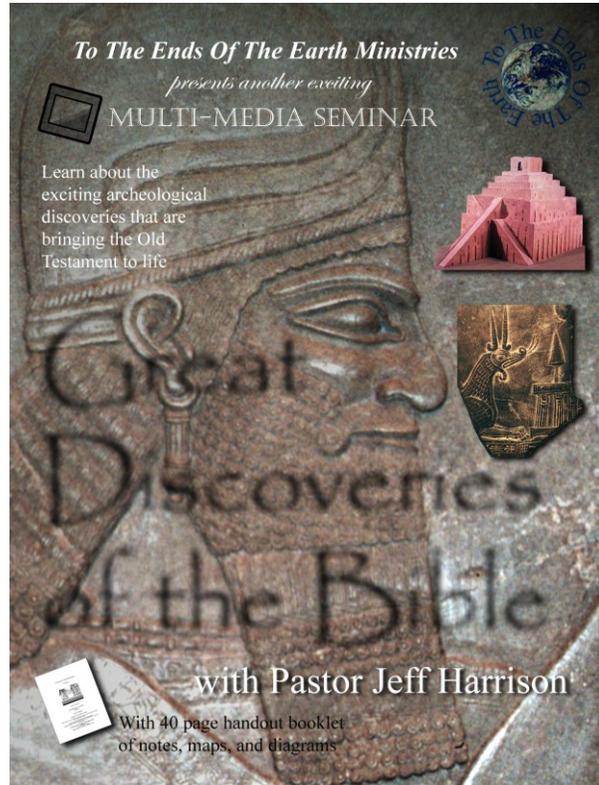


To The Ends of the Earth Ministries

— *presents* —



Study Notes for **Great Discoveries of the Bible** **Lecture #3**

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GREAT DISCOVERIES OF THE BIBLE Lecture #3: Joseph, Moses, and the Exodus

JOSEPH

Beni Hasan: Location of a tomb painting (tomb of Khnumhotep, 150 miles south of Cairo; c.1850 BC) that shows 37 Semites bringing black eye paint (*kohl*) to trade in Egypt.

Sinuhe: The central character in a famous ancient Egyptian story (c.1950 BC) in which Sinuhe escapes Egypt for Canaan, but is later reinstated as a high official in Egypt.

Shur ("Wall"): A line of fortresses along the eastern border of Egypt to protect it from desert raiders. The desert east of this line was known as the Desert of Shur (see Gen. 16:7, 20:1, 25:18; Ex. 15:22; 1 Sam. 15:7, 27:8).

Bedu: Egyptian term for the Bedouin living in Canaan.

Gen. 41:14: *"And when he had shaved himself..."*

Gen. 41:45: *"Then Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On (Heliopolis), as his wife"*

Gen. 44:2, 5: *"And put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest'.... 'Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and which he indeed uses for divination?"*

Gen. 50:2-3: *"And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father... Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming"*

Gen. 50:10,13: *"When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he [Joseph] observed seven days mourning for his father.... and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah by Mamre [Hebron]"*

Gen. 50:26: *"So Joseph died...and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt"*

Gen. 43:32: *"So they served him [Joseph] by himself, and them [his brothers] by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him, by themselves; because the Egyptians would not eat bread with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians"*

Gen. 46:34: *"...That you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians"*

Hyksos: Semitic rulers of northern Egypt. Their cultural power base was Canaan, which for a short period became strong enough to dominate northern Egypt.

Ex. 1:10: *"...Lest they [the Israelites] multiply and in the event of war, they also join themselves to those who hate us..."*

Ex. 2:23: *"The sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help...rose up to God"*

EGYPTIAN HISTORY (B.C.)

OLD KINGDOM (3100-2190)

1st-2nd Dynasties	Unification of Egypt
3rd-6th Dynasties	Age of the Pyramids

First Intermediate (2190-2052)

7th-10th Dynasties	Disorder
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MIDDLE KINGDOM (2052-1778)

11th Dynasty	Reunification
12th Dynasty	Joseph

Second Intermediate (1778-1570)

13th-14th Dynasties	Disorder
15th-17th Dynasties	Hyksos rule in north

NEW KINGDOM (1570-1200)

18th Dynasty	Hyksos driven out, Slavery, Moses , Exodus, Conquest
19th Dynasty	Merneptah Stele that mentions Israel in Canaan (1209)

