Old Testament Introduction
The Bible’s Buried Secrets
Chapter 21, Tel Dan Stele

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/bibles-buried-secrets.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qalTJzk4kO0>

***About the Video***

What is for the most part an exact copy of the video script follows. There are a few places where individual speakers could neither be heard nor understood: for this we apologize. Every effort was made to be precise: there were just spots that defeated us. Since this is a quote in its entirety it seemed unnecessary to mark it with quotation marks. The notation for each speaker is tedious enough: Narrator, Reader, etc. If you discover bothersome errors, please reply to this website and point them out. You may verify the script more easily by starting to replay it where the “time” stamps indicate discussion begins. The second of the above links is free from advertising and thus easier to use.

***Overview***

Our closer summary examination of the Egyptian pharaohs from 1493 to 1001 BC reveals some interesting facts. Tutankhamun was too young and too sick to be a combatant. Ramesses Ⅱ exaggerated his success at Kadesh for the homefolks: at best, it was a stalemate; in reality he sustained heavy losses, and may have crippled the Egyptian military for generations. Merneptah was too old to be a combatant, so all the credits on his stele were the work of subordinates, or additional exaggerations: the fact that the stele was purloined may indicate that Egypt was already bankrupt.

We reevaluated the Israelite chronology based on the LXX text, and took the Egyptian chronology as presented, demonstrating the possibility of an exact fit and disclosing the chance that Amenhotep Ⅱ is the pharaoh of the Exodus.

Then we returned to Tel Dan and Tel Zayit matters to observe that the reality of David’s existence, and the possibility of Moses’s authorship are both reasonably credible without either Tel Dan or Tel Zayit. If anything, Tel Zayit damages the cause for the history of paleo-Hebrew writing.

In all, nothing was found to support or even suggest the origination of J around 950 BC[[1]](#endnote-1), or anything else concerning the various Documentary Hypotheses. What was found is that BBS, in the process of jumping around, risks overlooking and oversimplifying very important material, both biblical and Egyptian.

***Script***

Tel Dan Stele (time 53:20)

Quote:

But then, in 1993 an amazing discovery literally sheds new light on what the Bible calls ancient Israel’s greatest king.[[2]](#endnote-2) Gila Cook[[3]](#endnote-3) was finishing up some survey work with an assistant at Tel Dan,[[4]](#endnote-4) a biblical site in the far north of Israel today. The excavation was headed by the eminent Israeli archaeologist Avraham Biran.[[5]](#endnote-5) It was near the end of the day, Cook was getting her last measurements, when she hears a yell from below.

Cook: And it was Biran’s booming voice, “Gila, let’s go.” And so I waved to him, and continued working.

N: After being summoned by Biran a second time, Cook had her assistant load her up. She started down the hill.

Cook: When I get there, I just drop my bag, and … board, then I set my stuff down.

N: But something catches her eye. A stone, with what appeared to be random scratches, but was actually an ancient inscription. This time she yells for Biran.

Cook: And he looked at it and he looked at me and he says, “Oh my God!”

N: Cook had found a fragment of a victory stele, written in Aramaic[[6]](#endnote-6), an ancient language very similar to Hebrew. Dedicated by the king of Damascus to one of his generals, it celebrates the conquest of Israel, boasting, “I slew mighty kings who harnessed thousands of chariots, and thousands of horsemen. I killed the king of the house of David.” Those words, the house of David, make this a critical discovery. They are strong evidence that David really lived. Unlike Genesis, the stories of Israel’s kings moved the biblical narrative out of the realm of legend and into the light of history.[[7]](#endnote-7)

Dever: The later we come in time, the firmer ground we stand on. We have better sources, we have more written sources, we have more contemporary eyewitness sources.

N: When the biblical chronology[[8]](#endnote-8) of Israel’s kings can be cross referenced with historical inscriptions, like the Tel Dan Stele, they can provide scholars with fairly reliable dates. King David is the earliest biblical figure confirmed by archaeology to be historical.[[9]](#endnote-9) And most scholars agree, he lived around 1000 BC, the tenth century. Could any of the Bible have been written during David’s reign? The earliest Hebrew alphabet, discovered by Ron Tappy, carved on a stone at Tel Zayit provides an enticing clue.[[10]](#endnote-10)

Tappy: The stone was incised, with this alphabet, the stone was then used to build the wall. And the structure itself suffered massive destruction by fire sometime near the end of the tenth century BCE.

N: The find is even more significant because Tel Zayit was a biblical backwater, on the fringes of David’s kingdom.

Unquote.

***Leaping***

How quaint.[[11]](#endnote-11) In the previous segment we suddenly leaped from the top of the Karnak wall,[[12]](#endnote-12) to a clip about Israelite polytheistic infidelity, to David and Goliath, to David and Bathsheba, to David the singing shepherd boy, to Solomon the nation and temple builder, to David the fictional character. Now we leap from Tel Dan back to Tel Zayit, without much reason. The only information gleaned from Tel Dan is the grudging confession that Davis might possibly be an historic character; even though his larger-than-life presence discourages such an admission

While we were sleeping, we missed several main events since, and even before Amenhotep Ⅲ (1388-1351 BC) wrote about the Shasu of Yhw at Soleb. Let’s try to recover some of these historic events.

***Egyptians***

**Hyksos**

The so-called Hyksos dynasty, the fifteenth dynasty (1674-1535 BC) is far too early to have much, or any relationship with Israel. Based on the successful development of an LXX chronology, we look for the birth Joseph around 1660 BC; enslavement around 1643 BC; and named viceroy around 1630 BC. This seems to indicate that Joseph is part of a Semitic migration toward Egypt. While there is a temporal match, Joseph is supportive of Egypt, not antagonistic to it. This could indicate a power struggle between Upper and Lower Egypt, in which, due to hordes of starving immigrants, the Israelites get a bad name by association, and get thrown under the bus along with the other immigrants. However, the Hyksos are expelled, while the Israelites, still a tiny minority, are allowed to stay unmolested.[[13]](#endnote-13) Conflict arises later, prior to the birth of Moses (circa 1486). The development of the Israelites into a substantial population may have triggered bad memories concerning the Hyksos, among loyal Egyptians, who may have been thinking along the lines, here we go again. Nevertheless, the Israelites and the Hyksos are distinct groups. The Hyksos have their own dynasty and are long gone. The Israelites are peaceful, and show no desire for dynasty or empire building. It is possible for innocent people to be oppressed as the result of prejudice, and the bad deeds of others.

