

## Chapter Four: Intrusive Occupation of Egypt Intermediate Periods 2A & 2B

### *The Traditional 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period*

In the last chapter we documented the fact that there existed in Egypt a century long period of occupation by rebel kings between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> dynasties. We also noted the fact that another prolonged period of foreign domination followed the demise of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty. In the traditional Egyptian history the first of these intrusive intervals is otherwise unknown. The second, however, is familiar to all students of ancient history. It involves the rule of the Hyksos, the shepherd kings.

Almost without exception Egyptologists believe that the Middle Kingdom in Egypt ended with the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty. There followed a chaotic period in which Egypt was ruled primarily (though not exclusively) by foreigners, a period which ended when the last foreign ruler, by the name Apophis (Apop), was driven from Egypt by an ambitious native Theban prince named Ahmose. Ahmose is identified by scholars as the founder of Manetho's 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty of Diospolite (Theban) kings.

In the traditional history this interval between the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty is referred to as the "Second Intermediate Period". The 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty is conceived to be the first of a sequence of three powerful dynasties, the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, collectively termed the Egyptian "New Kingdom".

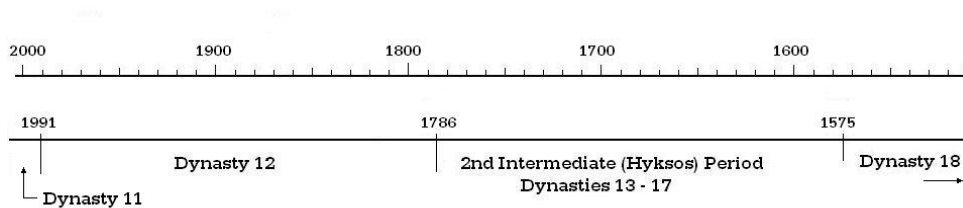
Egyptologists are in near unanimous agreement that the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty ended in the year 1786 B.C.<sup>27</sup> and that the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty began 210 years later, around the year 1575 B.C. This lengthy "Second Intermediate

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<sup>27</sup> This date is based on a dating schema which assumes the existence of a highly questionable "Sothic Period" in the Egyptian calendar, and on an equally debatable "Sothic date" provided by a 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty El-Lahun papyrus. So critical is this hypothetical Sothic dating to the traditional Egyptian chronology that, according to Gardiner, "to abandon 1786 B.C. as the year when Dyn. XII ended would be to cast adrift from our only firm anchor, a course that would have serious consequences for the history, not of Egypt alone, but of the entire Middle East." EP 148

Period” is often referred to uncritically as the Hyksos period, though the term Hyksos, coined by Manetho, was first used by him in reference to the foreigners who ruled during his 15<sup>th</sup> dynasty.

Figure 20: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period in the Traditional History



Contrarian scholars, particularly those who dispute the existence of a Sothic period in Egypt (see note 27), have long argued that the 210 years allotted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period is insufficient time to accommodate all of the kings cited by Manetho for this sequence of dynasties. According to Manetho the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty consisted of 60 Diospolite (Theban) kings who ruled for a combined 453 years, while the 14<sup>th</sup> numbered 76 kings of Xoïs (in the Nile Delta) who ruled for either 184 or 484 years. As for dynasties 15-17 the data varies considerably, depending on whose version of Manetho we follow – whether Eusebius, Africanus, or Josephus as reported in his diatribe *Against Apion*. Sufficient here to quote Gardiner who follows the Africanus version:

For our present purpose the data supplied by Africanus must suffice. His Fifteenth Dynasty consists of six foreign so-called ‘Shepherd’ or Hyksos kings, whose domination lasted 284 years. The Sixteenth Dynasty consisted of Shepherd kings again, thirty-two in number totalling 518 years. Lastly, in the Seventeenth Dynasty Shepherd kings and Theban kings reigned concurrently, forty-three of each line, altogether 151 years. EP147-148

Thus Gardiner concludes:

Adding these figures, but adopting the lower number of years given for Dyn. XIV, we obtain 217 kings covering a stretch of 1590 years, over

seven times the duration to which acceptance of the Sothic date in the El-Lahun papyrus has committed us. EP148

