

# **Bible History and Archeology**

## **1. Lost Cities of the Dead**

Archaeology Establishes the reliability and trustworthiness of the Bible.

Today we live in an age of travel. More people are seeing the world today than ever has been in this world's history and there are so many wonderful things to see. Every country seems to have its own particular charm. However some of the most fascinating things to be seen are off the beaten track of the tourist. This is certainly true of the lands of the Middle East, they are mostly the forgotten lands. Of recent years there has been startling discoveries made. The lands of the Middle East are really the cradle of civilization.

Egypt is an archaeologist's paradise; most of the ancient cultures and cities have disappeared from the face of the earth but not so with Egypt. Its giant monuments can be seen for 30 miles away and have nearly defied the corroding tooth of time for they still stand. Egypt is fascinating for many reasons; it is the oldest continually inhabited country in the world. It has the longest line of kings of any nation in the world. Egypt was even old in the days of Christ. But it is also interesting that prophecy uses Egypt as a symbol of the worldly and ungodly.

I want to take you back in time about 2000 years BC. By the way, when we speak of the time BC we mean Before Christ. We're going back 2000 years BC in the land of mystery.

When you think of Egypt you naturally think of pyramids and they have found 70 in Egypt. But what most people don't realize is that there are vastly more pyramids in Mexico than there are in Egypt. They have found something like 19,800 in Mexico, and many of them are larger than the Egyptian ones. Some years ago Thor Heyerdahl in the Kon Tiki Expedition sailed his papyrus boat he called Ra Two because Ra One tumbled and got swamped and he started again. He was trying to show that the Mexicans got their religion and their culture and their pyramids and so forth from ancient Egypt. Eventually he succeeded in sailing across. His thesis could be very correct.

Now the largest of the Egyptian pyramids is the pyramid of Khufu Gizeh. It is one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, and it's the only one that's still left. It has been standing there for 4,000 years and covers 13 acres. It is the mightiest structure that has ever been raised by man. It dominates the landscape and fires the imagination. The pyramid is 490 feet tall. It has two million six hundred thousand yellowish lime stone blocks with an average weight of two and a half tons. They fit so perfectly together that you can get neither hair nor needle between them. The construction is so accurate that no measurement is out more than an inch.

Today there are big questions being asked as to how they built the pyramids and these questions need to be resolved. How were bricks transported to the building site is one question that needs to be answered. How many workmen were involved? And how long did it take to build? Guess work is really not sufficient to answer these questions.

A while back in the study of Egyptology the common idea was that there were quarry inscriptions on some of the blocks. The building was for Pharaoh Cheops, the third dynasty of the old kingdom and since his reign lasted for about 22 years it must have been completed in

that time. They employed about a hundred thousand men, and blocks were floated down the Nile and they used wooden sledges and barges to bring them down. This is what the historians have been saying for many years.

After all they say, how can you expect men who are only one step away from being cavemen to be any more sophisticated than that? If you do a little analysis of those figures, and if there are two million six hundred thousand blocks of stone, and it took 20 years to build that would be seven thousand three hundred actual days. That means that they would have to erect them at the incredible speed of 315 of those blocks each day or 26 per hour per 12 hour day. Even using our most sophisticated equipment today, with a hundred thousand workmen, it would be impossible to do. Add to this the fact that nine months of the year were customarily set aside for planting, harvesting and cultivating, so the work force will in actual fact have only spent about three months of the year on the construction site. So even if 315 stones could have been erected each day it would still take 80 years to build and manpower is another problem. The 100,000 men employed as mentioned by the historians are really only the transportation crew. You need another 100,000 as stone masons and 100,000 at the pyramid itself. You would want 100,000 architects and planners and supervisors, about 250,000 women to feed the men and about 300,000 to keep all order and law as a police force. So you're talking about a million people which in 2,700 BC were about one third to one half of the total population.

