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# RATIO CHRISTI

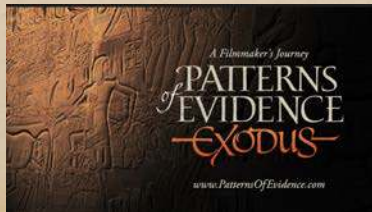
CAMPUS APOLOGETICS ALLIANCE

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## Did the Exodus Really Happen?

A look at Patterns of Evidence: Exodus



Biblical account accepted as true until 1950's; Reasons for this:

- Rameses II understood as Pharaoh of Exodus (1250 BC)
- Destruction of Jericho understood as having taken place long before 1250 BC.
- Therefore, the Israelites could not have conquered Canaan during 1250 BC.
- William Dever (agnostic): Postmodern fallout: nihilism and deconstruction as a hermeneutic, whereby texts have no meaning.

### Dating Rameses II as Pharaoh of Exodus

Problem: Rameses II Pharaoh during Egypt's 19th Dynasty c. 1250 BC

— No evidence of Exodus and Conquest \*during 1250 BC period.

—However, there is evidence of Semites arriving in Egypt, of their massive population, of their enslavement, of plagues, of sudden abandoned cities, of military destruction of city-states in Canaan, but not during that time-frame (1250 BC & following).

## 3 Views on Exodus

- No Exodus – Jericho destroyed by time of Joshua. All Semites in Egypt too early when compared to biblical dating system
- 1250 Exodus – Rameses II as Pharaoh
- 1450 Exodus – based upon 1 Kings 6:1

## What evidence do we need?

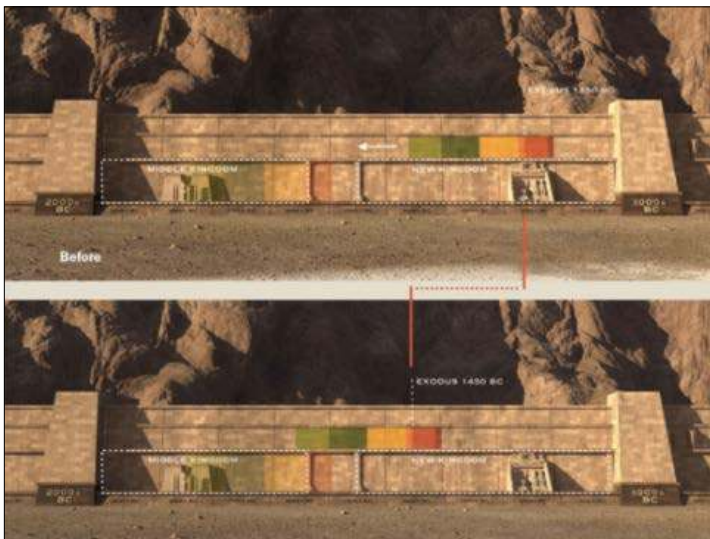
1. Arrival
2. Multiplication
3. Slavery
4. Judgment
5. Exodus
6. Conquest

Focus of this talk: pts. 1-4

Patterns required for 1250 BC Exodus (top right)  
Conventional dating patterns in Archaeology (bottom left)



Light Green: Arrival  
Dark Green: Multiplication  
Yellow: Slavery  
Red: Exodus & Conquest  
--followed by dark period in Egyptian history



Dating Exodus at 1450 BC &  
Moving Egypt's Timeline Forward



Light Green: Arrival  
Dark Green: Multiplication  
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## Dating the Exodus

### • Biblical Date: 1450 B.C.

Biblical date for Exodus is 1450 BC: "In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of the Lord," (1 Kings 6:1). Built in 964 BC. Add 480 years = 1444 BC.\*

\*Known from destruction of temple in 587 BC by the Babylonians; also from Assyriology, of a recorded solar eclipse during the 9th year of King Ashur-dan III (June 19th 753 BC); inscription of Shalmaneser III (858-824), also Shalmaneser III's inscription on Black Obelisk showing Jehu bowing to him (841 BC); among other inscriptions which confirm Solomon's Temple at 970 BC.

## 1250 BC Ramesses II date, but...

Based on an "anachronism" from Exodus - referring to something in the past with a term that wasn't used in that particular past.