As we might suspect, making sense of Manetho's numbers in the confines of a 210 year time frame has proved difficult for Egyptologists. The difficulty is compounded by the fact that both the Abydos and Sakkara king lists ignore completely this time of foreign rule. Instead they name Ahmose and his 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty successors immediately following their listing of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty kings. That leaves only two other sources to provide enlightenment regarding Manetho's data. A monumental king list at Karnak, heretofore ignored by our revision, and in general ignored by Egyptologists due to its severely damaged condition and otherwise unreliable sequencing of kings, provides some evidence that fewer than 30 kings ruled during the Hyksos period. The Turin Canon, on the other hand, at least as presently construed, seems to be partially in agreement with Manetho. According to Gardiner the papyrus fragments of the Canon, "as remounted by Ibscher", distribute the kings "from Dyn XIII until far down in the direction of Dyn XVIII, over no less than six columns, each containing up to thirty entries."<sup>28</sup> This would suggest the possibility that upwards of 180 kings ruled during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period, though we refer the reader to our criticism of the Turin Canon introduced in our last chapter. With this badly fragmented document the interpreter must always keep in mind the extreme subjectivity involved in positioning the hundreds of disassembled papyrus fragments in the attempt to reconstruct the original document. This assembly process typically assumes, without question, that the original Canon agreed with the traditional Egyptian history in its ordering (and assumed length) of the dynasties.

In view of this disparity of evidence the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Intermediate Period* remains one of the most controversial segments in the Egyptian historical spectrum. Did its several hundred kings rule for a combined total of only 210 years; or should the number of years be increased to some more realistic figure? Alternatively, should we reject the numbers provided by Manetho and the Turin Canon and considerably reduce the number of Hyksos period kings? What *should* we make of the fact that the Karnak king list seems to limit the number of 2<sup>nd</sup> *Intermediate Period* kings to

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<sup>28</sup> (EP 148)

something less than 30? That number cannot be rejected out of hand, as has been done by Egyptologists, especially when this broken monument names a priest king Apophis immediately preceding Ahmose I, a sequence of two names confirmed by multiple pieces of inscriptional evidence, including the Berlin stele segment of the *Genealogy of Ashakhet* which is so central to our thesis.

It is surely noteworthy that the only dynasty for which Manetho provides names also ends with a king named Apophis, who may well be the Apophis/Apop of the monuments, the Karnak king list, and the Berlin stele. Manetho describes his 15<sup>th</sup> dynasty as one consisting of six foreign kings from Phoenicia, who seized Memphis and founded a town named Avaris in the Sethroite nome, from which base they subdued the whole of Egypt. He then goes on to list the six kings by name, together with their reign lengths – Saites (19), Bnon (44), Pachnan (61), Staan (50), Archles (49), and Aphophis (61). There is surely a need to assign some special significance to these 15<sup>th</sup> dynasty Hyksos kings, according to Manetho the first group of foreign invaders deserving of the name Hyksos. Momentarily we will argue that the 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> dynasties ruled at roughly the same time in various parts of Egypt, the 15<sup>th</sup> being the first among equals.

### *The Revised 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period*

What do we make of these disparate figures, particularly in light of the revised Egyptian chronology presented in the earlier chapters of this book? Three assumptions guide our deliberations, namely 1) the belief that the absolute dates for the traditional history of this period have been wrongly determined, the error due largely to Egyptologists' fixation on a hypothetical Sothic cycle which has no basis in fact<sup>29</sup>; 2) the belief, based largely but not exclusively on the Ashakhet stele, that the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty did not follow the 11<sup>th</sup> in an unbroken sequence, and that the length of this 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty was considerably shorter than the 205 years assigned it in the traditional history; and 3) the belief that the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty ended with the invasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> dynasty Hyksos, not the advent of the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty

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<sup>29</sup> See above, note 27 on page 81.

kings as claimed by the traditional history. Manetho's dynasties are not only incorrectly dated, they are also listed out of order. We examine these three guiding assumptions in turn.

### Errant Dates for the End of Dynasty 12

Our first assumption almost goes without saying. We have filled almost four books with argument proving that the foundational dates in the traditional Egyptian history are grossly in error. Nothing more need be said at this point, save to note the fact, already several times alluded to, that Egyptologists have developed an elaborate, but errant schema, known as Sothic dating, to anchor Manetho's 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty in the 18<sup>th</sup> century B.C. We reject the entire edifice of Sothic dating out of hand, and refer the reader to the excellent compendium on the subject published by Immanuel Velikovsky in a Supplement to his *Peoples of the Sea*.<sup>30</sup>

The immediate consequence of our rejection of Sothic dating is to free the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty from its errant 1786-1575 B.C. traditional dates. This in turn frees the preceding and following dynasties from the artificial constraints which have bound them for centuries, allowing them to assume absolute dates consistent with evidence from the monuments, and in particular with the data preserved on the Berlin and Ashakhet stelae.

