yrs ago is a secular timeline date (U.S. Geological Survey Pleistocene-Holocene boundary).

Nile flooded repeatedly to 8 or 9 meters above its floodplain. The force of this wild Nile flooding was incredible.

What caused this Nile superflood?

- There was a large amount of rain in the Nile basin at the end of the Ice Age, especially in Ethiopia
- Possible effect of melting of African glaciers



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Secular scholars ignore the possibility that melting glaciers affected this wild Nile because of their long timeline. Our creationist timeline is collapsed, and the effect of the fast meltdown of the glaciers would be more noticeable.

Results of the Nile superflooding: the Delta



Shepherd Historical Atlas 1923

A formation like this is called a “delta” because it is shaped like the capital form of the 4th letter of the Greek alphabet. The Nile is considered the most famous river delta in the world. According to secular geologists, the Nile Delta was built up over a short time 8500–6500 years ago, not gradually over many years. Its northern shoreline has changed little since first developed. The Delta material consists of the youngest geologic deposits in Egypt.

Why the Nile Delta is important in setting up a timeline

- The Nile Delta is geologically young
- It was formed after the secular “last glaciation”
- This provides a marker for historical events



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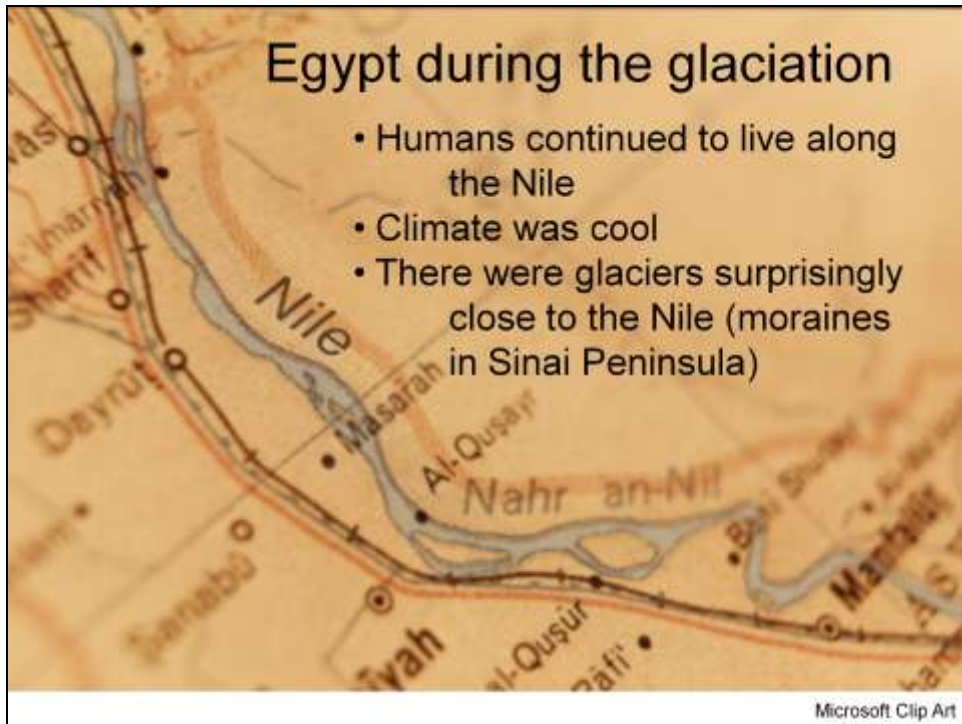
History of humans in Egypt

- Earliest evidence of humans in “Lower Paleolithic” period
- Probably descendants of Mizraim, son of Ham
- “Misr” is official Arabic name of Egypt today
- Left *Acheulean* stone tools and evidences behind
- Because these tools are known in Europe, Africa and Middle East, they could have been used at Babel



Biface from St. Acheul, Museum of Toulouse.
Photo: D. Descouens 2011

Besides the geological evidences that say that the Nile Delta formed after the Ice Age, there are archaeological and historical reasons. According to secular archaeologists, these first humans lived in Egypt half a million to a million years ago. We would say that these were people who traveled to Egypt in the Babel dispersion. “Misr” constitutes support for a young earth because of how long this name has survived.



The climate in Egypt during the Ice Age would have been much cooler than today.

The ice must have been somewhat more widespread than our creationist models show.

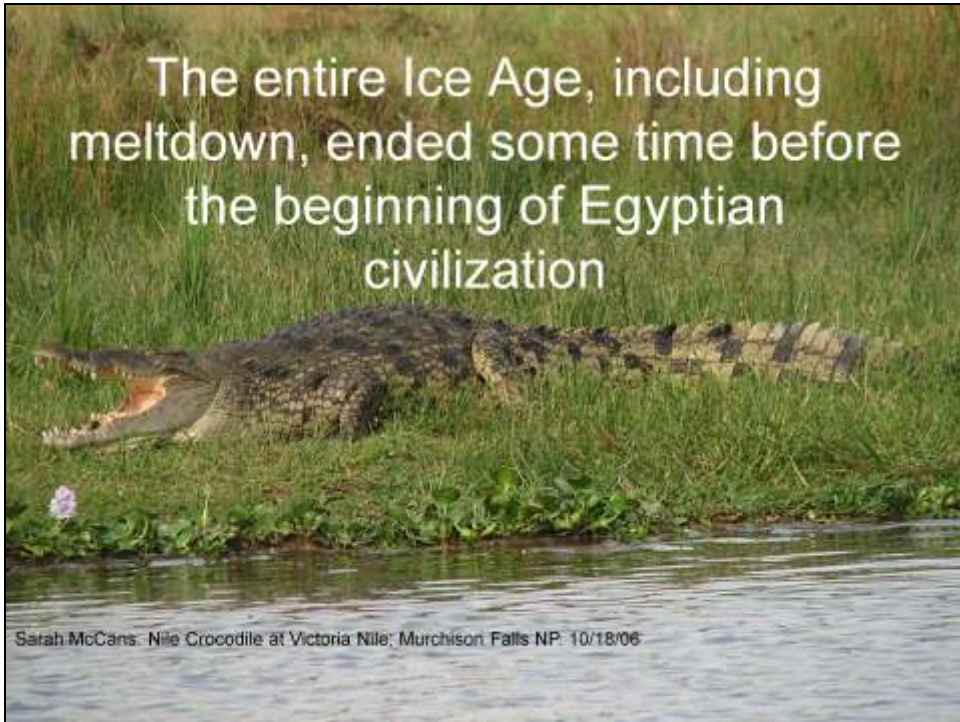
After the glaciation, what then?