**Hatshepsut**

Hatshepsut (1479-1458 BC): daughter of Thutmose Ⅰ (1503-1493 BC) and Ahmose; wife of Thutmose Ⅱ (1493-1479 BC); mother of Neferure; stepmother of Thutmose Ⅲ; and most likely the adoptive mother of Moses (b 1486) is one of the most powerful women that ever lived. After the death of her husband Thutmose Ⅱ, she made herself co-regent with Thutmose Ⅲ, although she is clearly the more powerful of the two. At her death, she was buried in the Valley of Kings.[[14]](#endnote-14)

**Thutmose Ⅲ**

Thutmose Ⅲ (1479-1425 BC) does not come into his own until after the death of his step mother. He fought vigorously from Kadesh[[15]](#endnote-15) to Carchemish,[[16]](#endnote-16) in sixteen or seventeen campaigns, over a period of twenty years, engaging sixty or more cities: Gezer (possibly Gaza), Joppa, Acre, Megiddo, Hazor, Damascus, Kadesh, Hamath, Aleppo, Carchemish; against the city-less Shasu people; yet not against Ashkelon, Ashdod, Jerusalem, Masada, or Samaria. After attacking Gezer, did he in fact retreat to Joppa, and from Joppa sail to Acre, and from Acre launch his battles against Megiddo, Hazor, Damascus, and on to Carchemish? Thutmose Ⅲ would have been the pharaoh in power, after the death of Hatshepsut, when Moses became a fugitive (1446 BC).[[17]](#endnote-17)

**Amenhotep Ⅱ**

Amenhotep Ⅱ (1425-1398 BC) engages: Hazor, Kadesh, Ni, Qatna, Tunip (Nuhašše or Syria), and Aleppo. In broad generic terms, lower and upper Retenu are mentioned, but not the Shasu. Does this reference to the lower Retenu mean Djahy or Canaan?[[18]](#endnote-18) Does upper Retenu indicate Lebanon, and Amurru? In specific terms, he spent most of his efforts in Syria, which was then known as Nuhašše. A ship is mentioned in his first campaign against Kadesh, which may indicate that he reached strategic targets primarily by sailing. Egyptian power appears to be waning. The child prince, Amenhotep, seems to die in his youth. Amenhotep Ⅱ is the best candidate for pharaoh of the Exodus in 1406 BC.[[19]](#endnote-19)

**Thutmose Ⅳ**

Thutmose Ⅳ (1398-1388 BC) mentions: Kadesh, Tunip (Nuhašše or Syria); Naharin (Mitanni or Assyria), Shankhar (Shinar or Mesopotamia), Takhshi (possibly Persia) and the Shasu.[[20]](#endnote-20) Since we find no reports of campaigns or wars for Thutmose Ⅳ, these mentions may indicate the receipt of ambassadors from these lands or mentions in honor of his famous grandfather or wedding guests. He married a Mitanni princess to seal an alliance with them. The Hittites are not mentioned. All of this speaks of a great loss or reduction of Egyptian power or perhaps resting on the laurels of that power.[[21]](#endnote-21)

**Amenhotep Ⅲ**

Amenhotep Ⅲ (1388-1351 BC) mentions: Joseph-El (possibly Avaris or Canaan), Pella (Transjordan), Keftiu (Crete), Tyre, Byblos, Damascus, Kadesh, Ugarit, Tunip (Nuhašše or Syria), Nukhashshe[[22]](#endnote-22) (Syria), Qatna, Aleppo, Carchemish, Hatti, Mitanni, Naharin (Mitanni or Assyria), Assyria, Shankhar (Shinar or Mesopotamia), Takhshi (possibly Persia), Arrapkah (unknown), Yanoam (unknown), and the Shasu. This increase in activity may indicate an increase in Egyptian power and prestige. However, this does not appear to be an increase in northern campaign activity, since the Amenhotep Ⅲ campaigns seem to be limited to Kush (Nubia or Sudan). The Shasu may also be the Shasu of Kush.[[23]](#endnote-23)

**Gap A**

Then there seems to be a gap in northern campaigns starting with Amenhotep Ⅳ/Akhenaten (1351-1334 BC), who is known to have conducted one campaign into Nubia. Akhenaten is better known for his, to Egyptians, henotheistic and heretical inclinations, which appear to have undone most of his father’s successes.[[24]](#endnote-24) Smenkhkare (1335-1334 BC) did not leave enough evidence, or reign long enough, to be involved in any campaigns.[[25]](#endnote-25) Queen Pharaoh Neferneferuaten (1334-1332 BC), who is possibly also known either as Meritaten, the consort of Smenkhkare, or as Nefertiti, the consort of Akhenaten, is not likely to have conducted any campaigns either. In any case, much of the evidence has been defaced.[[26]](#endnote-26) Tutankhamun (1332-1323 BC), who appears to be the last male heir of the line of Akhenaten, preferred Thebes over Amarna, and did much to reverse his father’s religious policy. Although, “battles with Nubians and Asiatics were recorded in his mortuary temple at Thebes,” evidently, he may have been physically incapable of participating in campaigns.[[27]](#endnote-27) Ay (1323-1319 BC), who may have been of mixed Egyptian-Nuhaššian blood, may not have been a descendent of the Ahmose Ⅰ lineage at all. As advisor to Tutankhamun, at his death, Ay became pharaoh.[[28]](#endnote-28) Evidently, Horemheb, the last pharaoh of the eighteenth dynasty also attempted to delete all evidence of this age from Akhenaten to Ay.

**Horemheb**

Horemheb (1319-1292 BC), possibly a commoner, engages: Pella, Kadesh, Ugarit, Tunip (Nuhašše or Syria), Qatna, Hatti, Arzawa (Hittite in western Anatolia), Naharin (Mitanni or Assyria), Assyria, Shankhar (Shinar or Mesopotamia), Altaku (unknown), Lullu (unknown), Papkhi (unknown). The exact nature of Horemheb’s conquests are not known. Pella is the only piece of evidence that he showed any interest close to Canaan. Pella’s location may indicate that they were part of the Assyrian support system, and had nothing to do with Canaan. Considering the vast majority of his targets, it would make most sense if he sailed to Ugarit and avoided Canaan and Palestine altogether. From Ugarit he would logically sweep up the Orontes to Kadesh, then north and west to Arzawa, and finally east to Shankhar. He may have been able to count on Mitanni allies to keep the Hatti under control once they were defeated; Arzawa may have been delighted to be out from under the Hatti thumb.[[29]](#endnote-29)

**Ramesses Ⅰ**

Ramesses Ⅰ (1292-1290 BC), also a commoner, received the throne from the childless Horemheb, perhaps as a reward for his loyal service to Egypt. Although Ramesses gave his name to initiate the new nineteenth dynasty, his life of service was already spent, his reign of only two years was too brief to mount campaigns and build monuments.[[30]](#endnote-30)

**Seti Ⅰ**

Seti Ⅰ (1290-1279 BC) engages: Raphia (Gaza), lower and upper Retenu, Pella, Beth-Shan (Scythopolis), Alashiya (possibly Cyprus), Isy, Acre, Megiddo, Hazor, Tyre, Uzu (Usu?), Kadesh, Hamath, Beth-Anath (Ugarit, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel), Tunip (Nuhašše or Syria), Qatna, Hatti, Arzawa (Hittite in western Anatolia), Naharin (Mitanni or Assyria), Assyria, Shankhar (Shinar or Mesopotamia), Takhshi (possibly Persia), Altaku (unknown), Kiriath-Anab (unknown), Kumidi (unknown), Lullu (unknown), Papkhi (unknown), Ullaza (unknown), Yanoam (unknown), and the Shasu. The fact that Seti only speaks of Canaan generically leads us to believe that he had little interest in this area other than to protect his own borders at Raphia. He had plenty to do in eleven short years, just to manage his exploits in Nuhašše, Anatolia, Assyria, deep into Mesopotamia, and Persia. His presence on Cyprus indicates that his troop movements were by sail. Tales of his exploits in Canaan appear to be exaggerated. He cannot possibly be the uncle of Moses at the same time as he engages Israelites in Canaan: his dates are far too late. His reign is far too brief to then settle affairs at Kadesh, Arzawa (Hittite in western Anatolia), Shankhar (Shinar or Mesopotamia), and beyond.[[31]](#endnote-31)

