

THE EGYPTIAN NEW KINGDOM

I. THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH DYNASTY

A. Ahmose I (1550-1525)

1. destroyed Hyksos capital Avaris; drove Hyksos from delta ca. 1550 BC (TANE 173-75; ANET 233-34)
2. founded 18th Dynasty & began Egyptian New Kingdom
3. probably = the “Pharaoh who did not know Joseph” (Ex 1:8)

B. Amenhotep I (1525-1504)

C. Thutmose I (1504-1492)

1. campaigned as far as the Euphrates in N Syria; upstream to 4th Nile cataract in S
2. city-states of Palestine-Syria were treated as vassals; Nubia (to the S), as a colony
3. faced newly formed Hurrian kingdom of **Mitanni** in N Syria

D. Thutmose II (1492-1479)

E. Thutmose III (1479-1425; TANE, fig. 106)

1. young son of Thutmose II by a minor wife; overshadowed by aunt/step-mother, Hatshepsut
2. after death of Hatshepsut, he campaigned vigorously to restore the empire in Syria-Palestine
3. Battle of Megiddo during first campaign (TANE 175-82; ANET 234-38)
4. left lists of conquered cities in anthropomorphic form at Karnak temple (TANE, fig. 88)

F. Hatshepsut (1473-1458)

1. widow of Thutmose II, aunt/step-mother and regent of Thutmose III
2. took title of pharaoh in 7th year of Thutmose III, ruled as “king”
3. limited foreign activity; funerary temple (modern Deir el-Bahri) important in history of architecture

G. Amenhotep II (1427-1401): continued struggles with Mitanni

H. Thutmose IV (1401-1391): after war in N Syria; received a Mitannian princess as a minor wife

I. Amenhotep III (1391-1353; TANE fig. 107)

1. continued peace with Mitanni; married Mitannian princesses; prosperous period
2. main wife was commoner, Queen Tiye
3. greatest builder of 18th Dyn.: additions to Amon Temple at Karnak; mortuary temple (Colossi of Memnon)

II. THE “AMARNA AGE” AND END OF THE EIGHTEENTH DYNASTY

J. Amenhotep IV = Akhenaten (1353-1335)

1. changed name in 5th year as part of religious reform; reform unpopular, thus “the heretic Pharaoh”
 - a. sometimes called “first monotheist;” Akhenaten = “creative manifestation of the Aton,” the sun disc
 - b. more accurately: Akhenaten worshipped Aton, people worshipped him
 - c. new capital established at **Akhetaten** (“horizon of the Aton”)
 - e. traditional religion focused on Amen, god of Thebes, was suppressed
 - f. perhaps an attempt to limit the power of the priests of Amen
 - g. wife = **Nefertiti**, famous because of beautiful lifelike bust (TANE, fig. 109); co-regent in latter years
2. Amarna art and architecture
 - a. early depictions show Akhenaten in normal, formal style, as ideal pharaoh
 - b. soon Akhenaten depicted as disomorphic, with drawn face, pointed chin, thick lips, distended head, protruding belly, wide hips, and thin shoulders (TANE, figs. 108, 110)
 - c. other royal family members and eventually all persons thus depicted
 - d. an accurate representation of the Akhenaten?

- e. Aton shown as sun disk with rays terminating in hands dispensing the symbol of life, the *ankh*
- f. temples and other buildings built with small blocks called *talatat*; faster building, but not durable
- 3. **Amarna Letters** (TANE, 262-77; ANET, 483-90)
 - a. Found at Tell el-Amarna, ancient Akhetaton, Akhenaton's new capital
 - b. diplomatic correspondence between pharaohs and rulers in Palestine, Syria, Mesopotamia
 - c. demonstrate political conditions in Palestine before Exodus: fighting/accusations between rulers
 - d. many documents complain about the *Apiru (Habiru)*
 - 1) apparently a social (not ethnic) designation: landless people; related to "Hebrews?"
 - 2) active around Shechem, where used by king Labayu as mercenaries
 - e. during Akhenaten's reign, Mitanni was defeated by growing power in N, the Hittites

K. Smenkhare (1335-1333): a brother of Nefertiti? or perhaps Nefertiti ruling with a male name

L. **Tutankhamun** (1333-1323; TANE, fig. 111)

- 1. probably a son of Akhenaten; took throne as teen; reversed religious reform of Akhenaten
- 2. his tomb in Valley of the Kings discovered in 1920s

M. Ay (1323-1319): advisor/priest under Tutankhamun

N. Horemheb (1319-1307): vizier and general under Tutankhamun and Ay

I. THE NINETEENTH DYNASTY

A. Rameses I (1307-1306): Horemheb's non-royal vizier, Paramessu, from Avaris in the Delta

B. **Seti I** (1306-1290)

- 1. completely restored pre-Amarna religion and royal inscriptions
- 2. campaigned to restore the empire in Palestine and Syria (TANE 182-83; ANET 253-54)
- 3. built palace at Avaris in the Delta; = Pharaoh of the oppression?

C. **Rameses II** (1290-1224 BC; TANE, fig. 112)

- 1. campaigned in Asia (TANE, fig. 99) and vs. Hittites
- 2. **Battle of Qadesh**: Hittite Muwatalli ambushed Egyptians at Qadesh, battle ended as stalemate
- 3. peace with Hittites: king Hatusilli III sued for peace, leading to formal treaty
- 4. major builder of New Kingdom
 - a. Abu Simbel in Nubia
 - b. Thebes: major additions to Karnak, Luxor temples; mortuary temple, the Ramesseum
 - c. major building in Abydos and in ancient capital Memphis (temple of Ptah)
 - d. new capital built in Delta on site of Avaris: Pi-Ramesse (the Rameses of Ex 1:11)
 - e. probable pharaoh of the Exodus
- 5. fathered many children; some by own daughters; oldest son, Amen-hir-khopshef, died ca. regnal year 20

D. **Merneptah** (1224-1214; TANE, fig. 113)

- 1. 13th son of Rameses II
- 2. "Israel" Stelae (TANE 231; ANET 376, 378): 1st mention of Israel in ANE sources and only one in Egypt
 - a. record of a campaign against Libya and mercenary Sea Peoples
 - b. last few lines poetically record a campaign to Palestine against: Gezer, Yanoam, Ashkelon, "Israel"
 - c. Israel is listed as a tribal group rather than an established political state
 - d. a pictorial relief at Karnak has recently been related to this stela (TANE, fig. 91)

E. Seti II (1214-1204; TANE, fig. 114); Amenmesse (usurper); Siptah (1204-1198); Tausret (Queen, 1198-1196)