- Humans moved westward into the Sahara during the time of Nile flooding
- The Sahara was green and habitable from the monsoon rains that had moved northward
- When the Sahara became a desert after the rains moved south, people moved back to the Nile
- This was before any Egyptian civilization had developed



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Melting of the thick ice sheets caused worldwide weather disturbances. In Africa, the rain belts moved northward temporarily.



(For animal lovers, this is a Nile crocodile, no longer living in the Delta as it did in ancient times.)

Conclusions from Abraham's visit

- Because there was a powerful pharaoh, earliest Egyptian civilization had already developed.
- The Ice Age had to have been long past by the time of Abraham's visit to Egypt.

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Later we will look at a date on the secular timeline for Abraham's visit to Egypt.

We return to the Ice Age

- Based on 215 years in Egypt, the Flood occurred about 2350 BC (MT).
- A 700-yr Ice Age (as per Oard) would have lasted from 2350 BC to 1650 BC, including meltdown
- This would start the ice meltdown about 25 years before the end of Abraham's life
- But we have shown that the entire Ice Age had to have ended long before Abraham

The 215 years is calculated by biblical chronologists, including Ussher.
The Oard Ice Age model was published in 1990.
MT is the abbreviation for "Masoretic."

Jacob's arrival and the Delta

- Jacob and his family settled on the Nile Delta in Goshen when they entered Egypt about 1700 BC
- By Oard's model, the Delta would still have been in the formation stage during the ice meltdown
- But we know that Goshen was then the best pastureland in Egypt (Gen. 47:6)



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This leads to a chronology problem

- Time between the Flood and Abraham's visit to Egypt: 425–435 years (MT)
- We need 700 yrs for the Ice Age and meltdown, plus time for repopulation along the Nile and development of Predynastic society
- Conclusion: There is too little time for all this
- The currently accepted model of the Ice Age must be incorrect in its placement between 2350 BC and 1650 BC



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Comment: Anyone who has been accepting both the Oard Ice Age model and the Usshur timeline has been holding an untenable position.

What shall we do?

- Shorten the Ice Age?
- Claim biblical genealogies incomplete?
- Use longer Septuagint (LXX) timeline?



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Three possibilities present themselves. Let's look at these one at a time.

I. What if we shorten the Ice Age?

- This would mean rapid ice buildup, short ice duration, fast meltdown
- Problem: there may have been a lot more ice to account for than the Oard model predicts



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How much ice was there?

- Total ice at maximum glaciation = sum of ice on land today (largely Antarctica and Greenland) + ice that melted at end of Ice Age
- Difference between minimum ocean level and ocean level now = measure of this melted ice
- Scientists calculate that there was about double the ice that Oard's model predicts



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We assume that there was zero ice immediately after the Flood

1. Minimum ocean level was at peak of ice buildup.
2. This is not based on modeling, but is based on measurements of minimum ocean level.

If there was twice as much ice, it could have taken longer to build up, and shortening the ice buildup time would be even more problematic. But note that the ice could have been more widely spread at the peak of glaciation, and was not necessarily twice as thick. It would depend on how the ice was distributed.

II. Are the genealogies incomplete?

- Some claim that there are gaps in Gen. 5 & 11
- Attractive idea because more time can be obtained as needed, but the MT can be retained
- However, no date can be set for either Creation or the Flood
- Weakness in argument that “begat” means “ancestor of”
- Careful listing of numbers in these genealogies show intent to make a complete history

We move on to the second possible solution to the chronological problem of the Ice Age. (The first was that perhaps we have to shorten the Ice Age.)

With this idea, there is no chronological problem – just add in whatever time you need for the Ice Age before Abraham.

Why this is a weak argument: As an example, Eber did not live to fatherhood and then become an ancestor of Peleg; Eber became an ancestor of Peleg the day he was born.

The early church fathers believed that a complete history of the world was inherent in these genealogies.

III. The Septuagint

- 3rd-century BC Greek translation from ancient Hebrew scripture
- Translated in Alexandria, Egypt
- Called the Septuagint (LXX) because traditions claim that 70 scholars translated it

A portion of the Greek Uncial MS. Codex Vaticanus, from the Vatican Library, containing 1 Esdras 2:1-8. Photo: U.S. public domain.

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Our third possibility here is use of the longer Septuagint timeline. Greek was the language of the day. There was a very large community of Jews in Alexandria at the time.

Some LXX facts

- Jesus and the early church used the LXX
- Hundreds of quotes from the NT are from LXX
- The early (BC) Dead Sea Scrolls are based on the LXX; the later (AD) DSS are based on MT
- The LXX is the oldest version of scripture



Psalm scroll. Photo Israel Antiquities Authority 1993, U.S. public domain.

Question: Why do we not use the scripture that Jesus used? The NT totally supports the LXX.

The Dead Sea scrolls divide into two categories, geographically and chronologically. I would suggest that the LXX timeline should be considered valid.

