

Greatest Bible Places – Egypt

Egypt historically:

1. Formed roughly 3100 BC.
2. Pyramids built 2550-2490 BC.
3. King Tut reigned 1332-1323 BC.

Egypt Biblically:

1. Mentioned 646 times in Scripture, 2nd only to Jerusalem.
2. 619 references in the Old Testament – 29 of 39 books.
3. 27 references in the New Testament – Matthew, Acts, Hebrews, Jude, Revelation.

Aim of the lesson: highlight some of the important events related to Egypt in Scripture.

1. Abraham – Genesis 12:10-20 v. 10 is the first mention in Scripture

- A. Abraham was born roughly 2000 BC; some say 1960 BC. Quick outline of history: Adam to Abraham 2000 years. Abraham to Christ 2000 years. Christ to today 2000 years.
- B. He is living in Canaan when a famine strikes.
- C. Goes into Egypt for food, lies about Sarah being his sister (technically they're half-siblings, Gen. 20:13).
- D. Plagues allow Abraham to get Sarah back and then to leave.
- E. Mind blowing for me: the pyramids were over 500 years old when Abraham arrives,

2. Joseph – Genesis 37, 39-50 Nothing negative recorded in 12 chapters

- A. Sold for 20 pieces of silver – Gen. 37:28
- B. Sold to Potiphar – Gen. 37:36
- C. Placed by God's providence in Egypt, ends up being 2nd in command. Gen. 39:2
- D. Potiphar's wife tried to ruin Joseph's life, yet he was still faithful to God. Gen. 39:7-20
- E. Gen. 40 – interprets dreams of baker and butler.
- F. Gen. 41 – Pharaoh's dream
- G. His foresight before the famine years saved all his family. His summary: Genesis 50:19-20

3. Moses – Exodus 1-14 Go-to when you think of Egypt

- A. Moses was born close to 1400 BC. He spent the first 40 years of his life in the palaces of Egypt. Hebrews 11:24-26 – he was willing to leave earthly riches for spiritual riches. What kind of riches would Moses have access to? Remember, King Tut ruled within 100 years after Moses, and we know all about his wealth.
- B. Moses spent the next 40 years of his life training in the wilderness.
- C. At 80 years old, God calls Moses for the one job he was created for, chapters 3 & 4. Abraham was called at 75 (he lives to 175) and Moses was called when he was 80 tells us we all have a role to serve for the Lord.
- D. Fleeing Egypt (chapter 14) proves once and for all that God is in control of everything!

4. Solomon – 1 Kings 3:1 Not much on this one, but worth noting.

- A. As the third king of the United Kingdom, Solomon formed many political alliances by marrying princesses from neighboring kingdoms.
- B. His problem was he had too many wives – anything more than one wife at a time is too many!!
- C. One of the wives Solomon marries is an Egyptian.

5. Jeroboam – 1 Kings 11:40

- A. Leading the Northern Kingdom of Israel, Jeroboam must flee from one of his father's servants.
- B. Ironic to think that a city that was a place of torture for his ancestors became his city of refuge!

6. Rehoboam – 2 Chronicles 12:2

- A. Leading the Southern Kingdom of Judah, Rehoboam is attacked by an Egyptian pharaoh Shishank. Scholars think it was Shoshenq I.
- B. As it turns out, Rehoboam might have instigated the attack or events that led to the attack.
- C. 2 Chronicles 12:5 – forsaken
- E. Destruction from the Lord is negated when the Israelites humble themselves and become obedient. 2 Chronicles 12:6-7 – mercy is shown.
- F. 2 Chronicles 12:8-9 – taken over by Shishank – must suffer by enemy to know more about God

7. Jesus – Matthew 2:13

- A. Joseph is visited in a dream (not the first Joseph in our lesson to have a dream from God) and told to flee to Egypt as it was out of Herod's realm.
- B. Joseph and his young family (Mary, Jesus) stay in Egypt until Herod dies.
- C. Memphistours.com says 3½ years in Egypt; Jesus may have been up to five. when they return.
- D. Hosea 11:1 is a Messianic prophecy about Christ going to Egypt – and like every other prophecy this one was fulfilled in the Christ.

Lessons:

- 1. At times, Egypt was a place of safety for God's people. We should always stay in safety by obeying God's commands.
- 2. it is never advantageous to lie. Abraham may have subverted a difficult situation, but he ended up in a worse place. Lying never wins.
- 3. Satan and his temptations will linger around daily trying to get us to give in. Potiphar's wife made it look like Joseph sinned – yet God knew the truth and He is the ultimate judge!
- 4. Like Moses, we might not do our "life's work" until later in life – we must always be ready to serve God at every age.
- 5. Keep God's plan for marriage at the forefront in all things: one man, one woman, one God, for one life.
- 6. We must be like the Israelites and be ready to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord – James 4:7.
- 7. God will never speak to us in dreams like he did with both Josephs in our lesson. Today, He communicates to us through His written, complete, inspired Word. We talk back to Him through prayer.

"Way down in Egypt, 'mid burning sand, Moses had started for Canaan's Land..." – "Hilltops of Glory"

"Out of Egypt I have travelled through the darkness dreary..." – "Camping in Canaan's Land"

© 2023 Justin D. Reed | [615] 295 8999
Post Office Box 292 | Woodbury TN 37190
justinreedbible.com | justinreedbible@gmail.com

June 12, 2023 New Union church of Christ – VBS