**Ramesses Ⅱ**

Ramesses Ⅱ (1279-1213) engages: Jacob-El (possibly Nile Delta, Canaan, or Philistine), lower Retenu, Moab, Pella, Apheq, Geba (Geva Carmel), Beth-Shan (Scythopolis), Keftiu (Crete), Isy (Cyprus), Acre, Merom (Hazor), Tyre, Uzu (Usu?), Rosh-Kadesh, Hamath, Beth-Anath (Ugarit, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel), Hatti, Arzawa (Hittite in western Anatolia), Mitanni, Naharin (Mitanni or Assyria), Arrapkha, Assyria, Shankhar (Shinar or Mesopotamia), Takhshi (possibly Persia), Altaku (unknown), Deper (unknown), Kiriath-Anab (unknown), Lullu (unknown), Migdol (unknown), Papkhi (unknown), Ullaza (unknown), Yanoam (unknown), and the Shasu. It seems as if Ramesses has been more concerned with sites in Canaan than any pharaoh since Thutmose Ⅲ. Still the bulk of these sites are either in Transjordan or near Megiddo.[[32]](#endnote-32) Geba has an alternate location close to Jerusalem: but the Israelites have not yet captured Jerusalem, so this seems an unlikely prospect.[[33]](#endnote-33)

**Gap B**

Another gap in northern campaigns seems to start with Merneptah (1213-1203 BC) who was approaching sixty or even past seventy when he began to reign. It is unlikely that he personally initiated any campaigns at this age. His campaign against the Tjeḥenu was probably conducted by younger advisors. As his father had exaggerated his success at Rosh-Kadesh, we suspect that the son imitated the father’s practice. We also have considerable doubt about the afterthought lines on his stele.

Hatti is pacified; The Canaan has been plundered into every sort of woe: Ashkelon has been overcome; Gezer (possibly Gaza) has been captured; Yano'am is made non-existent. Israel is laid waste and his seed is not; Hurru is become a widow because of Egypt.[[34]](#endnote-34)

Considering his extreme age, these afterthoughts are completely unbelievable. In spite of other claims, the sites of both Yano'am and Hurru remain unknown. Expeditions of previous pharaohs against Yanoam, would more likely place it in Nuhašše, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, or Esdraelon. Hurru could easily be Anatolian.[[35]](#endnote-35) Activity at Ashkelon and Gezer, may be nothing more than the firming of alliances with the Philistines. At most, the Israel comment indicates the support of one of Israel’s oppressors in Judges, and not the direct involvement of Egypt.[[36]](#endnote-36) The only campaign of Seti Ⅱ (1203-1197 BC) seems to be that against his half-brother. Contentions for control of the throne kept Egypt too busy to engage in war.[[37]](#endnote-37) Amenmesse (1201-1198 BC) is the half-brother, adversary, usurper of Seti Ⅱ.[[38]](#endnote-38) We prefer the view that Siptah (1197-1191 BC) is Amenmesse’s son because both he and Amenmesse are excluded at Medinet Habu.[[39]](#endnote-39) Queen Twosret (1191-1189 BC) ended her reign with civil war, her tomb was plastered over by Setnakhte, indicating his total lack of respect for her.[[40]](#endnote-40) Setnakhte (1189-1186 BC) at most seems to have restored stability to Egyptian government, thus establishing the twentieth dynasty, which may be a restoration of the Rammeside line to power. He may have reigned for four years rather that three, which would seem to set the Egyptian chronology back by one year.[[41]](#endnote-41)

**Ramesses Ⅲ**

Ramesses Ⅲ (1186-1155 BC): engages: Karmaim (Sudan), Jacob-El (possibly Nile Delta, Canaan, or Philistine), Levi-El (possibly Philistine), upper Retenu, Apheq, Isy (Cyprus), Beth-Dagon (Nuhašše), Tyre, Kadesh, Rosh-Kadesh, Tunip (Nuhašše or Syria), Qatna, Aleppo, Carchemish, Hatti, Arzawa (Hittite in western Anatolia), Mitanni, Naharin (Mitanni or Assyria), Altaku (unknown), Migdol (unknown), Papkhi (unknown), Yanoam (unknown). Ramesses’s expedition(s) again seem to focus on Nuhašše and Anatolia. The strength to penetrate Assyria, Shankhar (Shinar or Mesopotamia), and Takhshi (possibly Persia) appears to be lost. He is beset by Tjeḥenu invasions, and fiscal decline. Finally, he is assassinated by his own people led by one of his wives. The Israelite names Jacob-El, Joseph-El, and Levi-El remain a mystery, since no certain identification was made for any of them: they may be a remnant of better days when Egyptian/Israelite relations were on good terms, and thus name old locations in the Delta or Gaza.[[42]](#endnote-42) In any case there do not appear to be any expeditions into Canaan proper. The weakening of Egypt may help explain the rise of Philistine dominance.[[43]](#endnote-43)

**Gap C**

A final pre-Davidic gap in northern campaigns begins with Ramesses Ⅳ (1155-1149 BC), after the fiscal and invasion threats to the Egyptians, he devoted himself to building, rather than war.[[44]](#endnote-44) Ramesses Ⅴ (1149-1145 BC) experienced loss of power to the priests and further invasions of the Tjeḥenu.[[45]](#endnote-45) Ramesses Ⅵ (1145-1137 BC) continues in decline.[[46]](#endnote-46) Ramesses Ⅶ (1137-1130 BC) faces turmoil as grain prices soar.[[47]](#endnote-47) Ramesses Ⅷ (1130-1129 BC) lapses into obscurity.[[48]](#endnote-48) Ramesses Ⅸ (1129-1111 BC) is more known for the tomb robberies that took place during his reign,[[49]](#endnote-49) than for his building projects.[[50]](#endnote-50) Ramesses Ⅹ (1111-1107 BC) is marked by more obscurity.[[51]](#endnote-51) Ramesses Ⅺ (1107-1077 BC) continued the trials concerning the tomb robbery scandals, yet his regime was marked by intrigue involving Piankh and Pinehesy.[[52]](#endnote-52) Smendes (1077-1051 BC) begins the new twenty-first dynasty in Lower Egypt with its power center in Tanis,[[53]](#endnote-53) rather than in Thebes, with only “nominal authority over Upper Egypt.” No campaigns are listed.[[54]](#endnote-54) Amenemnisu (1051-1047 BC) had no known campaigns.[[55]](#endnote-55) Pinedjem Ⅰ (co-regent) (1062-1039 BC) was the high priest of Atum and *de facto* ruler of Thebes until he declared himself to be the southern pharaoh. He fought no known campaigns.[[56]](#endnote-56) Psusennes Ⅰ (1047-1001 BC), the silver pharaoh was a modest builder, not a fighter. He is credited with moving the monuments of Pi-Ramesses to Tanis.[[57]](#endnote-57)

***Israelites***

In previous studies, we had retained the Masoretic Text (MT) Israelite chronology. We had postponed any real study of the Septuagint (LXX) witness. Yet, every day we discovered new evidence concerning the Bible and Egypt; so, if it seems as if our position is growing and shifting: that’s because it is. This is a bit like working an old picture puzzle. The pieces were hard enough to figure out when the puzzle was new. Now the puzzle edges are old and tattered; parts of the picture are worn off. Whole pieces are lost. Still, the picture becomes clearer every day. Soon, you will be helping to complete the task. Here are the results of our first real exploration of LXX chronology.