The Route of the Exodus



SLAVERY

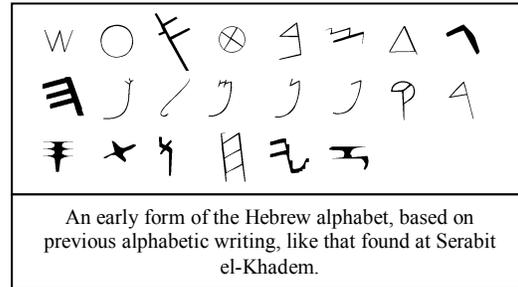
Ex. 1:11,14: *"And they built for Pharaoh storage cities.... with hard labor in mortar and bricks"*

Papyrus (pl.: papyri): A type of paper made from papyrus reeds.

Serabit el-Khadem: Ancient Egyptian mining site in western Sinai. Some of the earliest examples of alphabetic writing were found here, carved by Semitic slaves into the walls of the mines.

Timnah Valley: Ancient Egyptian mining site in S Israel.

Hathor: The goddess of foreign lands, as well as of mining. A cow goddess, often shown as a woman with cow-like ears.



How did people become slaves in the Ancient Middle East?

- 1) Some were captives of war: both soldiers and civilians.
- 2) Others were kidnapped and sold on the slave market—like Joseph. This is forbidden in the Law of Moses (Ex. 21:16: *"He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, will surely be put to death"*).
- 3) Sometimes people sold their own children (2 Kings 4:1: *"The creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves"*).
- 4) If they didn't have children, they might sell themselves, out of hunger or debt (Lev. 25:39: *"And if a countryman of yours becomes so poor...that he sells himself to you..."*)

Ex. 21:26: *"If a man strikes the eye of his male or female slave, and destroys it, he will let him go free..."*

Ex. 21:20: *"If a man strikes his male or female slave with a rod and he dies at his hand, he will be punished"*

Deut. 23:15: *"You will not hand over to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you"*



Ex. 20:2: *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery"*

Deut. 15:12: *"..in the seventh year you will set him free"*

DATING THE EXODUS

The names of the pharaohs were composed of the names of the Egyptian gods: Ramses means "Ra (the sun god) gave birth to him." Amenhotep means "Amon (the name of a god) is satisfied."

1) The most popular date for the Exodus is about 1250 BC, in the time of Ramses II.

Ex. 1:11: *"They built for Pharaoh storage cities, Pithom and Raamses"*

Surface survey: Examining archeological materials lying on the surface of a site or area without excavation. From the types of pottery visible, archeologists can usually get an idea of when the site was inhabited.

Nelson Glueck: Did a surface survey of Jordan in the 1930's. He claimed there was no evidence for the Edomite, Moabite, and Ammonite peoples before 1300 BC. Excavations since that time have overturned Glueck's findings.

2) The Biblical date for the Exodus is 1446 BC, in the reign of Amenhotep II.

Hatshepsut: A female pharaoh who ruled wearing an artificial beard. She may have been the young lady, then a royal princess, that rescued baby Moses from the river. Why would she take such a risk? She had no male child of her own, which threatened her position in the royal court.

Thutmose II: Pharaoh and husband of Hatshepsut. Just before his death, he named the son of one of his concubines to become the new pharaoh (Thutmose III). But since Thutmose III was very young, Hatshepsut ruled in his place for 20 years.

Ex. 2:15: *"When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he tried to kill Moses..."*

MIDIAN

Midianite Connection: A theory that traces Moses' ideas about religion to the Midianites, among whom he lived for 40 years in the desert.

Midianite temple at Timnah: A tent shrine. The tent was found rolled up and buried to the side of the shrine. A small bronze snake was also discovered.

There's no question that Moses learned much about God in the desert. In addition to whatever he may have learned from the Midianites, he also had his own experiences with God, like the encounter at the burning bush.