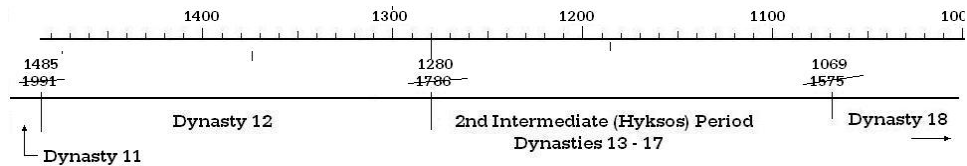
The Berlin stele informs us clearly that the Egyptian 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty began around the year 1069 B.C. with the advent of its founder Ahmose I. That same date ended the rule of Apophis, the last of a sequence of foreign rulers known collectively as the Hyksos. At first glance it would appear that the traditional history has simply been dated 506 years too early. If this were the case the corrected chronology of dynasties 12-18 would appear as in figure 21 below, identical to figure 20 above<sup>31</sup> but with all dates reduced by 506 years. Though incorrect, the chart with adjusted dates is worth reproducing. It is instructive.

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<sup>30</sup> See Chapter II Sirius, *Peoples of the Sea*, 1977, 215-233

<sup>31</sup> See top of page 82.

Figure 21: The Traditional 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period Shifted 506 Years



This figure represents what might have been our revised history of Egyptian dynasties 12-18, had we not been informed more accurately by the Berlin stele and had we some other means of determining that the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty began around the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C. It is noteworthy that in both the repositioned traditional history and in the revised history, the 11<sup>th</sup> dynasty ended about 400 years before the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup>. This fact may one day be important, since it implies that our repositioning of the Old Kingdom dynasties in chapters two and three of this book would still be valid if reasons were one day found to discount the Ashakhet and Berlin stelae data, assuming, as stated above, that the founding of dynasty 18 could, on other grounds, be dated to the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C. It is also instructive to note that the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty in figure 21 ends in the year 1280 B.C., not far distant from the year 1253 B.C., when the last named 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty king (Sesostris III) ended his reign according to the Berlin stele. When we correct the traditional sequencing of dynasties in the following section, by introducing an additional “Intermediate Period” between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> dynasties (following the Berlin stele), the Figure 21 timeline will change surprisingly little. The beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty will move forward in time by a full century, but all other dates will undergo substantially less change.

### Errant Placement and Length of the 12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty

It is time to position the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty correctly, based on the oft mentioned Berlin stele. For reference purposes we reproduce below, from chapter one, the entirety of table 1a and the first seven entries in table 1b.

Table 5: The Berlin Stele Data for Dynasties 12-18

Position Number	Priest or Prophet Named	Name of King Served	Approx. Date of H.P. Birth	Approximate Date of H.P./Prophet
3.1	Ty	Not named	1048 B.C.	1013 B.C.
3.2	Pa'emrud	Djeserkare (Amenhotep 1)	1064 B.C.	1029 B.C.
3.3	Ty	-----	1080 B.C.	1045 B.C.
3.4	Menet	Nebpetire (Ahmose 1)	1096 B.C.	1061 B.C.
3.5	-----	'Ipp (Apophis)	1112 B.C.	1077 B.C.
3.6	-----	Srk (Salatis?)	1128 B.C.	1093 B.C.
3.7	-----	-----	1144 B.C.	1109 B.C.
3.8	-----	-----	1160 B.C.	1125 B.C.
3.9	-----	-----	1176 B.C.	1141 B.C.
3.10	-----	-----	1192 B.C.	1157 B.C.
3.11	-----	-----	1208 B.C.	1173 B.C.
3.12	-----	'-qn	1224 B.C.	1189 B.C.
3.13	-----	'lby	1240 B.C.	1205 B.C.
3.14	-----	-----	1256 B.C.	1221 B.C.
3.15	-----	-----	1272 B.C.	1237 B.C.
4:1		H'-k'-R (Sesostris III)	1288 B.C.	1253 B.C.
4:2		H'-k'-R' (Sesostris III)	1304 B.C.	1269 B.C.
4:3		Nwb-k'-w-R' (Amenemhet II)	1320 B.C.	1285 B.C.
4:4			1336 B.C.	1301 B.C.
4:5		Hpr-k'-R' (Sesostris I)	1352 B.C.	1317 B.C.
4:6		S-htp-'b-R' (Amenemhet I)	1368 B.C.	1333 B.C.
4:7		Skr-m-hb	1384 B.C.	1349 B.C.