Abraham: circa 1836 BC[[58]](#endnote-58)

Seven Years of Famine: not dated[[59]](#endnote-59)

LXX: Israel enters Egypt with sixty-six people in all; combined with Joseph and his family of nine: seventy-five: 1621 BC

MT: Israel enters Egypt with sixty-six people in all; combined with Joseph and his family of four: seventy: 1661 BC[[60]](#endnote-60)

Exodus from Ramesses: 1406 BC[[61]](#endnote-61)

Exodus from Mount Sinai: 1405 BC[[62]](#endnote-62)

Rejection of the Covenant and Resultant Suffering: 1405-1366 BC[[63]](#endnote-63)

Death of Aaron: 1366 BC[[64]](#endnote-64)

Transjordan Wars, Delivery of Deuteronomy: 1366-1364 BC[[65]](#endnote-65)

Death of Moses: 1364 BC[[66]](#endnote-66)

Jordan, Jericho, Ai, Ebal, Gibeon: 1364-1363 BC[[67]](#endnote-67)

Counterattack of the Amorite and Canaanite Coalitions: 1363-1354 BC[[68]](#endnote-68)

Death of Joshua: 1354 BC[[69]](#endnote-69)

Cushan-Rishathaim’s Mesopotamian Domination: 1354-1347 BC[[70]](#endnote-70)

Othniel of Judah’s Deliverance and Judgeship: 1347-1308 BC[[71]](#endnote-71)

Eglon’s Moabite Domination: 1308-1291 BC[[72]](#endnote-72)

Ehud of Benjamin’s and Shamgar of Anath’s Deliverance and Judgeship; The Philistine presence is already felt: 1291-1212 BC[[73]](#endnote-73)

Jabin’s and Sisera’s Canaanite Domination from Hazor: 1212-1193 BC[[74]](#endnote-74)

Deborah of Ephraim’s, Barak of Naphtali’s, and Jael the Kenite’s Deliverance and Judgeship: 1193-1154 BC[[75]](#endnote-75)

Midianite and Amalekite Domination: 1154-1148 BC[[76]](#endnote-76)

Gideon’s Deliverance and Judgeship: 1148-1109 BC[[77]](#endnote-77)

Abimelech Usurps Authority: 1109-1107 BC[[78]](#endnote-78)

Tola’s Deliverance and Judgeship: 1107-1085 BC[[79]](#endnote-79)

Jair’s Deliverance and Judgeship: 1085-1064 BC[[80]](#endnote-80)

Joint Philistine and Ammonite Domination: 1064-1047 BC[[81]](#endnote-81)

Jephthah’s Deliverance and Judgeship from the Ammonites: 1047-1042 BC[[82]](#endnote-82)

Ibzan’s Deliverance and Judgeship from the Ammonites: 1042-1036 BC[[83]](#endnote-83)

Elon’s Deliverance and Judgeship from the Ammonites: 1036-1027 BC[[84]](#endnote-84)

Abdon’s Deliverance and Judgeship from the Ammonites: 1027-1020 BC)[[85]](#endnote-85)

Continuing Philistine Domination: 1064-1025 BC[[86]](#endnote-86)

Samson’s Personal Fights: possibly 1064-1045 BC[[87]](#endnote-87)

Eli’s Priesthood and Judgeship: 1044-1025 BC[[88]](#endnote-88)

The Ark Revolts: 1025-1024 BC[[89]](#endnote-89)

The Ark Vacations in Philistia: 1024 BC[[90]](#endnote-90)

The Ark at Kirjath Jearim: 1024-1005 BC[[91]](#endnote-91)

The Philistines Stymied at Ebenezer: 1024 BC[[92]](#endnote-92)

Samuel is Prophet, Priest, and King Maker: 1025-1020 BC[[93]](#endnote-93)

Saul’s Service as a northern Israelite chief: 1050-1010 BC

Saul’s Reign: circa 1025-1010 BC[[94]](#endnote-94)

David’s birth and youth: 1040-1010 BC[[95]](#endnote-95)

David’s Reign over Judah: 1010-1003 BC[[96]](#endnote-96)

David’s Monarchy: 1003-970 BC[[97]](#endnote-97)

David brings the Ark to Jerusalem: 1005 BC[[98]](#endnote-98)

Solomon’s Monarchy: 970-930 BC[[99]](#endnote-99)

Solomon’s Fourth Year, Temple Construction Begins: 966 BC[[100]](#endnote-100)

Rehoboam’s (930-914 BC) and Jeroboam’s (930-… BC) Divided Reigns[[101]](#endnote-101)

Shishak’s Invasion and Domination: 925 BC[[102]](#endnote-102)

***Convergence***

BBS has been promoting the idea of agreement between archaeology and the Bible, using words like convergence, resonance, synthesis, intersection, and connection. The conclusion of this promotion is that archaeology and the Bible are opposed to each other. We hope to show some real possibility of agreement. Without additional discoveries, it is unlikely that we can improve this scenario very much. Our goal is not to prove what is, but to establish what is credibly and reasonably possible. We need the help of professional Egyptologists to improve the data: but at least we will now know the sort of evidence for which we search. After all it is the quest for such agreement which will finally bring the whole picture into bright focus. What does such a proposed shift look like?

At the Exodus from Ramesses (1406 BC), the reign and death of Amenhotep Ⅱ (1425-1398 BC) now coincide very well: minor adjustments could make this fit perfect. Moreover, the firstborn son, prince Amenhotep, the junior, the heir apparent dies (1406 BC) and the second son, Thutmose Ⅳ (1398-1388 BC) ascends to the throne. Although the Thutmose Ⅳ records mention Asia, there is no evidence that he campaigned much of anywhere. He devoted his life to restoring the Sphinx, and he pulled off a master piece of statecraft by wedding a Mitanni princess, which would have helped to squelch the Hittites. During the Thutmose Ⅳ reign the Israelites arrive at Sinai, receive the law, and reject the covenant on the basis of the evil spy report.

Amenhotep Ⅲ (1388-1351 BC) seems to enjoy a splash of glory; yet for all the names on his ego wall displays, he seems to have done limited campaigning in Nubia, giving the bulk of his life to building projects. Thus the Israelites were able to complete their wilderness punishment and conquest (1406-1354 BC) without his interference.

Between 1351 and 1334 BC the Egyptians hide themselves in the Amarna period of religious obscurity. Since Akhenaten appears to be imitating Israelite monotheism, it is only fair to ask why? Akhenaten, not a first son either, could have easily been a small boy when Yahweh unleashed the plagues on Egypt. It appears that Egypt and her pharaohs have lost a considerable sense of their empire and traditional deities. Thutmose Ⅳ fiddles with the Sphinx, obviously trying to regain some identity. Amenhotep Ⅲ becomes an architect and builder, Akhenaten upends the complete government and religious system. This leaves Israel hands-free to ward off a major Mesopotamian threat (1354-1347 BC).