The truth is that it didn't take 20 years to build the great pyramid. Evidence has just come to light that the pyramids were built at incredible speeds. At Dashur, 45 kilometers north of Egypt for example, is the pyramid of Sneferu. It is about two thirds of the volume of the great pyramid at Gizeh. An inscription on the north east cornerstone of that pyramid says that it was laid in the 21st year of Sneferu's reign. Half way up the pyramid is another stone which says that they laid that in his 22nd year. In other words, it took about two years to build the pyramid at Sneferu. A similar situation may have occurred with the pyramid of Cheops because it was completed in as little as four years.

Recent excavations at the great Pyramid have uncovered 4,000 workman's huts. And that only adds to the problem because how could you get a hundred thousand men into 4,000 huts? Naturally this puts the historian in a very difficult position for how can you explain the building of the pyramid in only four years by about 4,000 workers if only wooden sledges and barges were used? And that was used through a three month period of the year. Yet it was done, and probably in that length of time.

But the builders used construction and engineering skill known only to them. It was a technological feat beyond comparison in either the ancient or the modern world. The generations after the one that built Cheops's pyramid found themselves in steep decline, both when it comes to technical sophistication and cultural ability. This decline continued until each succeeding generation became a mere shadow of the civilization before it.

The hieroglyphics from the various dynasties showed decided changes from generation to generations both in life style and technology. When you add to this the combination of the funerary text found in the book of 'The Dead' it just strongly supports this idea. So the Egypt that we know from the history books was indeed a mere shadow of a highly progressive people who inherited a technical ability beyond our understanding. Let me illustrate that.

In 1898 a small model plane was discovered in a tomb near Saqqara in Egypt. When they discovered this model airplane in 1898 modern aviation was still several years away, so it was not recognized for what it was. They put it away in the basement of the Cairo Museum, and there it lay until in 1969, Dr. Cummel Mishier, an Egyptologist an archaeologist was cleaning out the basement of the old Cairo Museum. In a storage box, he found another box, and the box had a name on the outside. It said "bird object." When Dr. Mishier opened the contents of that box, he found indeed most of the contents were bird figurines. But one artifact was definitely out of place, possessing characteristics not found in birds, but definitely found in modern aircraft.

Dr. Mishier was a model aircraft enthusiast, and immediately recognized what it was. So in December 23, 1979 a committee was formed and a number of aviation experts and historians met together. They were so impressed with what they saw that today, if you go to the Cairo Museum, in the central hall you can see this model of the airplane. The model's wings are straight and aerodynamically shaped with a span of 7.2 Inches. The pointed nose is 1.3 inches long and it has a body of 5.6 inches which tapers and terminates in a vertical tail fin.

When asked to analyze the model, several aerodynamic experts, engineers and pilots found a number of remarkable features all indicating a knowledge of aircraft that has taken 100 years for American and European designers to discover. For examples they found aerodynamic shape of the fuselage and the wings and it revealed a compensation for camber with the rise and the curve of the wing. The wing itself was found to be counter dihedral which provided tremendous lift-off force. As the experts further looked into this model airplane they made a blueprint of it and they found that it was highly accurate in all its proportions and clearly it was no accident and it was no toy. Rather it was the end product of enormous body of computation. Dr. Mishier noted that the ancient Egyptians always made scale models of what they were going to build. When you go to the tombs you'll find scale models of temples, obelisks, homes and chariots.

Dr. Mishier wonders whether under the desert sands of Egypt today they are going to discover full-scale models of gliders. Since 1971 they have actually found fourteen other models of airplanes and biologist and zoologist Ivan Sanderson, the head of the society for the investigation of the unexplained, made this statement, "The concrete evidence that the ancients knew of flight was forced upon us only a few years ago. Now we have to explain it and when we do we will have to rearrange a great many of our concepts of ancient history."

The knowledge that the ancient Egyptians had of aircraft and many other things came from the eight survivors of the flood. Menes using that vast knowledge, founded Egypt and brought order out of chaos.

The most famous of all the Egyptian monuments is the Sphinx. Sphinxes are very common in Egypt, but one is the largest. It measures 240 feet long and 66 feet from top to bottom and the body is that of a lion being the guardian of the underworld. The Sphinxes head represents the human form of the god Artong, along with the deadly cobra coiled on its forehead. So no doubt the Sphinx has the face of Khafre, the builder of the second pyramid. Sphinxes with a lion's body and a man's head indicates power and intelligence.