- a. Exodus 1:11 "So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh."
- b. Genesis 47:1,5 Jacob has "come from the land of Canaan; and indeed they are in the land of Goshen," and "let [Jacob and his sons] dwell in the land of Goshen."

--VS.--

!! "So Joseph settled his father and his brothers in Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, the district of Rameses, as Pharaoh directed."

- c. Modern example: The city of New York was founded in 1625 by Dutch colonists. "New Amsterdam" was the actual name at the time.



# How Much of Egypt Has Been Excavated?

Ancient City of Tanis - 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty/7 pyramids, 3,100 settlements in  
Egypt alone – “Less than 1% of ancient Egypt is excavated” – Dr.  
Sarah Parcak Univ. Alabama, Birmingham.



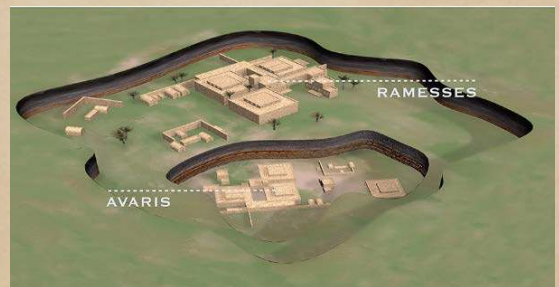
Avaris in the Land of Goshen



Avaris: 3% exc. of 250 hectares (4 sq mi)  
Population: 25-30k



Manfred Beitzak



Avaris under Ramesses



Hey Joe



Semites in a tomb painting c. 1897-1878 BC (c.d) during reign of Knumhotep II, who served under Senuseret II, who preceded Senuseret III, thought to be the Pharaoh of Joseph. Late 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty



Mittlesaalhaus – Avaris  
Reconstruction of Syrian home



Palace with 12 pillars  
Upper photo, courtyard.



12 Tombs  
With Pyramid Tomb of High Official



Colossal Figure  
Syrian High Official

## Joseph?

Found in 1970's by Egyptologist Manfred Bietak - City of Avaris in Goshen:

1. City full of Semites
2. Additional cities of Semites & Slaves (Kahun)
3. Syrian Style home.
4. Palace Built on top of home.
5. Robing Room
6. Twelve pillars
7. Twelve tombs
8. One pyramid tomb
9. Only 3% of Avaris is excavated after 30 years.





Statue with face broken off.

3D rendering of full statue.



Statue's shoulder shows paint fragments.

Highlights show the patterns of paint fragments.

## Joseph's Tomb?

1. Red hair, yellow skin: Asiatic.
2. Royal figure, honored by Pharaoh.
3. Pyramid tombs only for Pharaohs and kings.
4. Throw stick: sign of authority, common among Canaanites.
5. No bones in tomb.

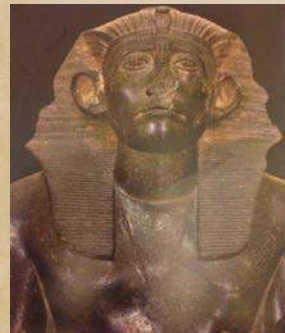


## Evidence of Famine: Distressed Pharaohs of the Middle Kingdom, 12th Dynasty

Senuseret III 1878-1839 BC

Amenemhat III 1860-1814

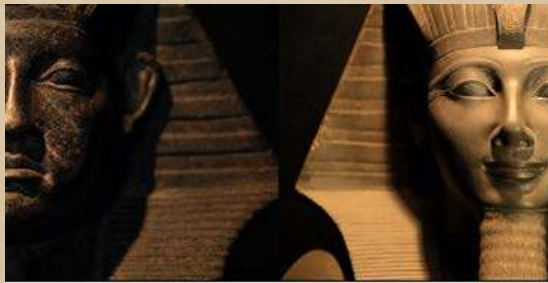
Father (L) and Son (R), Middle Kingdom Dynasty 12



Worried look, ears widened – listening to cries of people



Not lookin' too happy. Pinched waist.  
Not enough grub?