Based on this table we are able to determine that the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty began around the year 1069 B.C., when Nebpehtire ‘Ahmose I usurped the throne from the Hyksos king ‘Aweserre Apop. Prior to the mention of king Apop (Apophis) there appears a gap of ten “generations” of priests before we come to the reign of the famous 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty king Sesostris III, in whose time there served three generations of Ashakhet’s ancestors. Based on our assumptions regarding this stele we are able to conclude that Sesostris III was pharaoh in the years 1253, 1269 and 1285 B.C. Normally we would extrapolate from this data and suggest that Sesostris reined for around 48 years, from 1293-1245, this on the assumption that each mention of the king represents a span of 16 years. But Sesostris III is generally believed to have reigned somewhere between 33 and 35 years. We conclude therefore that his final year must be very close to the time recorded in position 4.1 on the stele, thus around 1253 B.C., and his beginning year very close to the time recorded in position 4.3. His regnal years, accordingly, were approximately 1285-1253 B.C. From the data in position 4.6 we conclude that the dynasty began under Amenemhet I around the year 1341 B.C. Thus the first five kings of the dynasty, four of whom are named on the stele, reigned through the years 1341-1253. The only other data provided by the Berlin stele are the dates 1317 B.C. for Sesostris I and 1301 B.C. for Amenemhet II. In the next chapter we will flesh out the entire sequence of kings for this dynasty.

Surprisingly, the sixth king of the dynasty, Nebma’tre Amenemhet III, who reigned for 45 years according to traditional historians, is not named on the Berlin stele. We assume that much of his lengthy reign was spent in joint rule with his father, though admittedly we are unable to confirm this fact. Scholars do admit, however, that for some time Amenemhet III did reign in association with Sesostris III and they agree that the dynasty ended only a few years after the death of Amenemhet III, following the brief six year reign of his son Amenemhet IV and his surviving wife Sebeknofru. Since no king is named in position 3.15 on the stele, we assume that by the year 1237 the throne was vacant. For convenience we will assume that the dynasty ended in 1241 B.C., thus in its 100<sup>th</sup> year. At that time foreigners invaded Egypt. In a moment we will identify them.

It follows from this discussion that the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty lasted from 1341-1241 B.C., less than half the 205 years allotted these kings by the



traditional history. In due time we will justify this drastic reduction in dynastic length.

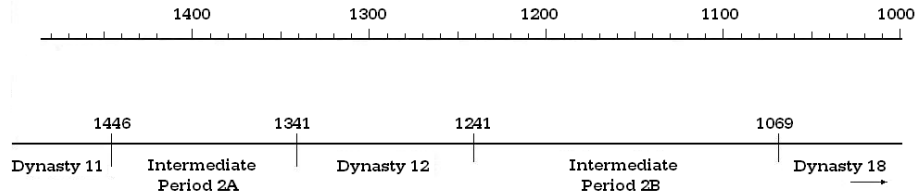
The time frame prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty on the Berlin stele was already discussed, albeit briefly, in chapter one.<sup>32</sup> That discussion will not be repeated. Needless to say we determined at that time, based largely on the single reference to the 11<sup>th</sup> dynasty king Nebherewre Mentuhotep II in position 4:13 on the Berlin stele, that the 11<sup>th</sup> dynasty ended in the year 1446 B.C., the year of the Jewish Exodus from Egypt, and that for the following century (1446-1341 B.C.) Egypt was overrun and ruled by rebels. These occupiers will be identified momentarily.