Septuagint timeline and Ice Age

- Longer timeline based on older ages to fatherhood in Gen. 5 & 11
- Flood 3100–3200 BC, Babel dispersion about 530 years later (if at birth of Peleg)
- Time between Flood and Abraham's visit to Egypt 1300+ years
- Adjustment of current Ice Age model would be needed because melting of the ice cannot have occurred before the Babel dispersion
- Delay in onset of ice formation, or a very slow ice buildup, would be needed

The difference between the LXX and MT is 600 years in Gen. 5 and about 700 years in Gen. 11.

The Babel dispersion at the time of Peleg is controversial.

The LXX offers a lot more time for the Ice Age to take place and for Egyptian civilization to develop.

According to the Oard model of the Ice Age, the meltdown began after 500 years of ice buildup. But humans had spread out from Babel and lived during the period of ice.

We leave the Ice Age here. To recap, the Ice Age had to have ended before Abraham and before even the formation of the Nile Delta, and before any Egyptian civilization. We will now move on to the Dynastic period of Egypt.

Neanderthals and the LXX

- Ancient long-lived people of the Bible (Cuozzo)
- Their slow development backs the longer maturation times of LXX in Gen. 5 & 11
- MT: Shem and Eber outlive Abraham
- But Shem and Eber would have been Neanderthals because of their lifespans
- Neanderthals disappeared during the Ice age
- LXX: Shem and Eber died long before Abraham



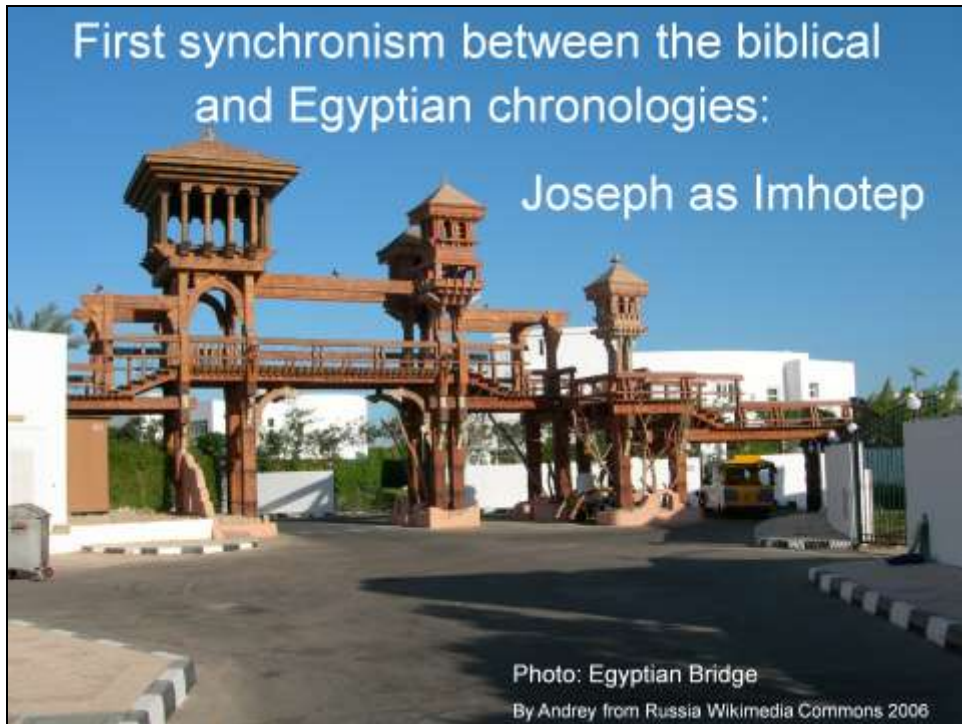
Neanderthal skull from La Chapelle aux Saints. PLoS photo 2004.

The Neanderthals support the LXX timeline.

The lifespan of people was hundreds of years in the period after the Flood; before the Flood, lifespan was up to 900+ years. This means that ALL people from Adam down into the post-Flood Ice Age were most likely some form of Neanderthals.

The LXX lists 100 yrs longer to fatherhood than in the MT in these chapters. According to the MT, Shem and Eber would have lived on into the time of the first Dynasty of Egypt.

As shown earlier, the Ice Age ended long before Abraham. The MT rather confuses things because of the shortened time to fatherhood. This is why the Neanderthals back up the LXX timeline.



We will start with the first of two bridges between the biblical and Egyptian chronologies.

Who was Imhotep?

- Vizier to Djoser, 1st pharaoh of 3rd Dynasty
- Famous as an Egyptian genius
- Architect of stepped pyramid at Saqqara
- Worshipped as a god



Saqqara pyramid. Photo by A Habermehl 2008

Imhotep had a long list of titles: Chancellor of the King of Egypt, Doctor, First in line after the King of Upper Egypt, Administrator of the Great Palace, Hereditary nobleman, High Priest of Heliopolis, Builder, Chief Carpenter, Chief Sculptor, and Maker of Vases in Chief. (You wonder how he found time for it all!)

He was elevated to the level of a god eventually, and was worshipped until the 3rd century AD. Egyptians could not say enough about how great this man was.

Imhotep and the famine stela

- This rock inscription provides a link between Djoser and a seven-year famine
- Imhotep is described as offering a solution to the problem

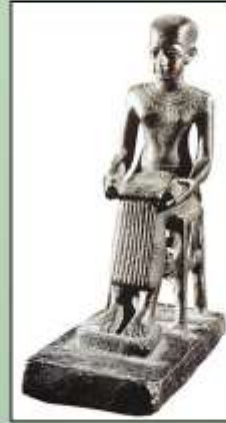


Photo in public domain

The famine stele on Sehel Island in the very south of Egypt speaks of a 7-year famine in the time of the 3rd-Dynasty pharaoh, Djoser. It is thought by most scholars to date to just over 2,000 years ago but some think it is a copy of a much older one

Comparison of Joseph and Imhotep

- Name similarity
- Seven-year famine
- Great wisdom
- Famous as seers
- Lifespan of 110 years



Statue of Imhotep in the Louvre, Paris.
Photo public domain.