In ancient times when you came to the Sphinx you approached it along a huge ramp about breast high. Then you went down a flight of about 40 steps between its paws. As the person went down he then looked up at the face of the Sphinx and it just towered above him, gazing up

there into space. The temple priests would cause voices to sound and to echo, and when the person looked up and heard these voices they actually thought that the Sphinx was speaking to them. This naturally helped the priesthood to enslave the people. Now the massive size of the Sphinx is really a great testimony to the skill of ancient man. In 1837 they bored a hole right into the Sphinx and they found that they went through solid rock for 30 feet.

The story of the Sphinx, like that of the pyramids, tells how ancient man was highly sophisticated, not ignorant and backward as we have so often been led to believe.

In ancient Egypt they had folding umbrellas just as modern as we have them today, not to keep the rain off of course, but to keep the Sun off. They had also zip fasteners. Some people think that they're modern but they go back 4,000 years. They had artificial wigs and boomerangs. I meet some people who think that the Australian aborigine was the inventor of the boomerang. However, they're pulling boomerangs out of Egyptian tombs.

In Upper Egypt the temperature there in the shade gets up to 40 degrees and it practically never rains. That's the reason why things preserve so well. So you can throw down your boot and 200 years later come back and there it's waiting for you. You go down underneath the earth and as you go down the hot air just hits you.

They had paintings on the inside of glass vases. How they did it we don't know. We still can't do it today. They had narrow necked glass vases and beautiful paintings on the inside. They were all there. They had folding beds, 4,000 years ago and they excelled in the arts and the crafts.

You could see there the remains of fine linen with over 500 threads to the inch. The best piece of linen today cannot match that, and we talk about our superior manufacture?

They were experts in the art of glass blowing and they manufactured artificial jewels that would take an expert to be able to tell the difference, They invented a system of writing of hieroglyphics and numerics and they wrote all over their tombs. This in another reason why we know so much about ancient Egypt we can speak with so much authority. In fact we know more about what happened in Egypt 4,000 years ago than we know what happened in Britain nearly 500 years ago.

Largely it was discovery of the Rosetta Stone which has led to the unlocking of the Egyptian hieroglyphic. The discoverers presumed that it was the some story in three languages. That's quite a common thing in the ancient world to write a story up in three languages. There was the Greek language at the bottom, in the middle there was the Egyptian Demotic which is like a cursive form of hieroglyphic and on the top were the hieroglyphics.

Their presumption turned out to be correct for they knew the Greek and they worked from the known to the unknown. Today Egyptologists can read the Egyptian hieroglyphic as well as you and I can read the morning newspaper.

They had surgeons who were experts in the care of the eyes. They could perform brain operations and fill teeth with gold inlays. They had engineers that harnessed the Nile and they built the pyramid.

They estimate there are still seven million mummies under the sands of Egypt. One of those mummies, one lady of fashion, went back about 1300 years BC. She had her hair raised and dyed

and that dye was still in her hair. She had it permanently waved and the wave was still in her hair. Now I call that a permanent wave wouldn't you? These women were just like women of today. They had skin-tight clothing. They had stone vaporizers and atomizers for perfume and some of that perfume was still fragrant after 4,000 years. They had little nail scissors and tweezers for plucking their hair. They plucked their eye brows and blackened them and painted their lips. They put rouge on their cheeks and they painted their finger nails and toe nails red. In one tomb they found fifteen different shades of lipsticks for the ladies to use in the afterworld and we think we're modern with them. They're just coming back into fashion.

The wealth of Egypt was staggering. Even the Bible speaks about the wealth of Egypt. In one tomb alone the coffin was worth six million dollars.

If you get buried in a wooden coffin it is going to cost you a lot of money. But you imagine being buried in a steel coffin. It will cost you an awful lot more. If you got buried in a bronze coffin you'd get such a fright you would sit up. But imagine being buried in a gold coffin and not only just a box, but made into the very shape of the person beautifully carved on top. When they buried those Pharaohs, they buried with them vast treasures. The Egyptians believed that just as long as the body was preserved the soul would have somewhere to dwell. So they went to a lot of trouble to preserve the body and then they buried with them vast treasures.