Ex. 3:2: *"And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of the bush..."*

Ex. 3:4: *"When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God (Elohim) called to him from the midst of the bush..."*

EGYPT'S 18TH DYNASTY		
Amosis	1570-1546	Hyksos (foreign rulers) expelled from Egypt. Israelites made slaves.
Amenhotep I	1546-1526	Slavery continues.
Thutmose I	1526-1512	Israelite baby boys killed. Moses born (1526). Saved by Hatshepsut (Thutmose's daughter), who had no male child.
Thutmose II	1512-1504	Moses raised at court. Hatshepsut is queen.
Hatshepsut	1503-1483	Moses' step-mother rules after death of king as regent for Thutmose III.
Thutmose III	1504-1450	Son of a concubine, younger than Moses. Moses flees to Midian. Hatshepsut's image and name erased from monuments because of association with Moses? Thutmose conducts 20+ military campaigns into Canaan, subduing the land again for Egypt.
Amenhotep II	1450-1425	Exodus (1446). After Amenhotep's 4th year (the date of the Exodus) Egyptian invasions of Canaan cease (because of the destruction and turmoil of the plagues).
Thutmose IV	1425-1417	Israelites wander in the desert. Thutmose is not Amenhotep's eldest (who was killed in the plagues), but a younger son who did not expect to reign. Only one northern campaign. Peace treaty established with Mitanni vs. the Hittites.
Amenhotep III	1417-1379	Israelite conquest of Canaan (begins 1400). Amarna Letters begin concerning the invading Habiru. No Egyptian military response.
Amenhotep IV (Ankhenaton)	1379-1362	Conquest continues. More Amarna Letters about the Habiru. Still no military response. Egyptian army called back to Egypt to help with religious reforms that allow worship of only one god (due to a loss of faith in the old gods as a result of the plagues?)
Tutankhamon (King Tut)	1361-1352	Restores ancient worship. His unrobbed tomb is discovered in modern times.
Ay	1352-1348	
Horemheb	1348-1320	

PLAGUES

Thutmose IV: Son of Amenhotep II, who recorded in an inscription (known as the "dream stele") that his advancement to the throne was an unforeseen blessing of the gods. This matches the Bible, which says that the eldest son of the pharaoh of the Exodus was killed in the plagues.

Num. 33:4: *"And the LORD did acts of judgment against their gods"*

- 1) Plague #1: Nile turns to blood. Vs. the Egyptian god **Ha-pi**, the god of the Nile.
- 2) Plague #2: Frogs. Vs. the goddess **He-quet**: the goddess of household affairs and fertility.
- 3+4) Plagues #3+4: Gnats and flies. The scarab beetle is one example of an insect considered a god by the Egyptians.
- 5) Plague #5: Cattle die. Vs. the Egyptian cow goddess, **Hathor**.

- 6) Plague #6: Boils (pus-filled abscesses).
- 7) Plague #7: Hail. Hail may not seem so bad to those who have never experienced it, but it can be extremely damaging and destructive. Vs. the Canaanite god **Baal**, the god of the storm (who also had worshippers in Egypt at this time) and **Tefnut**, the Egyptian sky god.
- 8) Plague #8: Locusts. Ex. 10:19: *"So the Lord shifted the wind to a very strong west wind that took up the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea; not one locust was left in all the territory of Egypt."* Vs. **Shu**, the god of the air.
- 9) Plague #9: Darkness. Probably caused by a wind-blown dust known as **loess** soil. Vs. **Amon-Re**, the sun god, considered the greatest god of Egypt. The pharaoh was seen as the incarnation of Amon-Re.
- 10) Plague #10: First born. Vs. the divinity of the pharaohs themselves.

(3b)

ROUTE OF THE EXODUS

Reed Sea: In Hebrew, "Yam Suf." This is the actual meaning of the Hebrew words incorrectly translated "Red Sea." This eliminates the branches of the Red Sea (the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Eilat) for the crossing place of the Israelites: because of the salty water, there are no reeds growing along its shores.

Ex. 15:22: *"And Moses led Israel out from the Reed Sea and they went out into the Desert of Shur..."*

Papyrus Anastasi: Preserve reports of Egyptian frontier officials stationed along the "Shur" line of forts. Papyrus Anastasi V tells of 2 escaped slaves from the palace at Pi-Ramesses (the same area from which the Israelites started) who fled across the "Shur" into Sinai at night.

Lake Sirbonis (or Bardawil): A shallow lagoon along the north shore of Sinai, separated by a shallow sand bar from the Mediterranean.

Lake Timsah: The closest to Goshen. But it's very shallow, and too small: the chariots of Pharaoh could have easily driven around the lake.

Bitter Lakes: Strong east winds have been known to push water out of the lake from time to time, which then rushes back in when the wind stops.