By the time that Horemheb (1319-1292 BC) is able to restore stability in Egypt, it is too late to do anything other than fend off Hittite forces and repair eviscerated international relations. He is aided by his friend and colleague Ramesses Ⅰ (1292-1290 BC). These two commoners have rebuilt Egypt, regained much lost prestige, and Ramesses’s children will lead the new dynasty. However, Israel is now close to fending off a major Moabite uprising (1308-1291 BC).

When Seti Ⅰ (1290-1279 BC) takes the throne, he is evidently confronted with major problems in Nuhašše, Anatolia, and Shankhar. His efforts further south seem to be limited to border defense at Gaza, and support of forts at Megiddo and Hazor, as well as some involvement with the Phoenicians.[[103]](#endnote-103) By 1291 BC, the Israelites have completely suppressed the Moabites. Seti’s interactions at Pella could indicate either Moabite support, or defense against Shankhar, or both, or simply the maintenance of the northern frontier defense continuing from the Plain of Esdraelon to the other side of the Jordan.

Ramesses Ⅱ (1279-1213 BC), obviously not the Pharaoh of the Exodus, continues to have problems in Nuhašše and Anatolia. Although historians score the battle with the Hittites as a draw, neither side escaped without massive casualties, equipment loss, and Ramesses with his life. Hence, the Siege of Dapur (either in Nuhašše or at Tabor in Canaan) was not much to write home about. Since Dapur is recorded against Hittites, if at Tabor it indicates Ramesses extreme weakening of forces: he is forced to withdraw south to lengthen and weaken Hittite supply lines, which appear to be land dependent. In either case (north or south) Ramesses the Great is unable to do much about the Israelite problem. The peace of Ehud and Shamgar (1291-1212 BC) has nearly come and gone. Hazor (1212-1193 BC) is staged to overrun Israel, perhaps with little Egyptian support.

Egyptian strength is very low in the time of Merneptah through Setnakhte (1213-1186 BC). Merneptah is an old man, too old to fight. The Tjeḥenu are causing trouble in the west and may have overrun the Delta and into Gaza. Problems continue in Nuhašše, Anatolia, or Mesopotamia. Internal strife tears the empire to shreds. Setnakhte is finally able to restore some semblance of order. The Canaanites at Hazor (1212-1193 BC), without much Egyptian support are about to be destroyed. Egypt is on the brink of ceasing to be the dominant world empire.

Ramesses Ⅲ (1186-1155 BC) inherits a bucket of worms. The Karmaim, Tjeḥenu, Nuhašše, and Anatolia are all up in arms. He appears to be unable to penetrate Assyria, Shankhar, or Takhshi. One of his wives leads a revolt, and he is assassinated by his own people, in the internal power struggle. The Israelites annihilate Hazor, Deborah is Judge (1193-1154 BC).

Egypt is weakened beyond repair for the rest of the era (1155-1001 BC). The Israelites have their own self-caused troubles. Midianites, Amalekites, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Ammonites, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Philistines, Samson, Eli, and Saul all come and go, blown away by the sands and winds of time. Yahweh teaches Israel vital lessons about loyalty and worship (1024-1005 BC). Victory comes via miracles and prayer. When the smoke clears away Samuel, the child prophet, one of the greatest heroes of history has vanished without much evidence of his presence, and an insignificant shepherd boy, David has been made king of Judah (1010-1003 BC), and of all Israel (1003-970 BC). David, far from being the invincible warrior that everyone thinks him to be, has spent his first 37 years in insignificance, most of it running for his life.[[104]](#endnote-104)

Have we reached some level of agreement yet?

***War***

There are certain facts of war that cannot be neglected. Egypt’s major combat assets include: pharaohs with superior leadership skills and battle prowess, river navigation skills, advanced archery skills, high-speed maneuverable chariots, compound bows, the world’s best infantry.[[105]](#endnote-105) Egypt’s weaknesses include loss of intelligence, athleticism, and strength from excessive inbreeding, or incest; focus on show rather than reality; excess ambition; lack of open sea navigation skills; Bronze Age weapons.[[106]](#endnote-106) Having set the stage with pharaoh as god, weak pharaohs presented a problem that had to be overcome with advertising and false rhetoric.

War is expensive in terms of its preparation and conduct, in terms of loss of life and equipment, as well as through plunder. No one in the history of man has ever won a war. At the end of years of international confrontations, Egypt is bankrupt.

In terms of strategy and tactics one does not put chariots, horses, and infantry through a 500 to 900 mile death march before entering into battle. When one is the Master of Rivers, possibly with the aid of Phoenicians to navigate the Mediterranean, one moves chariots, horses, and infantry on Nile war barges, preferably to a river mouth for a port, where ranges are within 200 miles. Everyone is fresh and ready for battle.[[107]](#endnote-107) The only other option is to maintain advanced forts, such as Hazor with permanently stationed chariots, horses, and infantry, together with all their other equipment, food, and supplies: yet these must also be supplied by sea.

This adds up to Israel being an irritation, or possible embarrassment, an optional priority. In the greater scheme of things, the Karmaim, Tjeḥenu, Nuhašše, Arzawa, Hatti, Mitanni, Naharin, Assyria, Shankhar, and Takhshi are real world, first class priorities, each with the capability of attacking Egypt. The Israelites mind their own business, they never attack anybody.

The study of this era must answer at least one crucial, vital question. Why is there little or no record of Egyptian-Israelite interaction during the period from 1406 to 1010?[[108]](#endnote-108) Part of the answer can always be, we haven’t yet found the records. On the other hand, two other reasons seem obvious: 1. The Egyptians were too busy elsewhere to be bothered. 2. The Israelites interests were spiritual, they never had a goal of physical world domination.

***Tel Dan and Tel Zayit***

This is the backdrop for David and Solomon. It’s nice to find the name of David in writing; yet the Tel Dan Stele (870-750 BC) is one hundred-forty years later than we would like to see. What would be nice to find is an inscription of David’s ascension in 1010 BC, or the return of the Ark in 1003 BC.[[109]](#endnote-109) The Mesha Stele (840 BC), discovered around 1868, has several Moabite tangencies with Israel, specifically Omri and Yahweh, and possibly on line 31, “house of David.”[[110]](#endnote-110) There is also a possibility of a reference to David in a “Shoshenq Relief” which we are unable to substantiate.[[111]](#endnote-111) So, Tel Dan, is neither the creation nor the end of proof for David’s historic existence.

As far as Tel Zayit is concerned, the Phoenician or proto-Canaanite alphabet, which is nearly indistinguishable from the Tel Zayit abjad, may have been attested from the twelfth century BC, or as a very remote possibility, from the eighteenth century BC.[[112]](#endnote-112) On the other hand, cuneiform texts date from the thirty-first century BC.[[113]](#endnote-113) Egyptian hieroglyphs may date from 4000 BC.[[114]](#endnote-114) Moses was certainly educated in Akkadian Cuneiform, and hieroglyphic[[115]](#endnote-115) and could have written in either of them. Consequently, the Tel Zayit abjad does not argue for or against an original Torah manuscript from the hand of Moses in either 1446-1406 BC or 1406-1366 BC. This makes all of the various Documentary Hypotheses unnecessary.