Clearly the revised history is unique in identifying two distinct periods prior to the advent of the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty when Egypt is occupied by “intruders”. The traditional single 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate period in the interval between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> dynasties, during which foreigners called “Hyksos” ruled in Egypt, is now expanded to include a century long interregnum between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> dynasties, during which Egypt was governed by rebels. Henceforth we will refer to these two distinct “intermediate” periods as Intermediate Period 2A and 2B. Momentarily we will argue that the earlier of these Intermediate periods is described in two well known Egyptian documents known as the *Prophecies of Neferti* and the *Admonitions of Ipuwer*. We will also argue that our Intermediate 2B interval, the lengthy occupation of Egypt which begins at the conclusion of dynasty 12 and ends with the reign of Apophis (Apop/Apopi), consists solely of the Hyksos foreigners familiar to followers of the traditional history. These two distinct disruptions to typical pharaonic rule in Egypt are diagrammed below in figure 22.

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<sup>32</sup> See discussion on pages 7-9 and our Figure 2 on page 9.

Figure 22: The Revised History of the Time  
Between Dynasties 11 & 18.



We are now left the task of identifying the usurpers who ruled Egypt in each of these time frames. And therein lies a problem. The astute reader will immediately recognize our dilemma.

### Errant Placement of Dynasties 13-17

It is at once apparent that we cannot simply fill the gap between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> dynasties with the kings listed in Manetho's 13<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> dynasties, as was the case in the traditional history for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period. Not only has that interval been marginally reduced in length, compounding the problem of accommodating five dynasties of kings in a very restrictive time frame, but such a procedure would effectively exhaust the supply of Egyptian kings, leaving no available candidates to occupy our Intermediate Period 2A. What should we do? The probable answer is contained in our earlier remarks regarding the constitution of the traditional 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate period. Our comments on page 84 above deserve repetition.

It is surely noteworthy that the only dynasty for which Manetho provides names also ends with a king named Apophis, who may well be the Apophis/Apop of the monuments, the Karnak king list, and the Berlin stele. Manetho describes his 15<sup>th</sup> dynasty as one consisting of six foreign kings from Phoenicia, who seized Memphis and founded a town named Avaris in the Sethroite nome, from which base they subdued the whole of Egypt. He then goes on to list the six kings by name, together with their reign lengths – Saites (19), Bnon (44), Pachnan (61), Staas (50), Archles (49), and Aphophis (61). There is

surely a need to assign some special significance to these 15<sup>th</sup> dynasty Hyksos kings, according to Manetho the first group of foreign invaders deserving of the name Hyksos. Momentarily we will argue that the 15<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> dynasties ruled at roughly the same time in various parts of Egypt, the 15<sup>th</sup> being the first among equals.

There in a nutshell is our favoured solution to the problem at hand. We argue that in the first of the revised interludes, our Intermediate 2A time frame, the interval between the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty was occupied by the kings of Manetho's dynasties 13 and 14, whose ethnicities were left indeterminate by Manetho. On the other hand we argue that Manetho's dynasties 15-17, those foreign intruders to which he specifically assigns the name Hyksos, alone filled the interval between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> dynasties. It is noteworthy that Manetho himself appears to separate these two phases of foreign rule, both by the use or non-use of the name Hyksos, and by his distinctive treatment of the Dynasty 15 Hyksos kings. Not only does he provide a listing of these six Hyksos kings, as if to argue for their uniqueness, he specifically identifies them (and by extension the Hyksos occupants of dynasties 16 and 17), as invaders from Phoenicia, quite unlike the occupiers of the country in dynasties 13 and 14. At minimum these distinctions lend support to our decision to temporally separate the Hyksos dynasties from their predecessors. Confirmation that we are correct will be forthcoming in our discussion of the Amalekites which follows.

If the reader is troubled by having dynasties numbered 13 and 14 preceding, rather than following a dynasty numbered as 12, he/she should not necessarily fault Manetho, whose original is no longer extant. The numbering passed down by Africanus and Eusebius may have originated with them, or with some intermediate source. Regardless, if Manetho is responsible then he was certainly mistaken. His sequencing of the dynasties is in this instance incorrect.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> It is entirely possible that Manetho deliberately chose to list the kings of dynasty 12 immediately following those of dynasty 11 simply because he conceived them to be of the same dynastic affiliation, separated by the intrusive reigns of rebels with no legitimate right to rule. Thus the foreigner rulers in the two Intermediate Periods 2A and 2B were treated as a single entry in his history.

Thus far we have identified the occupants of our Intermediate Periods 2A and 2B only by their dynastic affiliation, or at minimum, in the case of Period 2B, by the ambiguous term Hyksos. It is time to be more specific. We begin with the Hyksos.