Ex. 14:21: *"Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided"*

Ex. 14:22: *"And the sons of Israel went into the middle of the sea on dry ground and the waters were a wall (or a protection) for them on their right (or south) and on their left (or north)"*

MT. SINAI

Jebel Musa: The traditional site of Mt. Sinai in southern Sinai (marked as Mt. Sinai on the map). Identified by Christian monks from the nearby **Feiran Oasis** in the 4th cent. AD. Site of **St. Catherine's Monastery**.

DESERT PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Quail: Migrate across Sinai by the thousands every year: the Bedouin set up nets to catch them.

Ex. 16:13: *"So it came about at evening that the quails came up and covered the camp..."*

Ex. 16:13,14: *"In the morning, there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew evaporated, look!, there was a fine flake-like thing on the surface of the desert, fine as the frost on the ground"*

Rotem: Also known as the broom tree. Can be seen in many of the dry riverbeds of the desert. One of the candidates for the source of the manna.



Blooming broom tree (rotem)

Cicada droppings: A sweet, white substance eaten by the Bedouin. It spoils by noon.

MOSES STRIKES THE ROCK

THE LAW OF MOSES

Ex. 19:4: *"You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to myself"*

Ex. 19:5-6: *"Now then, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you will be my own possession among all the peoples..."*

Ex. 19:8: *"All that the LORD has spoken we will do!"*

Vassal Treaty: A type of treaty (associated with the Hittites) that closely matches the format of God's covenant with Israel. It was used to clarify the relationship between a ruler and a newly conquered people.

- 1) **Historical Prologue:** Here the ruler identified himself, and mentioned his favorable actions on the peoples' behalf. Ex. 20:2: *"I am the LORD your God who brought you (in the singular) out of the land of Egypt, out of the condition of slavery"*
- 2) **Stipulations:**
 - a) These usually included a loyalty clause, which prohibited forming treaties with other kings. Ex. 20:3: *"You (singular) will not have other gods in my presence"* Ex. 20:4-5: *"You (singular) will not make for yourself a shaped image (an idol); and any likeness that appears in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth you will not make yourself bow down to or worship"*
 - b) Another standard requirement was that you would honor oaths made in the name of the ruler. In this case, you were to honor oaths made in God's name: Ex. 20:7: *"You will not take the name of the LORD your God in vain..."*
 - c) Following the basic, foundational principles of the Ten Commandments are the "ordinances," specific laws or decrees, as well as what today we would call case law, decisions about how to apply the general principles in particular situations.
 - d) Most treaties would include instructions about a governor appointed by the king to rule the conquered area, and the provision the people were to make for him and his court. In the Law of Moses, this became the instructions to build the Tabernacle, where God himself would dwell among his people, along with instructions for religious worship, the provision for the priests (tithes), etc.
- 3) **Witnesses:** A third section specified the witnesses to the treaty. Normally, these were the pagan gods. Deut. 31:28: *"that I may...call the heavens and the earth to witness against them"*
- 4) **Copy of Treaty Deposited:** A fourth section mentioned where a copy of the treaty was to be kept. Ordinarily there were at least two copies, one kept by the king, the other by the people with whom he was making the treaty. This is why there were two tablets with the Ten Commandments. Ex. 32:15: *"...tablets that were written on both sides..."* Ex. 25:16: *"And you will put into the ark the testimony that I will give you"* = the "tablets of the testimony," Ex. 31:18.
- 5) **Blessings & Curses:** A fifth section specified blessings for obedience to the treaty, and curses for disobedience. These can be found in Lev. 26 (and Deut. 28).
- 6) **Public Reading of Treaty:** Provisions for a regular public reading of the treaty were also sometimes added, as in Deut. 31:10-13.
- 7) **Covenant Meal:** A covenant meal would sometimes be eaten to confirm the treaty. Ex. 24:9-11: *"Then Moses went up with Aaron...and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel; and under his feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself...and they ate and drank"*

Ex. 33:20: *"And he (God) said, '...For no man can see me and live!"*

Ez. 1:22,26: *"There was something like an expanse, like the awesome gleam of ice.... And above the expanse...there was a figure with the appearance of a man"*

Ez. 1:28: *"He is the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD"*

Heb. 1:3: *"He is the radiance of his (God's) glory and the exact representation of his nature..."*

Rev. 3:20: *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me."*