Sad Pharaoh  
Happy Pharaoh

## Senusert & Amenemhat III Evidence of Famine

- Nile records at Semna/Kumma record disastrous flood levels. Semna/Kumma were fortresses for Amenemhat III for viewing the flood levels.\* But if the fort was on ground level, how could there be floods in that area?
- \*Source: Elka Ynanex, "Rock Inscriptions from Semna and Kumma: Epigraphic Study," Sudan National Museum: National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums, Swiss Embassy, SFDAS, Khartoum, 2010.
- Solution: Bar Youssef - The Way of Joseph.



## A Drainage System to Prevent Flooding



Amenemhat III: Fortress and Labyrinth

At Hawara near Fayum & the Bahr Yousef

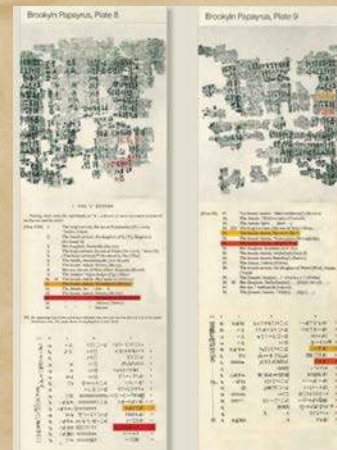
\*Seized control over nomarchs.



Wealth changes from numerous nomarchs to one, solo Pharaoh

## Brooklyn Papyrus Slave List

Names of Egyptian and Semitic domestic slaves  
Hebrew: Shiphrah, Asher, Manahem, Issachar (3x)



\*13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty Papyrus

\*\*70% of names of approx. 100 names are Semitic

## Signs of Judgment



Ipuwer Papyrus

## Ipuwer Papyrus

Egyptian sage, Ipuwer – end of 19th Dynasty. According to Eusebius, this is around 1450 BC.

- “Behold, Egypt has fallen to the pouring water. And he who poured water on the ground seizes the mighty in misery.”
- “The river is blood! As you drink of it you lose your humanity and thirst for water.”
- “Gone is the grain of abundance. Food supplies are running short. The nobles hunger and suffer. Upper Egypt has become a wasteland. Grain is lacking on every side. The storehouse is bare. Women say, ‘Oh that we had something to eat!’”
- “What can we do about it? All is ruin!”
- “Those who had shelter are now in the dark of the storm. The whole of the delta cannot be seen.”
- “There is fire in their hearts! If only he (Amenemhat?) had perceived their nature in the first generation! Then he would have smitten the evil—stretched out his arm against it. He would have destroyed their seed and their heritage.”
- “Behold, plague sweeps the land, blood is everywhere with no shortage of the dead. Children are dashed against the walls. The funeral shroud calls out to you before you come near. Woe is me for the grief of this time. He who buries his brother in the ground is everywhere...Wailing is throughout the land mingled with lamentations.”
- “The slaves takes what he finds. What belongs to the palace has been stripped. Gold, lapis lazuli, silver and turquoise are strung on the necks of female slaves. See how the poor of the land have become rich whilst the man of property is a pauper.”

## Other Findings at Avaris

Death pits filled with bodies thrown in, and with haste. Bodies on top of each other.  
Archaeologist Manfred Bietak: people died of a calamity or plague.

Semites of Avaris and other cities are believed by archaeologists to have up and left the city in haste.

## Graves at Avaris



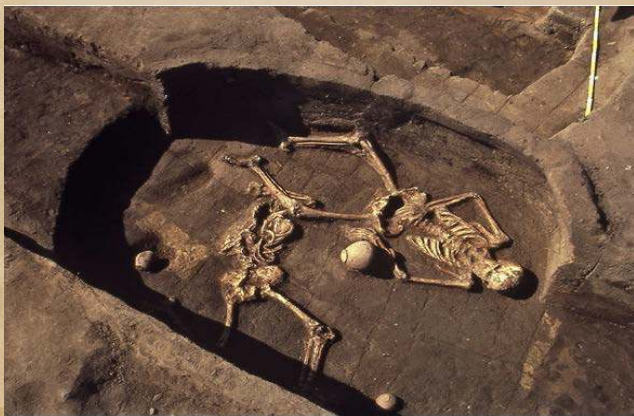
- Median life expectancy: 18.6 years
- Anemic diseases – 1/3 pop decd.
- Harris lines in bones: hard labor, malnutrition
- Male population: Canaanite
- Female population: mostly local
- Male life-expectancy 34.4
- Female life-expectancy 29.7

Manfred Bietak, Avaris: the Capitol City of the Hyksos. Recent Excavations at Tell el-Dab'a. British Museum Press, 1996. p.36.