***Conclusion***

Our closer summary examination of the Egyptian pharaohs from 1493 to 1001 BC reveals some interesting facts. Tutankhamun was too young and too sick to be a combatant. Ramesses Ⅱ exaggerated his success at Kadesh for the homefolks: at best, it was a stalemate; in reality he sustained heavy losses, and may have crippled the Egyptian military for generations. Merneptah was too old to be a combatant, so all the credits on his stele were the work of subordinates, or additional exaggerations: the fact that the stele was purloined may indicate that Egypt was already bankrupt.

We reevaluated the Israelite chronology based on the LXX text, and took the Egyptian chronology as presented, demonstrating the possibility of an exact fit and disclosing the chance that Amenhotep Ⅱ is the pharaoh of the Exodus.

Then we returned to Tel Dan and Tel Zayit matters to observe that the reality of David’s existence, and the possibility of Moses’s authorship are both reasonably credible without either Tel Dan or Tel Zayit. If anything, Tel Zayit damages the cause for the history of paleo-Hebrew writing.

In all, nothing was found to support or even suggest the origination of J around 950 BC[[116]](#endnote-116), or anything else concerning the various Documentary Hypotheses. What was found is that BBS, in the process of jumping around, risks overlooking and oversimplifying very important material, both biblical and Egyptian.

[[117]](#endnote-117)

1. If J (950 BC) exists as a distinct document for roughly one-hundred years, why is it that no manuscript, no fragment, no literary reference to it can be found. Documents leave behind a trail of “paper” even after they are long gone. How is it that no paper-trail for J exists today? [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Israel’s greatest king is Jesus, great David’s greatest Son, of Whom Solomon is the principal icon, not David. Everything about David focuses on the Glory of his coming Son, typified with one failed human after another, and finally bearing fruit in the Perfect Son of Man. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Gila Cook, a surveyor for Hebrew Union College. No other bibliography. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Dan_Stele> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Avraham Biran (1909-2008), Israeli archaeologist with Hebrew Union College. Works: Tel Halifa (1935), Mosul and Baghdad vicinities, Irbid, Ras El Haruba, Beit She’an (1938), West Bank (1967), Tel Dan (1966-96).

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avraham_Biran> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. The description of the language as Aramaic is very misleading. Observation of pictures of the stone reveal a hand which is indistinguishable from paleo-Hebrew, Phoenician, or proto-Canaanite: at least to us amateurs. Most likely, the region had one common lingua franca with which to conduct business. Isaiah styles this language as the lip of Canaan (Isaiah 19:18). Doubtless, the Arameans had a language during this era; yet, Akkadian Cuneiform is the official international language.

The only reason to distinguish paleo-Hebrew, is because of the post 1000 BC developing corpus of literature, and the potential for translation from Akkadian Cuneiform into paleo-Hebrew.

To style this language as Aramaic draws the mind to the period when Aramaic block lettering replaces paleo-Hebrew as the biblical text; as well as replacing Akkadian Cuneiform as the official international language. While Aramaic is developing, and gaining prominence, as early as 900 BC, we would want an expert linguist to point out the distinguishing characteristics between Old Aramaic, paleo-Hebrew, and Phoenician: because, they look the same to us. Close proximity between Dan and Aram is insufficient cause to call this writing Aramaic; why not call Tel Zayit Aramaic?

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/40/JRSLM_300116_Tel_Dan_Stele_01.jpg>

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/a/a9/Ba%60alat.jpg>

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/10/AsokaKandahar.jpg>

<https://www.baslibrary.org/sites/default/files/bsba380303800l.jpg>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aramaic_language> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Note that here, when it is convenient to BBS storytelling, there is no mention of J, E, D, or P. Rather Genesis, is supposedly not historic, while the narratives concerning kings are historic. We readily concede that Genesis contains, as far as we know, some oral tradition, while Exodus through Deuteronomy are written eyewitness documentations. Nevertheless, BBS does not draw the natural comparison between Genesis and the remainder of Torah, but with the writings attributed to Samuel and later prophets. This is an interesting piece of slight-of-hand: for when the various Documentary Hypotheses unfold they will have nothing to say about Samuel and those who followed him. When the time comes to present the Documentary Hypotheses, the discussion will be confined to Torah and nothing more will be said of kings. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. A biblical chronology is not actually being presented by BBS. What is presented is a very limited and biased archaeological chronology. If we wish a truly biblical chronology we shall have to construct our own. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. This does not yield or warrant the conclusion (assumption) that earlier biblical figures are not historical. This simply confirms what we already knew to be true. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. There is a hidden agenda in the connection between Tel Dan and Tel Zayit. The arguments over historicity are sheer pretense. If it could be established that history and writing predate David by wide margins, the 950 BC date for J loses all warrant. It is important to this line of logic that history and writing not precede 1000 BC: for if history and writing could be established as early as 1406 BC, then it becomes nearly impossible to deny Moses and the Exodus, or Joshua and Judges.

Yet, if David is necessarily historic, then how is it that all of the documents that testify about David are not historic. So, Ruth and Samuel, as well as David’s Psalms must be taken to be historic documents. That being said, Samuel speaks extensively about Eli and Saul, Samuel and David, and the problem of Philistine domination and oppression. So the Philistine presence must also be historic. Yet, if the Philistine presence is historic, why not all of Judges; and if Judges, why not Joshua. Then we would have everything necessary for proof, except a Mesopotamian dig with artifacts naming Cushan-Rishathaim and Othniel, or something similar. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. It is completely appropriate that both Cook and Biran receive full credit for their discovery. BBS has not always been forthcoming with such information. That being said, the reliance of BBS on lengthy dramatized storytelling, although entertaining, is ultimately annoying and tedious: it has no place in a supposed scientific report. Hence: it is deserving of the pejorative epithet, quaint. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. An inference concerning Humpty Dumpty: by exaggerating the information at Karnak to the detriment of Soleb and Amara West, BBS created a Napoleonic like ego trip, which ended up being smashed against irrelevant polytheism and supposedly imaginary Davidic exploit comments. Science documentaries should concern themselves with evidence, presented in some logical sequence: yet for BBS everything must be scrambled. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. From ordinary growth mathematics, we conclude that the Israelites could not have amounted to more than 5,000 people in 1535 BC, when the Hyksos were expelled. By the birth of Moses around 1486 BC, they would still have been less than 76,000 in number. Their population would not have reached into the millions until after 1424 BC, just eighteen years before the Exodus. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hatshepsut> [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. Kadesh is deep in Nuhašše territory on the Orontes River, 80 or more miles north of Damascus. [↑](#endnote-ref-15)
16. Carchemish approaches the borders of Hittite and Mitanni territory on the Euphrates River, near the border of modern Anatolia and Nuhašše. [↑](#endnote-ref-16)
17. ANET: pages 22, 23, 212, 213, 234-245, 247-249, 251, 373-375, 446, 447

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thutmose_III> [↑](#endnote-ref-17)
18. Perhaps only in his final campaign which went no further north than Galilee. This is probably inside out. Since the Egyptians were most likely dependent on sea supplies to maintain the line of forts across Plain of Esdraelon to Beth-Shan and Pella, with such sea support coming from the port at Acre, we should probably say, no further south than Galillee. It is illusory to believe that Egypt maintained its worldwide position of dominance by marching through the Philistine and Canaanite wildernesses.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenhotep_II#Foreign_affairs> [↑](#endnote-ref-18)
19. ANET: pages 241-245, 247, 248, 449

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenhotep_II> [↑](#endnote-ref-19)
20. Note that, according to Wilson, John A., tr. “Egyptian Historical Texts”, ANET: page 243, Thutmose IV engaged the Shasu in: ambassadorial exchange, arranged marriages, combat, religious pilgrimage, sightseeing, treaties, trade relations, or some other acts. All of the items in Wilson’s list cannot possibly represent combat or martial campaigns. Egyptians now know of the Shasu a full ten years earlier than previously thought; and possibly as early as 1401 BC or before. Unfortunately, we have not found Wilson’s documentary source.