Many comparisons have been made between Joseph and Imhotep, but we will look at only a few of the strongest indications that they could be the same person.

“Joseph” is pronounced “Yosef” in modern Israeli Hebrew. Archaic Tiberian Hebrew (going back to 2nd temple times) pronounced it “Yehosep.” (Ye)hosep and (Im)hotep have only “s” and “t” different. 3700 years ago we don’t know how these would have been pronounced.

Pharaoh called Joseph wise (Gen. 41:39). Imhotep was considered a great sage.

Joseph predicted the fates of the butler and baker, and the 7 years of plenty & 7 yrs of famine. Imhotep carried title of “greatest of seers in Heliopolis”

Gen. 50:26 states Joseph’s at death as 110 yrs old. Imhotep’s age is not directly stated in sources we have so far. However, the age of 110 had become a traditional ideal lifespan in Egypt, and this cannot be a coincidence. Mention of 110 as a ripe old age in a 5th-Dynasty manuscript tells us that Joseph/Imhotep had to have died before the end of the 5th Dynasty.

Our conclusion



- Joseph and Imhotep were most likely the same person
- Imhotep (2700 BC, secular time) lived at the same time as Joseph (1700 BC, biblical time)

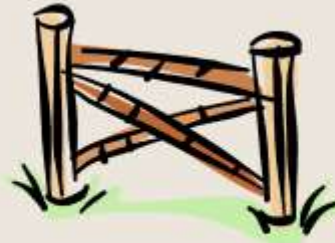
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The probability that these two were the same person is mathematically very high because of the number of strong similarities between them.

Chronological implication here: we are bringing Imhotep forward by 1000 years.

Why has Joseph not been recognized as Imhotep?

Answer: The 1000 years between the two men has been a major obstacle for scholars



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Moving Imhotep forward by 1000 years has been too large a leap to deal with. The amount of divergence between the two timelines will vary considerably over history, and this will be discussed later on.

Implications of Joseph as Imhotep

- Vizier to Djoser of 3rd Dynasty
- Pyramids built with nonslave labor (Gen. 47)
- Pharaoh became wealthy from 1/5 tax (Gen. 47)
- Designer of Saqqara pyramid complex
- Dynasty change from 2nd to 3rd was because of revolutionary architecture
- Giza pyramids (4th Dynasty) designed by Joseph?



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The vizier was a sort of second in command to the pharaoh. Djoser was also called Netjerikhet.

Secular scholars puzzle about the nonslave labor. The Bible tells us that the people eventually sold themselves to the pharaoh during the famine. He could therefore commandeer their services at will. Because the ability of the pharaohs to conscript manpower for these projects started at the time of Imhotep, this is a strong indication that Joseph and Imhotep were the same person.

Joseph's tax made Djoser wealthy so that he could build vast projects.

Saqqara was the first great building project. This was under Djoser, by Imhotep.

Change of dynasty: normally the 3rd Dynasty should have been a mere continuation of the 2nd one.

Joseph most likely lived into the 4th Dynasty. He would have known that the stepped pyramids were pagan, and possibly offspring of the Tower of Babel. It suggests that he may have promoted the smooth pyramid design.

When did Abraham visit Egypt?

- Biblical timeline: 1920 BC at the earliest, 200+ years before Joseph became vizier of Egypt in 1700 BC
- Joseph = Imhotep (2700 BC secular timeline)
- Secular timeline: Abraham may have visited Egypt about 3000 BC, beginning of 1st Dynasty



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We return to Abraham here because in equating Joseph to Imhotep, we get a clue as to where Abraham lies on the secular timeline.

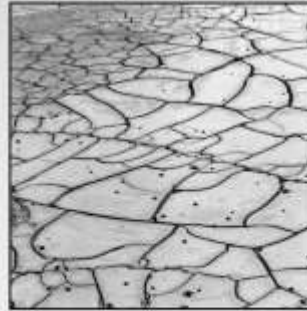
Abraham arrived in Canaan from Harran about 1920 BC. It appears that he was not in Canaan very long before a famine drove him to Egypt.

The secular timeline stretches out as we go back in time, so that the 200 years between Abraham and Joseph on the biblical timeline would agree with 300 years on the secular timeline.

(The LXX reduces all figures by 40 years because of the difference between 440 and 480 years from the Exodus to the beginning of building the temple by Solomon.)

Historical support for this date

- During the reign of Aha (beginning of 1st Dynasty), colonies of Egyptians living in south Palestine suddenly returned home
- Later in 1st Dynasty they returned to Palestine
- Did they return to Egypt to escape the same famine that drove Abraham there?



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(Aha is generally considered to be 1st pharaoh of 1st Dynasty, but not everyone agrees.)

The timing is right for this. This would be a clue to finding the time of Abraham's visit to Egypt in Egyptian history.