## Death Pits at Avaris



## Another Death Pit at Avaris



“Tombs found in excavation areas F/1 and A/II, areas which are more than 500 m apart from each other, were obviously emergency graves. Some of them are merely pits into which **bodies were thrown**. Most were without offerings. We think the **evidence suggests** that an epidemic swept through the town. It may have been the bubonic **plague**, perhaps the disease referred to as '**Asiatic disease**' in the medical papyri of the early 18th Dynasty. It is possible that the plague acquired this name as it raged within this Asiatic community in the Delta. However, this is speculation as there is, as yet, no scientific evidence for such a plague.”  
Beitak, Avaris, 35.



## Abandonment of Kahun



"But the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them" (Exodus 1:7)

## Abandonment of Kahun

- Egyptologist Rosalie David
- Documentation of slaves

"Domestic wares, the workmen's tools, the agricultural equipment, weaving equipment, children's toys, the make-up and jewelry of the women, and the articles associated with their daily religious observances have all been discovered, lying as they were left, some 4,000 years ago, in the streets and rooms of the houses... The quantity, range and type of articles of everyday use which were left behind in the houses may indeed suggest that the departure was sudden and unpremeditated."

-A.R. David, *The Pyramid Builders of Ancient Egypt* (London: Routledge, 1986, 1996), 246.

- Kahun: Pyramid builders' town
- Enclosed by thick brick wall to confine people
- Isolated, surrounded by hills, easily guarded
- Near Bahr Yusef and Fayum Basin
- Good water supply not in close proximity
- Text: "May you be plague-stricken!" And, "Come that I may see you. Behold, we are passing an evil hour."
- End of Middle Kingdom, 13<sup>th</sup> Dynasty

## Abandonment of Kahun

- Kahun "seems to have been deserted by its inhabitants in such a hurry that some kind of disaster may have occurred, though this can hardly be plague, which has been suggested, since no bodies except the baby-burials were found. Whatever happened, the paucity [lack] of cloth is unusual – if sandals and precious needles were left behind, why not unwanted cloths?"
- Moses told the Israelites to ask the Egyptians for their clothes & jewelry (Exodus 12:35)

## Internal Evidence from the Bible.

### Hebrew words in Exodus

- a. Basket – Hebrew *tebat* derived from Egyptian *ḏb3t*; *tebat* – used twice in Old Testament, once for Noah's ark, the other for Moses' basket.
- b. Papyrus – Hebrew *gomeh* derived from Egyptian *km3* or *gny* or *kmy*.
- c. Pitch – Hebrew *zepat* possibly derived from Egyptian *s'ft*. Problem: Egyptian *s'* not same as Hebrew *z*. The two words could have a common root.
- d. Other words: sea (*suph*), Nile, and brink (as in, the brink of the river).
- e. Moses: Hebrew *mosheh* derived from Egyptian *msi/msj*, which means "to give birth" – reason for name *mosheh* in Exodus is "because I drew him out of the water" (Exodus 2:5-9). *Moseh/msi* common parts of "theophoric" (god-bearing) names in Egypt during the New Kingdom (1550-1070 B.C.): *Amenmose*, *Thutmose*, *Ahmose*, *Ptahmose*, *Ramose*, *Ramesse*. *Moseh* – active voice "one who draws out of the water" – not passive "one who is drawn out" & could be a wordplay on *mosia* "savior, deliverer." Also corresponds to Egyptian *mose*, "son, child." Before he was a deliverer, Moses was a son of the princess.

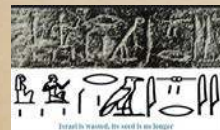
- Additional Loanwords in the Exodus and Wilderness Narratives

1. *hartom* – magician – *hr-tp* - 7x
2. *phar'oh* – Pharaoh – *pr-3*- 115x
3. *ephah* – ephah-measure – *ip.t* – 6x
4. *y'r* – Nile river, river – *irw* (cf. *itrw*) –
5. Exodus & Wilderness Narratives – 27 loan words, 381x, 1.72% lexemes, 0.591% of total words



## Was Ramesses II the Pharaoh of the Exodus?

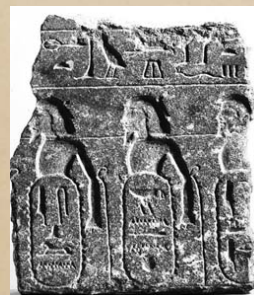
- Merneptah Stela
- Merneptah succeeded Ramesses II
- "Israel is laid waste. His seed is no more."