The Asiatic campaigns of Amenhotep II also list Shasu captives. Since the focus of these campaigns is Nuhašše and the Orontes, we take these Shasu to be either Syrian, or from the region of Hazor. This moves Egyptian awareness of the Shasu back to 1427 BC. ANET: page 247 [↑](#endnote-ref-20)
21. ANET: pages 29, 242, 243, 248-250, 449

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thutmose_IV> [↑](#endnote-ref-21)
22. Alternate spelling of Nuhašše [↑](#endnote-ref-22)
23. ANET: pages 242, 243, 248, 318, 367, 373, 375, 483, 485, 486

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenhotep_III> [↑](#endnote-ref-23)
24. ANET: pages 318, 319, 369

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akhenaten> [↑](#endnote-ref-24)
25. ANET: page 483

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smenkhkare>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smenkhkare#Dakhamunzu_Hittite_Affair>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dakhamunzu> [↑](#endnote-ref-25)
26. ANET: pages 370, 371

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neferneferuaten>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nefertiti>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meritaten> [↑](#endnote-ref-26)
27. This poor child who was dead at eighteen or possibly nineteen, suffered from elongated skull, cleft palate, scoliosis, malaria, Köhler disease II, and an infected broken left leg. He walked only with a cane. Mind you, he had no modern doctor, hospital, powerful medications, or surgeries to help him cope with any of these maladies: he suffered on alone, unaided in his pain. He has neither the maturity nor the physical ability to lead military expeditions, and we believe that any such activities attributed to him were actually carried out by generals or other advisors. ANET: pages 8, 249, 251, 252, 319, 469, 470

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tutankhamun> [↑](#endnote-ref-27)
28. ANET: pages 81, 164, 218

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ay> [↑](#endnote-ref-28)
29. ANET: pages 33, 199, 212, 242, 243, 249-251

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horemheb> [↑](#endnote-ref-29)
30. ANET: pages 199, 202, 252, 253

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_I> [↑](#endnote-ref-30)
31. ANET: pages 8, 10, 199, 202, 212, 242, 243, 250, 252-256, 327, 328, 373, 375, 478

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seti_I> [↑](#endnote-ref-31)
32. Note that the assumption of a Ramesses II Exodus, turns the conquest of some of these cities into gibberish: both for his own reign, yet also in other reigns. BBS attempts to resolve all of these internal contradictions by claiming that the Exodus never took place, except in a minor, unnoticeable scale.

It is difficult to understand why the biblical chronology is not given greater credibility and respect. Most of these internal contradictions disappear when the biblical chronology is followed. Ramesses the Great is far too late to be the pharaoh of the Exodus. The eldest son, Amun-her-khepeshef died around 1254: his death would need to have been around 1213, forty-one years later, to mesh with the Exodus record.

Merneptah is the thirteenth son: who, because of his father’s exceptionally long life and reign is already a very old man when he comes to the throne.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amun-her-khepeshef> [↑](#endnote-ref-32)
33. ANET: pages 8, 10, 29-31, 199-201, 216, 236, 242, 243, 249, 252, 253, 255, 256-258, 319, 448, 470, 471, 477, 478, 484; 240-242, 256-258;

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_II>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Kadesh>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Dapur> [↑](#endnote-ref-33)
34. Ashkelon and Gezer (possibly Gaza) are relatively obvious.

We could not locate any dig for Yano'am. One authority linked it to the Janina of Josephus:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ioannina>

This seems farfetched. If we had to guess, we would pick Yokneam, but have only weak reasons for doing so. In the absence of a dig, it must remain unknown.

<http://archive.org/stream/jstor-27899649/27899649_djvu.txt>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yokneam#History>

Jezre'el is also suggested for Israel.

<http://archive.org/stream/jstor-27899649/27899649_djvu.txt>

Hurru may refer to the Hurrians. None of these locations points to an Israelite presence in the central highlands. Most likely, the Plain of Esdraelon is indicated: if not there, then Anatolia. [↑](#endnote-ref-34)
35. Possibly identical with the Hurrians:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurrians> [↑](#endnote-ref-35)
36. ANET: pages 258, 259, 375-378

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merneptah>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merneptah_Stele> [↑](#endnote-ref-36)
37. ANET: page 259

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seti_II> [↑](#endnote-ref-37)
38. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenmesse> [↑](#endnote-ref-38)
39. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siptah>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medinet\_Habu\_(temple)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medinet_Habu_%28temple%29) [↑](#endnote-ref-39)
40. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twosret> [↑](#endnote-ref-40)
41. ANET: page 260

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Setnakhte> [↑](#endnote-ref-41)
42. Jacob-El and Joseph-El date back to 1425 or earlier, so they are unlikely to relate to Israel’s national identity, and the equation Jacob-El ≡ Bethel/Luz seems farfetched since the location is well off the beaten path for any other military objective. The names could fit against Tjeḥenu invasions. [↑](#endnote-ref-42)
43. ANET: pages 8, 10, 214, 215, 236, 242, 243, 249, 250, 260-263, 373, 378

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_III> [↑](#endnote-ref-43)
44. ANET: pages 214, 260, 378, 379, 470

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_IV> [↑](#endnote-ref-44)
45. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_V> [↑](#endnote-ref-45)
46. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_VI> [↑](#endnote-ref-46)
47. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_VII> [↑](#endnote-ref-47)
48. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_VIII> [↑](#endnote-ref-48)
49. The fact that these tomb robberies caused a scandal at this time may indicate that Merneptah’s desecration and theft of the Amenhotep III Stele and Temple, may not have been as acceptable to Egyptians as once thought. However, the lawyers evidently fixed the trial. Eventually, tomb robbing later became an acceptable practice. That being said, some of it must be classed as violent atrocities, when mummies were chopped up with axes to retrieve valuables. Also some pharaohs took pains to protect graves from desecration and theft so we cannot believe that everyone thought this was really acceptable practice. Egyptians just looked the other way when pharaohs got involved in the thefts. [↑](#endnote-ref-49)
50. ANET: pages 28