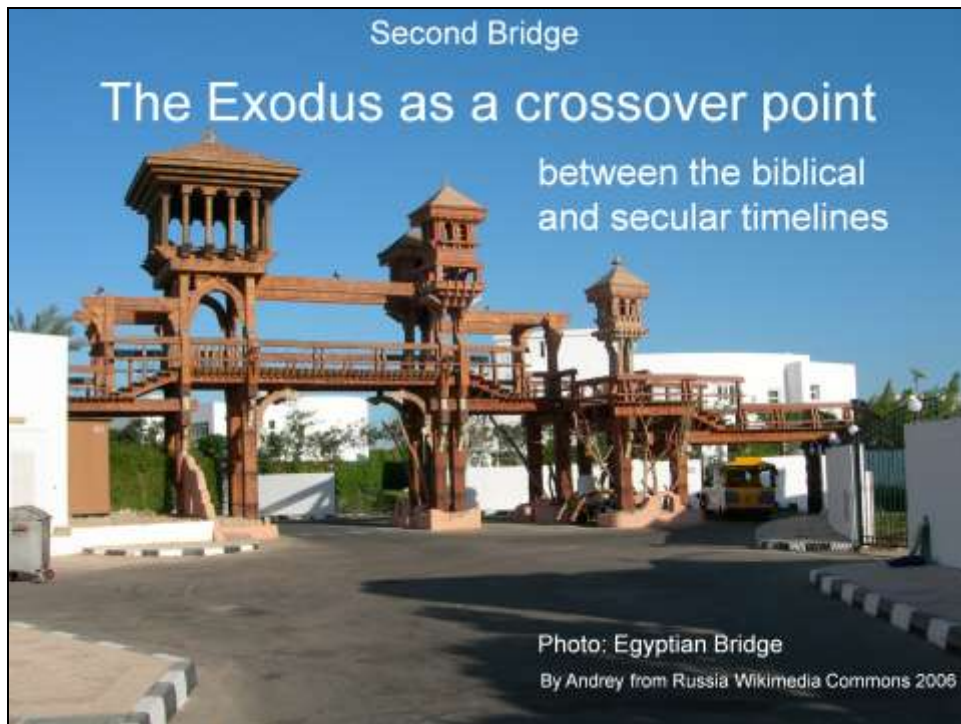
Political considerations

- Abraham was afraid of this unnamed powerful pharaoh who evidently held sway over all of Egypt
- Abraham had to deal with this pharaoh
- This would fit Aha, king over a recently unified Egypt



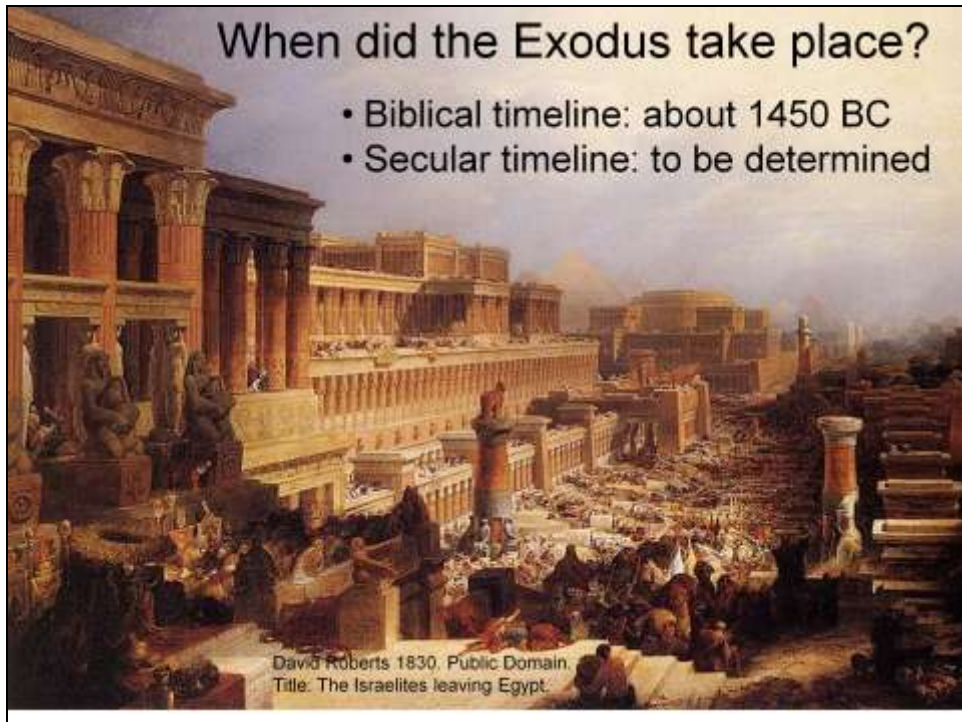
Wenig, 2009. Elfenbeinplakette mit dem Namen des Hor Aha

Abraham could not avoid this pharaoh, although he might have liked to do so because of Sarah



We move on to the second bridge between the biblical and secular timelines.
(The first bridge was Joseph as Imhotep.)

The Exodus is the name we commonly call the event when Jacob's
descendants suddenly left Egypt en masse.



There are variations on the Exodus date among scholars. Calculated from I Kings 6:1, 480 years (MT) or 440 years (LXX) between the Exodus and the year Solomon started building the temple



It is almost laughable to read secular history material and see the explanations that they come up with to show why Egypt collapsed twice.



This is the party line. If you go to any book of Egyptian history, it will outline events as shown above.

Events of both secular intermediate periods

- Egypt collapses suddenly
- Then there is a chaotic series of insignificant native rulers
- Intruders then take over, ruling from the delta
- Egypt is finally freed from the foreign rulers by Theban kings
- There is a new era of peace and prosperity

The 1st intermediate period and the 2nd intermediate period were both introduced by collapses of Egypt.

This series of five events is supposed to have occurred twice. Statisticians, I invite you to calculate the probability of this!

Why historians should study probability

- It is most unlikely that the same unusual string of events happened twice
- It is more likely that there was only one collapse and one intermediate period
- This means that the 6th and 12th Dynasties must have ended at the same time, when the Exodus took place
- Exodus secular dates: about 2200 BC *and* about 1800 BC



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There are therefore two Exodus secular dates: 2200 BC (end of the 6th Dynasty) and about 1800 BC (end of the 12th Dynasty).

How could two dynasties rule at the same time?



Artwork by Jeff Dahl

- Concept of the duality of Egypt
- Upper and Lower Egypt
- Red and White crowns



Artwork by Jeff Dahl

This is the obvious question.

The idea of the two Egypts goes back to the very earliest times right up to the present.

We saw this map earlier.

The red crown of Lower Egypt and the white crown of Upper Egypt are another indication of the duality. These crowns could be worn separately or together as shown.

It is likely a myth that Egypt unified at the beginning of the 1st Dynasty and was ruled by only one pharaoh at a time after that. We suggest that scholars have been naïve in believing that every pharaoh who claimed both the red and white crowns necessarily ruled over all of Egypt, and this has led to confusion. Indeed, I wonder whether there were two dynasties ruling concurrently during quite a bit of Egypt's history.