Old Memphis, was once the proud capital city of Egypt, 15 miles south of Cairo, down the Nile River, Memphis was the capital in the days of Abraham and Joseph and Moses.

There also is the giant granite Sphinx of Rameses II. This is actually where Egyptian history began. Memphis was founded by Menes the earliest Egyptian ruler of which we have any record. He was the first one to unite Upper and Lower Egypt into one empire. This city was the greatest of the ancient world and continued to be so for about 500 years.

One traveler asked his guide to take him down to Memphis. He says, "I was sitting in the car when suddenly he stopped the car. We were out in the middle of a paddock, so I thought the old bomb had broken down because that's being kind in describing it. They seem to be stuck together with chewing gum. That's about all there is to those Egyptian cars. They never looked after them at all.

"Here we stopped and I explained to him that I wanted to go to Memphis. In his broken English he said to me, "This is Memphis." I thought to myself. Surely not; it was just a waste land. All I could see was a Sphinx and a few broken down old images. I couldn't help remembering what the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah had said in the long ago. "Memphis shall become a waste, a ruin without an inhabitant." [Jeremiah 46:19. In the Bible it is called Noph.] Another Hebrew prophet went on to say, talking of Memphis. "I will destroy the idols and put an end to the Images of Memphis." [Ezekiel 30:13]

If only every unbeliever could see these broken down images and read the prophet's statement, For you see, Memphis [Noph] and its desolation is very unique. Other great cities have been destroyed but their ruins remain to be dug up, but not so with Memphis. Here the stones were literally carted down to the building of Cairo. The statue of Rameses II lies today on the site of old Memphis, and that is all that remains of that once proud city.

Outside Memphis is the old cemetery where the famous Step Pyramid is, the oldest pyramid in Egypt and the most famous. It's the first stone building known to be erected by man, the tomb of King Zoser, a king of early times. This sacred complex is entered through the Sed temples. And it was erected in honor of the Sed Festival, one of the most important occasions in the life of the king. It was supposedly to have been erected on his 30th year and so there are 30 columns, one to represent each year that he had reigned.

Having entered the sacred compound, we stand amazed at a towering monument, for inside they found an alabaster tomb. Unfortunately the mummy had been taken, but they found 30,000 vessels of beautiful alabaster. What a testimony to the culture and the intelligence of early man!

The startling fact that archaeologists have noted is that the older the ruins and the structure, the finer and better in architecture. The further you go back in history, the more cultured man is. Many archaeologists have admitted that the simple story of the Bible which declares that man came from a perfect state with a vast intelligence and lived in a golden age, is actually supported by the facts.

In Britain's Stonehenge, it is amazing how those stone circles are placed perfectly so that the ancients could predict eclipses. They worked out the equinoxes, and they worked out all that we know about the heavens. They even knew about Moon wobble.

Of all places in Egypt, none is more exciting to visit than Luxor and Karnak. At Luxor you can see there the mighty pillars of the temple of Armun, the object of wonder for the last 3,400 years. Although they were built by many Pharaohs, one principle Pharaoh, Amenhotep III, stands out. It was under his reign that Egypt really gained its greatest magnificence round about 1398 BC. Frequently in history he's referred to as Amenhotep the Magnificent. Armun was the chief god of Thebes and his name was incorporated into the king's names Amenhotep. Armun was a local deity for the Sun. Later he was combined with the Sun god from Heliopolis or the city of the Sun, his name was Ra. So you often see him referred to Armun Ra which is simply the combination of the Sun god.

The huge temple of Armun covers a length of 852 feet. At the front you could see the pylons of Rameses II, one of the greatest Pharaohs that ever lived. He reigned for 67 years. Passing through these great pylons we enter the forecourt of Rameses II. And an Immense area of 187 feet by 168 feet and there you can see 74 stately papyrus columns. The walls and pylons are lined with statues of Rameses II and adorned with the victories of him over the Hittites and the Syrians.