"If Ramesses II was the Pharaoh of the Exodus, as has long been held, then how could his son Merneptah be claiming victory over a bunch of slaves who had recently wandered off into the desert for forty years or so?"

\*David Rohl, Egyptologist, in "Exodus: Myth or History?" (St. Louis Park, MN: Thinking Man Media, 2015), 24.

The Berlin Pedestal Fragment: c. 1525-1300BC(?)



If Israel was already in the land with Ashkelon and Kynanu (Canaan), how could Ramesses attack a nation that could not have existed so soon after an Exodus?

## Evidence for Ramesses II as Shishak

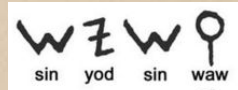
- Shishak, 1 Kings 14:25 & 2 Chronicles 12:1-4; invades Jerusalem, plunders Temple.
- Hittite version of Ramesses name = Ria-ma-shisha. Other Egyptian artifacts spell Ramesses name as Ssw. "w" ("waw") is a vowel maker. In Hebrew it is "v" or "w". (S^s^), & S=SH (Hebrew sin & shin)
- Shisha = Hittite nickname for Ramesses (Ria-ma-shisha). Q/K (Hebrew 'qoph')

## Ramesses II as Shishak of 1 Kings 14:25

- Went to war against Rehoboam during his 5<sup>th</sup> year. Jerusalem.
- Lachish VI Ostracon; waw (waw) written as a loop on top of a vertical stem (a lollipop). Proto-Sinaitic script - gave rise to proto-Hebrew (19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty/ 1250 BC)
- Izbet Sartah Ostrakon (10<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> c. BC). By this time the loop on the vertical stem served not as "waw" but as "qoph" (q/k)
- Ramesses = Sysw = shisha (Hittite) = Sysw (1250 BC) = Sysq (10<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> BC) = Shishak of 1 Kings 14:25.

S Y S A

Lollipop makes an "ah" sound —>



Lollipop makes a "k" sound —>



Hebrew letters "sin" (l) and "shin" (r)

sh i sh k



See the difference in spelling?

Hebrew letter

'vav'

or 'waw'



## The Evidence

- Royal figure much like Joseph found in Avaris
- Pharaohs with care-worn faces, during times of record flood levels
- Bahr Yousef - still in use today
- Evidence of slavery
- Avaris filled with death pits, and abandoned immediately.
- Ramesses Theory of Exodus in 1250 BC problematic; evidence he is Shishak (10th c. BC)

Dating Exodus at 1450 BC & Moving Egypt's Timeline Forward

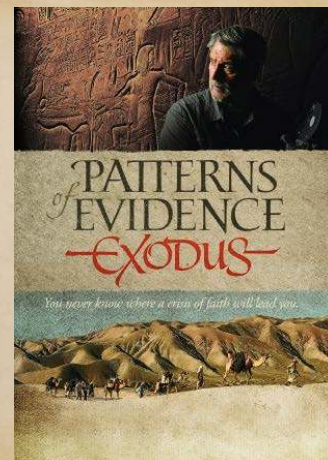


Light Green: Arrival  
Dark Green: Multiplication

Yellow: Slavery  
Red: Exodus & Conquest

## Suggested Reading

- Patterns of Evidence by Timothy Mahoney
- Exodus: Myth or History? By David Rohl
- Do Historical Matters Matter to Faith? edited by James K. Hoffmeier and Dennis R. Magary
- Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition by James K. Hoffmeier.
- Israel in Sinai: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Wilderness Tradition by James K. Hoffmeier
- Did I Not Bring Israel out of Egypt? Biblical, Archaeological, and Egyptological Perspectives on the Exodus Narratives edited by James K. Hoffmeier, Alan R. Millard, and Gary A. Rendsburg
- On the Reliability of the Old Testament by Kenneth Kitchen
- The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable and Relevant? by Walter Kaiser







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