Are there hints of concurrent dynasties anywhere in history?

- Pyramid of Amenemhat I at Lisht, plus those of two successors
- Beginning of 12th Dynasty
- “Reverted” to size and form of those of 6th Dynasty



Pyramid of Amenemhat I. Photo by Jon Bodsworth 2006

This return to the 6th-Dynasty style of pyramid has mystified historians, who have produced all kinds of speculations.

This is just one example of concurrence of the 6th and 12th Dynasties. There are others.

We should find a record of catastrophe in Egyptian history

Problem: Pharaohs acted as if nothing bad ever happened under their rule



Harp from tomb of Any, Thebes, Egypt. New Kingdom.
© Trustees of the British Museum

Pharaohs never let on if they were ruling only part of Egypt, if they ruled under the authority of a more powerful pharaoh, if they lost a battle, or if their people were starving. To judge by their monumental inscriptions, they always won their battles; Egypt was gloriously prosperous under their rule; and they were the paramount rulers of their day. All was happiness, feasting and harp music. “To admit such defeats and weaknesses would have been to invite internal strife and territorial rebellion.” To that I would add that the Pharaohs had pretty big egos.

The Ipuwer Papyrus or, The Admonitions of Ipuwer

- Ancient manuscript from Egypt
- Appears to describe chaotic conditions that would indicate the plagues
- Egyptologists reject any connection to the Exodus
- Disagreement as to whether it dates to period after the 6th or 12th Dynasty
- Conclusion here: both times are correct.

But there is one clue that has come to us. It is a papyrus manuscript housed in the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, Netherlands. Its writer (who is not a pharaoh) bemoans times when people are starving, servants wear jewels, wealthy people live as paupers, many men are being buried, and the Nile river is blood. It is difficult not to see this as a description of Egypt in the aftermath of the ten plagues that preceded the Exodus. The disputed dates of this papyrus just happen to be when we are saying that the Exodus occurred.

Who was this pharaoh of the Exodus?

This should be easy to determine.

All we have to do is calculate when the Exodus took place.

Then we look at the timeline of Egyptian history to see who was the reigning pharaoh at that time.

That will be the pharaoh of the Exodus.



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So, why all the fuss? This looks like a pretty good way to catch a pharaoh.

That there is a problem with this method of finding the pharaoh of the Exodus is shown by our next slide.

Pharaohs promoted by somebody or other as pharaoh of the Exodus



- Rameses I/II
- Amenhotep II/IV
- Koncharis
- Khasekemre-Neferhotep I
- Tuthmosis I/II/III/IV
- Amenhotep II/III/IV
- Pepi II
- Mentuhotep III
- Djedefre (Ratoises)
- Dedumose I
- Ahmose I
- Horemheb
- Merneptah
- Amenmesse
- Setnakhte
- Titimaues
- Amenemhat IV

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I've listed 24 pharaohs here. If I've omitted your favorite pharaoh of the Exodus, my apologies. Let me know about him, and I'll add him to the list.

What do we know about this Exodus Pharaoh?

- He cannot have been sole ruler of Egypt for long
- He was not a firstborn
- He had at least one son who was a firstborn
- Died by drowning a few days after 10th plague
- Egypt collapsed just after his death
- He ruled at the end of a dynasty
- Mummy missing



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With respect to the missing mummy: of the approximately 200 known pharaohs, only parts or whole mummies are in hand for about 40 of them.

Many would add that he had to have been preceded by a pharaoh who reigned at least 40 years. But this is not necessarily true. The Bible does not specifically say that the pharaoh who was reigning when Moses fled to Midian was the same one who died after 40 years.

Most likely pharaoh of the Exodus: Amenemhat IV

- Father and predecessor: Amenemhat III
- Reigned 1815–1806 BC (secular timeline)
- Second-last pharaoh of 12th Dynasty
- Cause of death, whereabouts of mummy, location of pyramid, all unknown
- Left no known male heirs
- Plaque: Ameni, “The son of the Sun of his body”



Blue glazed steatite plaque bearing the cartouches of Amenemhat IV and Prince Ameny in relief.
© The Trustees of the British Museum

A major unpublished work by Brad Sparks shows definitively why Amenemhat IV was the pharaoh of the Exodus.

Amenemhat III did an enormous amount of building. Amenemhat IV reigned briefly. Amenemhat IV had a son, Ameni, whose name appears along with that of his father on a glazed steatite plaque in the British Museum; in the inscription this son is called “The son of the Sun of his body” (Budge, 1902; British Museum, 1891).

Mystery of Amenemhat IV

- Sobekneferu should have styled herself as his successor, but she did not
- She indicated herself as direct successor of their father, Amenemhat III
- Amenemhat IV was treated as nonexistent
- Why?



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This was very peculiar

- The Egyptians did not normally lose track of their pharaohs
- The pharaoh's physical body was needed to transfer kingship from the dead pharaoh to the new pharaoh
- Transfer through rituals performed in the dead pharaoh's pyramid
- There were other religious implications