In the court is the best preserved of the 500 or more statues that Rameses has erected of himself. I think he's history's most egotistical ruler. Everywhere you go there he's got statues of himself. One of the most famous inscriptions is the battle against the Hittites at Kadesh. His personal heroism in this story on the stone is depicted without modesty. You would almost gain the impression, as you read it, that he gained the victory single-handed, but we know differently because he barely escaped with his life.

One of the largest of all human creations, the hypo style hall was begun by Ramesse I, then added to by Sethi I, and completed by Sethi's son. Rameses III, The hall is 170 feet wide by 338

feet long. There are twelve large central columns that are 80 feet high, including capitals which are made out of one block of stone, and they are so huge that 100 people could stand on the top.

Scholars for the last 150 years have been endeavoring to decipher these inscriptions that appear all over the columns. Of special interest is one of these on the southern wall of the Karnak Temple. It concerns King Shishak, an Egyptian king who went down and warred against the Jews just after the death of King Solomon in the time of Rehoboam. Returning to Egypt after the defeat of the Jews, he had part of this temple dedicated to his victory. Archaeologists have been interested in this because the Old Testament also records the same story. In 1 Kings 14:25, 26, it says, "And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem: And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made."

Here on relief in that Karnak Temple you can see how each city of Palestine is represented by a Hebrew. On his body is inscribed the name of the conquered city. If you count them all up there's about a hundred. Once again this is giving evidence that the Bible story is indeed reliable and the old Book is true.

Just a hundred yards or so away just going east is the sacred lake used in the worship of the Egyptian gods. However the most spectacular find was made in 1922 when they discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen. The wealth of this tomb literally staggered the world.

We quote the account of the traveler; "I traveled down to Luxor and across the Nile River to the scorching valley of the kings, a more inhospitable place you would never find anywhere on this earth. It's just dry and hot and bleached stones and the temperature is almost unbearable as the sun reflects off those dry stones."

It was here that they made that sensational discovery. Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon in 1922 first opened this tomb. As they dug away the rubble and the stones, they came across a doorway. And Howard Carter was peering into this tomb. Lord Carnarvon had spent a lot of his money supporting Carter over the years to try and find the tomb. He said "Howard can you see anything?" Howard Carter was peering in. He couldn't believe his eyes at all he was seeing. Gradually as his eyes became accustomed to the darkness he saw gold everywhere; Gold covered coaches, gold boxes, gold chests, the greatest find of buried treasures that man's eyes have ever looked upon.

The first room was filled to overflowing with furniture and objects of every kind. Standing guard over the treasures were two life-sized black and gold statues of the king adorned with bright stones and gold sandals. A mace in his right hand and a staff in his left. Beneath one of the coaches was the throne chair entirely overlaid with gold with glass and stone inlay. In the back of the throne is the god Arton the Sun disc. No doubt he was influenced by his father-in law Artarton. Then finally they entered the third chamber.

It was February 18, 1923. Again they made a hole in the wall. Howard Carter realized that what they had seen in the previous rooms was nothing to what they were seeing now, for the whole chamber seemed to be filled with one large golden shrine, so huge that it filled the whole room.

Then when they got in they found that there were actually four shrines inside one another, all overlaid with gold. And within the fourth was the beautiful stone sarcophagus. Then within this there were three coffins each inside the other. Each shaped in the figure of the king and each showed the king wearing a crown composed of a vulture and a cobra, symbols of Upper and Lower Egypt. While each coffin was overlaid with gold, the third coffin was made entirely of gold and it weighed 242 pounds.

Imagine what it is worth with the price of gold today! Just removing that heavy lid was a job in itself, but once they removed it they gazed at the death mask. Then they lifted aside the death mask and they peered into the eyes of Tutankhamen, eyes that hadn't seen for 3,000 years. Every provision had been made for the future of the king. There were baskets of fruit to feed him, feathered fans to cool him, and statues of servants to feed him, and all around were the gods.