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_IX> [↑](#endnote-ref-50)
51. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_X> [↑](#endnote-ref-51)
52. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramesses_XI>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piankh>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinehesy> [↑](#endnote-ref-52)
53. Since Tanis is not founded until 1039 BC, this presents a dating or geographical problem. The power center of the twenty-first dynasty may have been Pi-Ramesses until Psusennes Ⅰ moved Pi-Ramesses to Tanis around 1039 BC. [↑](#endnote-ref-53)
54. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smendes> [↑](#endnote-ref-54)
55. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenemnisu> [↑](#endnote-ref-55)
56. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinedjem_I> [↑](#endnote-ref-56)
57. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psusennes_I> [↑](#endnote-ref-57)
58. Exodus 12:40-42 [↑](#endnote-ref-58)
59. There is unquestionably a tradition of Seven Lean Years in Egypt. This tradition provides considerable support for the historicity of the life of Joseph: it is at least as strong as the evidence from the Merneptah Stele. This, coupled with the Shasu-Edomite connection formed from Papyrus Anastasi 6, Genesis 36, and Psalm 105; as well as the fourteenth century dates for the Shasu, found at Soleb, or even earlier with Thutmose IV, and Amenhotep II, builds a strong case for the historicity of everything in Genesis 36 and beyond. To reject this line of argument we must consider all of this material as prehistoric legend: while clearly, much of it cannot possibly be legend. ANET: pages 31-32 [↑](#endnote-ref-59)
60. Comparing both LXX and MT in the Old Testament, Genesis 46:26-27; Exodus 1:5; Acts 7:14. LXX may include Joseph’s daughters, five of them, or household slaves that he would have as an Egyptian dignitary, or his wife’s family members. No explanation for the difference is given. [↑](#endnote-ref-60)
61. There is no evidence that they departed from Pi-Ramesses. There is no reason to believe that Ramesses (the city) had yet been honored with the dignitary title Pi, which was probably bestowed when Ramesses Ⅰ became pharaoh and god. Exodus 12:2ff; Numbers 33:3 [↑](#endnote-ref-61)
62. Exodus 19:11, 15-16; 40:2, 15 [17]; Numbers 1:1; Chapters 9-12 [↑](#endnote-ref-62)
63. Numbers 13:2, 22, 25; 14:32-34 [↑](#endnote-ref-63)
64. Numbers 20:29; 33:38 [↑](#endnote-ref-64)
65. Numbers chapters 21 through 32; Deuteronomy chapters 1 through 30 [↑](#endnote-ref-65)
66. Deuteronomy 31:2; 34:7-8 [↑](#endnote-ref-66)
67. Joshua 4:19; 5:6, 10; chapters 6 through 9 [↑](#endnote-ref-67)
68. Joshua chapters 10 through 11 [↑](#endnote-ref-68)
69. Joshua24:29; Judges 2:8 [↑](#endnote-ref-69)
70. Judges 3:8 [↑](#endnote-ref-70)
71. Judges 3:11 [↑](#endnote-ref-71)
72. Judges 3:14 [↑](#endnote-ref-72)
73. Judges 3:30 [↑](#endnote-ref-73)
74. Judges 4:3 [↑](#endnote-ref-74)
75. Judges 5:31 [↑](#endnote-ref-75)
76. Judges 6:1 [↑](#endnote-ref-76)
77. Judges 8:28 [↑](#endnote-ref-77)
78. Judges 9:22 [↑](#endnote-ref-78)
79. Judges 10:2 [↑](#endnote-ref-79)
80. Judges 10:3 [↑](#endnote-ref-80)
81. Judges 10:7-8 [↑](#endnote-ref-81)
82. Judges 11:25 [26]; 12:7 [↑](#endnote-ref-82)
83. Judges 12:9 [↑](#endnote-ref-83)
84. Judges 12:11 [↑](#endnote-ref-84)
85. Judges 12:14 [↑](#endnote-ref-85)
86. Judges 13:1 [↑](#endnote-ref-86)
87. Judges 15:20; 16:31 [↑](#endnote-ref-87)
88. 1 Samuel 4:15, 17-22 [↑](#endnote-ref-88)
89. 1 Samuel 5:1-12 [↑](#endnote-ref-89)
90. 1 Samuel 6:1; 10-20 [↑](#endnote-ref-90)
91. 1 Samuel 6:21-7:2 [↑](#endnote-ref-91)
92. Clearly the arrest of the Philistines is the result of two things: 1 the departure of the Ark. 2. Samuel’s prayer. Although, Yahweh acts miraculously, He almost always employs a human instrument. 1 Samuel 7:10-12 [↑](#endnote-ref-92)
93. 1 Samuel chapters 1 through 25; and 28 [↑](#endnote-ref-93)
94. 1 Samuel chapters 9 through 12; 13:1; Acts 13:21 [↑](#endnote-ref-94)
95. 2 Samuel 5:4 [↑](#endnote-ref-95)
96. 2 Samuel 2:11; 5:5; 1 Kings 2:11; 1 Chronicles 3:4; 29:27 [↑](#endnote-ref-96)
97. 2 Samuel 5:5; 1 Kings 2:11; 1 Chronicles 3:4; 29:27 [↑](#endnote-ref-97)
98. 2 Samuel 5:7, 9; 6:2-18 [↑](#endnote-ref-98)
99. 1 Kings 11:42-43 [↑](#endnote-ref-99)
100. 1 Kings 6:1 [↑](#endnote-ref-100)
101. 1 Kings 14:21 [↑](#endnote-ref-101)
102. 1 Kings 14:25 BBS [↑](#endnote-ref-102)
103. Very likely, the pharaohs, the rulers of rivers, cannot move cavalry, chariots, horses, and infantry without Phoenician support. [↑](#endnote-ref-103)
104. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_David>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David> [↑](#endnote-ref-104)
105. <http://www.ancientmilitary.com/ancient-egypt-military.htm>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_warfare#Egypt> [↑](#endnote-ref-105)
106. Egypt’s evident goal was to be The world empire. [↑](#endnote-ref-106)
107. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_navy>

<http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/navy.htm>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naqada> [↑](#endnote-ref-107)
108. <http://www.archive.org/stream/centuryofexcavat00maca/centuryofexcavat00maca_djvu.txt>

<http://archive.org/stream/jstor-27899649/27899649_djvu.txt> [↑](#endnote-ref-108)
109. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Dan_Stele> [↑](#endnote-ref-109)
110. ANET: page 320f

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesha_Stele> [↑](#endnote-ref-110)
111. <http://theophilogue.com/2009/04/24/extrabiblical-evidence-for-king-david/> [↑](#endnote-ref-111)
112. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phoenician_alphabet>

The so-called Proto-Sinaitic script is very pictographic and Egyptian in appearance. It is not clearly alphabetic. There is little evidence that the Israelites had contact with it.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Sinaitic_script> [↑](#endnote-ref-112)
113. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuneiform> [↑](#endnote-ref-113)
114. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian_hieroglyphs> [↑](#endnote-ref-114)
115. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleo-Hebrew_alphabet> [↑](#endnote-ref-115)
116. If J (950 BC) exists as a distinct document for roughly one-hundred years, why is it that no manuscript, no fragment, no literary reference to it can be found. Documents leave behind a trail of “paper” even after they are long gone. How is it that no paper-trail for J exists today? [↑](#endnote-ref-116)
117. If you have been blessed or helped by any of these meditations, please repost, share, or use any of them as you wish. No rights are reserved. They are designed and intended for your free participation. They were freely received, and are freely given. No other permission is required for their use. [↑](#endnote-ref-117)