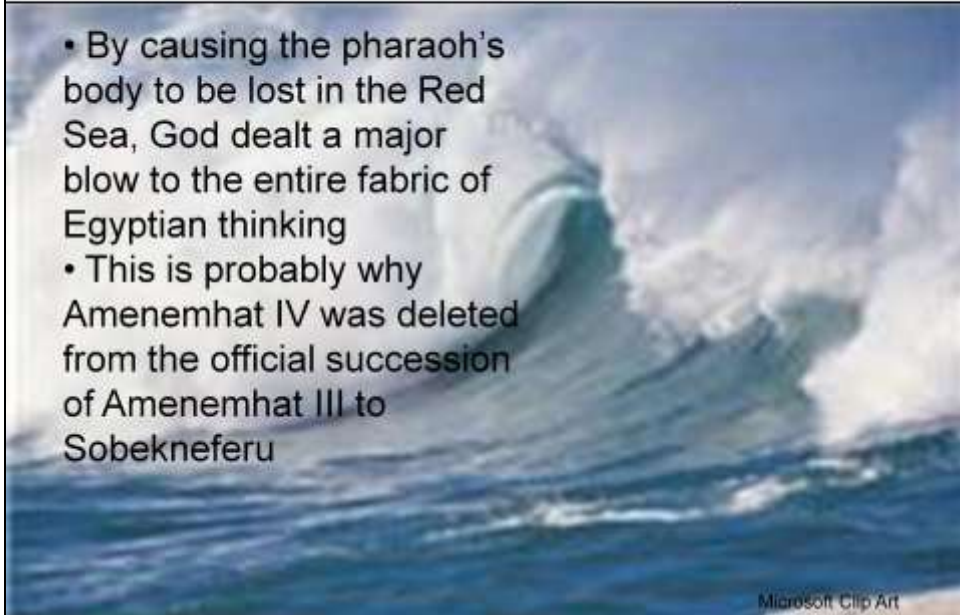
Opening of the mouth ceremony, from Book of the Dead. Photo: Public Domain

It was very, very important to have the dead pharaoh's physical body in hand in order to install the new pharaoh.

This leads to an interesting implication: (next slide)

The unthinkable catastrophe

- By causing the pharaoh's body to be lost in the Red Sea, God dealt a major blow to the entire fabric of Egyptian thinking
- This is probably why Amenemhat IV was deleted from the official succession of Amenemhat III to Sobekneferu



There had to have been a frantic search for the dead pharaoh in the Red Sea. What should they do? Egypt was in enough trouble as it was, with the chaotic post-plague conditions. But to lose the pharaoh's body? How could the country go on? They needed that body!

But there was a political consensus to deal with the reality.

We now move on to how this affects the Egyptian timeline.

Telescoping the dynasties

- The time between Joseph's promotion to vizier and the Exodus was about 225 years (biblical)
- On secular timeline this period is 900 years
- Simple arithmetic: we have to shorten this period by about 675 years



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At the beginning, I said that we would charge into the fray. Well, here we are, in the middle of that fray.

How solid is the secular Egyptian timeline?

- Originally Manetho set the beginning of the 1st Dynasty around 5000 BC
- Today the 1st Dynasty starts around 3000 BC
- Chopping time off Manetho's timeline is an honored tradition



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We will continue that tradition.

We may never totally untangle the knot of Egyptian history

- The Egyptians did not think about history the way we do
- Also, they may not have left us accurate figures of the kings' reigns

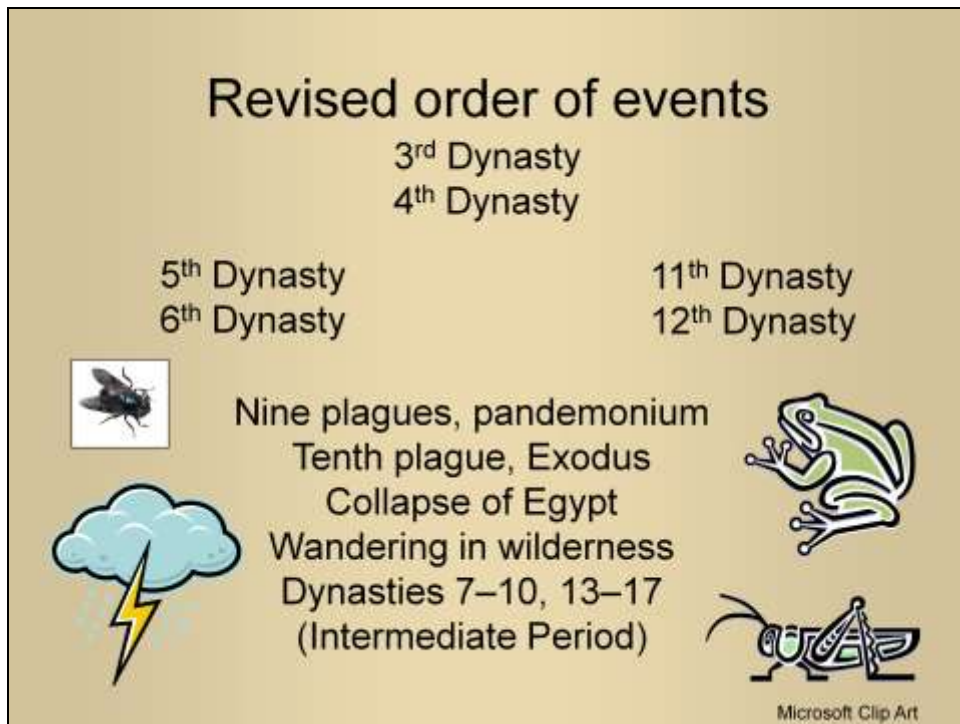


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They did not leave the kind of ordered records that our modern Western minds would like.

Would the Egyptians actually have exaggerated things like the length of their king's reigns? Yes, they would!

Historians think that if they do enough digging, eventually they will solve the puzzle of Egyptian history. But I'm doubtful that they will.