There was the cow god Hathor, and the jackal guarding his mummy. There was the gold covered shrine that contained the dead king's vital organs. These were guarded by four goddesses. The heart of the king had been left in his body.

They found some knives, yhe blade of one was gold and the other was iron. The critics of the Old Testament use to laugh at the Bible for talking about iron. They said that's just another reason why you can't trust it historically because we know that the Iron Age wasn't until a lot later than the days of Moses, 1500 years BC. But when they broke into Tutankhamen's tombs there they found that Iron was in a lot of use back in those days. Once again the old Book was shown to be right and the critics were wrong.

It's a very dangerous thing to explore the tombs of the Pharaohs; as you go down there are tunnels that are blocked off and you think that you entered the passageway. Many people have lost their lives in exploring the tombs of the Pharaohs. Many of them have been afraid of the curse of the Pharaohs for fear that it really works. It is a strange thing that many in the original expedition, died not long after. Many feel it was a result of the curse of the Pharaohs, on some of the tombs, "Death shall come on swift wings to him who enters the tombs of the Pharaohs." When they broke into the tomb of Tutankhamen they found a very fine white dust, it was a poisonous. When this was stirred up and a person breathed it in, it led to inflammation of the lungs and some of the men died of that.

The Cairo Museum has 1,700 objects from the tomb of Tutankhamen.

Back to the traveler's account; "What interested me immensely was the fact that in front of the Cairo Museum, my guide pointed out the papyrus reeds growing right in front. He explained that originally Egypt got its wealth from its trade in the papyrus reed. The Egyptians were the first people to make paper and they made it from the papyrus reed. That's where we get our word "paper" from. The best paper that this world has ever had is the Egyptian papyrus reed paper. It is still good after three or four thousand years.

"I had the privilege of seeing some of this paper made. They take the flax. They cut the stem down in pieces. Then they stretch it. Then they soak it for a period. After it has been soaked they then place it down on the bench and they pound it with a mallet and they do that for quite awhile. Then they stretch it again. Then they roll it out. They roll it backwards and forwards.



Then they take the reed and they lay it down on the absorbent material piece by piece, they put it crossways both ways. Then they lay the cloth on the top and that absorbs it as they roll it. Then after rolling it they place it under some weights. They leave it there for a while and lo and behold they bring out the best paper in the world, the papyrus paper. It's so good that it's still excellent after 4,000 years. None of our paper would last that long, it would just go into nothing after a few years.

"I was impressed as my guide explained the reason why they have this papyrus reed growing in front of the Cairo Museum today is because there were millions and millions of these reeds growing along the edge of the Nile River, but today it's gone and you can't find it anywhere except in front of the Cairo Museum. The guide explained that this was the way Egypt got its wealth, and it's there to show the tourist, when they come to see the gold inside the museum where they got it from."

The uncanny thing today in that you can walk the length and the breadth of Egypt and there's practically not a single reed growing anywhere. And it reminded me once again of the prophet Isaiah who made a prediction about the papyrus reeds, the paper reeds and predicted 500 years BC that the paper reeds would completely disappear from Egypt, and wonder of wonders his statement has been shown to be true.

"And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts. And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up. And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more." Isaiah 19:4-7

Not long after Isaiah wrote that amazing statement, Ezekiel went on to say about Egypt that never again from about 500 BC would there be an Egyptian prince or king to sit upon the throne of Egypt.

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of Noph; [Memphis] and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt: and I will put a fear in the land of Egypt." Ezekiel 30:13.

Egypt has had the longest line of kings of any nation on the earth, but for the last 2,500 years, as your encyclopedia will point out, every last king that sat upon the throne of Egypt has been a foreigner, even down to King Farouk who was of Albanian descent. General Magees who led out in the revolution was of Arabian descent. President Sadat and even the present president are all foreigners.

There is another Sphinx of interest in Egypt. At the foot is a stone tablet telling of Thutmose IV. He was out hunting one day and he laid down under the shade of the Sphinx. He had been asleep and while he was asleep he dreamt that the Sphinx spoke to him and told him that if he would have the sand removed from between its front legs, then he would become the next Pharaoh in Egypt. So he did but he thought, Well, that is foolish because Dad is ruling at the moment and when he dies my older brother will become the next Pharaoh.

Thutmose IV was living at the time when the children of Israel were down in Egyptian bondage. You know the story how the ten plagues fell on Egypt and the tenth plague was the slaying of the firstborn. Well, that got rid of big brother. Then, after he said that the Jews could go, Pharaoh decided to change his mind and he pursued them out there to the Red Sea. You know the story and how the Red Sea opened up and the Jews went through. Then Pharaoh and his army came after them. They got about half way through and then the waters came and drowned them and that got rid of Dad.

So Thutmose IV became the next Pharaoh and he had this stone tablet carved. Now we need to consider that this story was told on that stone tablet as a way of explaining the situation without having to admit what has happened to the ruling Pharaoh and his first-born son. But it bears out the simple story that you and I have learned since we've been children.

When talking about the Exodus one thinks of Moses, how he was hidden in the papyrus reeds and bulrushes there on the edge of the Nile River because Pharaoh decreed that all the Jewish babies had to be killed. Naturally, Moses' mother didn't want her son to be killed, so she hid him in the basket-boat. We all know the story how the princess, the king's daughter, came down and discovered him and adopted him as her son.

We know today that was Princess Hatshepsut. There in Egypt in her famous temple, one of the most beautiful of all Egyptian temples, you could read about her birth and her life. Hatshepsut was one of the most remarkable women of history. She ruled Egypt for about 20 years. She carried on one of the largest building programs in Egyptian history. She even had trading expeditions going down to other parts of the world. And her reign was really marked by peace and prosperity.

However, jealousy started to grow up, and the sun worshiping priests became suspicious about Hatshepsut because she leaned towards the religion of Moses. So they staged a revolution and forced her to accept as co-ruler one of the illegitimate sons of her dead husband, Thutmose III. Now he didn't like playing second fiddle to anyone, let alone a woman, but for a long time he wasn't powerful enough to overthrow her.

Eventually he did and for a period they were co-rulers. It was probably at this time that Moses deciding to throw in his lot with the people of Israel, in defending one of them one day, slew one of the cruel taskmasters. Then Moses had to flee away from Egypt and was in Midian for forty years as a humble shepherd.

Very soon afterwards we find that Hatshepsut disappeared from history and her most powerful supporters were probably killed. Immediately after the disappearance we find Thutmose III had her statues broken up and disfigured. He replaced her name with the name of his father and grandfather.

All these discoveries archaeology is making is helping to restore the credibility of the Bible and its historical reliability.

Archaeology's foremost archaeologist, W. F. Albright, died in 1971. Dr. Albright had his schooling in the James Hopkin's University, under the Julian Huxley philosophy that was, "If you can't prove it, don't believe it." Whatever can't be proved is not to be believed, was the philosophy that motivated W. F. Albright for years as he first began to dig in those ancient lands.

In 1935 Albright made this statement. "Practically all of the Old Testament scholars of standing in Europe and America held these or similar views until very recently that is, If you can't prove it don't believe it." You know the doubting skeptical attitude! Now he says. "However the situation is changing with the greatest rapidity since the theory of Julian Huxley will not bear the test of archaeological examination."

The next year he said; "Nothing has been found to disturb a reasonable faith. And nothing has been discovered which can disprove a single theological doctrine."

Then In 1952 he made this interesting statement. "During these 15 years my initially rather skeptical attitude toward the accuracy of the Israeli historical tradition has suffered repeated jolts as discovery after discovery confirm the historicity of the details which might reasonably have been considered legendary."

Then in 1958 he said, "Thanks to modern research we now recognize its substantial historicity. (talking of the Bible). The narratives of the patriarchs, of Moses and the Exodus, and the conquest of Canaan have all been confirmed and illustrated to an extent that I should have thought impossible 40 years ago."

Then again in 1958 he went on to say. "There is only one way out of the apparent impasse. We must return again to the Bible and draw new strength from the sources of Judeo Christian faith." Once again the grand old book is vindicated and the skeptics proven wrong.