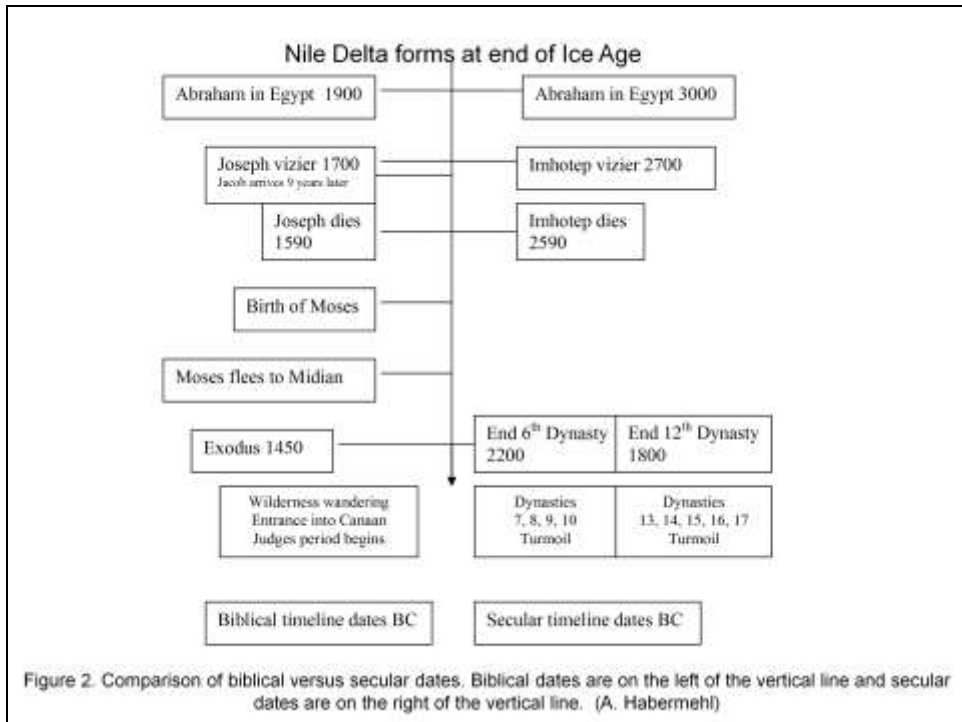


Both the 6th and 12th Dynasties have pharaohs that reigned only briefly after the Exodus.

After those pharaohs, Egypt is fragmented.

There is no mention of Egypt during the time that the Children of Israel were in the wilderness.

Possibly Dynasties 7-10 ruled in Upper Egypt, and simultaneously Dynasties 13-17 in Lower Egypt.



This is a chart that shows this timeline revision, comparing the biblical and secular timelines of events.

This timeline revision

- Secular dates stretch out more and more as we go back in time
- These dates do not do so evenly
- Imhotep moves forward by about 1000 yrs
- End of 12th Dynasty moves forward about 350 yrs
- End of 6th Dynasty moves forward about 750 yrs
- Amount of movement depends on where in the Egyptian timeline a given secular date is attached

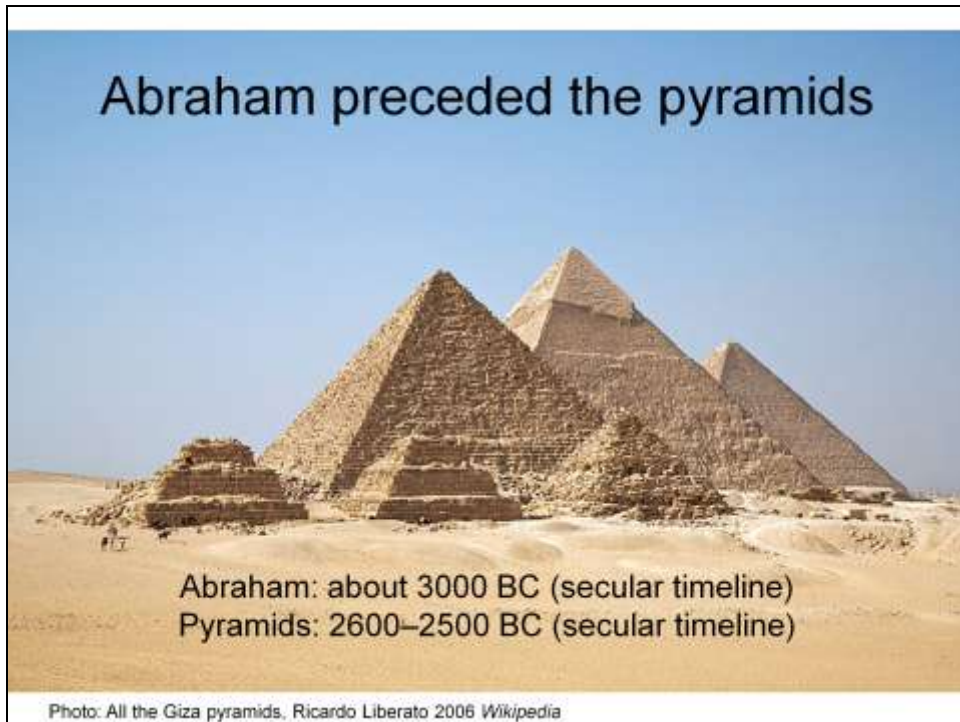
We must not mix together the biblical and secular timelines

- When we do this, we get wrong dates and confusion



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We'll look at a couple of examples.



The Giza pyramids date *after* Abraham.

But I've seen biblical writers who know that Abraham was in Egypt around 1900 BC on the biblical timeline. Therefore, not realizing that there are two timelines here, they claim that Abraham must have seen the pyramids because they believe that the latter were built several hundred years earlier. In fact, the Giza pyramids were built while the Children of Israel were in Egypt, possibly around the time of Joseph's death.



Earlier I promised to return to Jericho.

We can now put a date of about 1750 BC on the secular timeline. This is 40 years after the Exodus at the end of the 12th Dynasty i.e., 40 years after the end of what is called the Middle Kingdom of Egypt.

This is where understanding the divergence of the biblical and secular timelines explains why the secular archaeologists think that there was no city of Jericho to fall – and why they are wrong.

Summary

- The Ice Age ended before the beginning of Egyptian civilization, well before Abraham
- The ancient Egyptian secular timeline diverges widely from the biblical timeline
- The key to revision of the secular timeline is to equate Joseph to Imhotep, and recognize Amenemhat IV as the pharaoh of the Exodus
- We must keep the two timelines separate

THE END



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