### Velikovsky Identifies the Hyksos with the Biblical Amalekites

In his 1952 best seller *Ages in Chaos* Immanuel Velikovsky documented a series of remarkable parallels between Egyptian descriptions of the end of the Hyksos period and biblical accounts of the beginning of the monarchy in Israel. In particular he compared the conflict between Saul, the first king of Israel, and his antagonist, the Amalekite king Agag, with Egyptian records describing the defeat of the Hyksos king Apop/Apophis by Ahmose I. He concluded from his analysis that Agag and Apop/Apophis were one and the same person. Hence his identification of the Hyksos with the Amalekites of the Bible. And since Velikovsky, following Jewish tradition, dated king Saul to the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C., his argument concluded that the Hyksos period ended and the Egyptian 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty began in that same time frame. The balance of his groundbreaking book then set about to establish further parallels between Saul's successors in Israel and the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty Egyptian successors of Ahmose I. We leave it to the reader to read the relevant sections of *Ages in Chaos* to evaluate the strength of Velikovsky's argument.

It is not incumbent on this revision to accept Velikovsky's thesis that the Amalekite Agag and the Hyksos Apop are one and the same person. We cannot ignore, however, the rather extraordinary fact that the Berlin stele does independently date the time of Apophis/Apop to the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century B.C., precisely the time of the emergence of king Saul in Israel according to the Jewish chronology followed by this revision. This leaves open the possibility, indeed the likelihood, that Velikovsky was essentially correct in his identification. In our concluding chapter we will investigate the matter further, providing our own modified interpretation of the time in question.

But even if we accept Velikovsky's identification of the biblical Amalekites and the Hyksos occupiers of Egypt, we must reject outright his entire discussion vis-à-vis the origins of the Hyksos/Amalekites. It is important that the reader understand why. Thus follows the separate treatment of this subject.

### Velikovsky's Chronology of the Hyksos Period

In this revision we have accepted as reliable the biblical numbers related to the formation of the kingdom of Israel. Based on this data we believe that the Exodus took place around the year 1446 B.C. Following this date Israel journeyed through the wilderness region of Sinai for around 40 years, led by Moses (1446-1406 B.C.). In 1406 B.C. the Israelites crossed the Jordan River and entered their future homeland. For the next 30 years, under the leadership of Joshua, they conquered the "promised land" by degrees, until the death of Joshua around the year 1376 B.C. The fledgling nation, for the next 326 years (1376-1050 B.C.), functioned as a feudal theocracy, controlled by tribal leaders, and periodically, in times of trouble, by charismatic national champions known as "judges". The period of the Judges ended around the year 1050 B.C. with the crowning of Saul as the first sanctioned "king" of the united tribal groups. Saul "ruled" for 40 years (1050-1010 B.C.), as did his successor David (1010-970 B.C.). And several times already we have accepted without question that the reign of Solomon, son of David, lasted an equal length of time (970-930 B.C.).

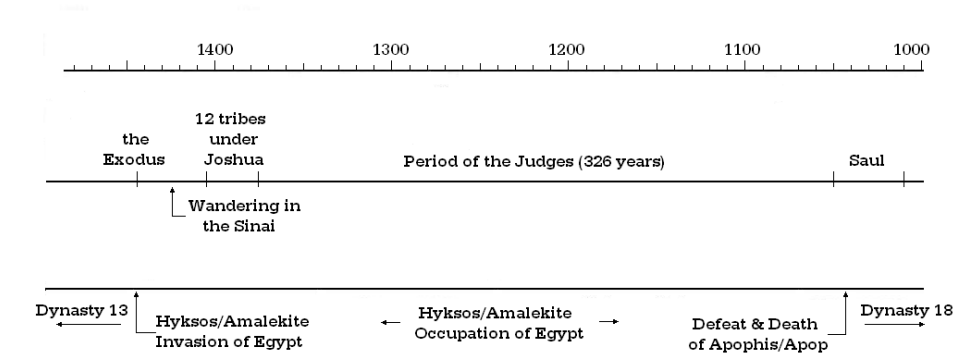
Not only does our *Displaced Dynasties* revision adopt this chronology, it can be fairly argued that the stated numbers also represent the understanding of Immanuel Velikovsky – though the noted revisionist is careful not to be overly specific about dates.

Immanuel Velikovsky was the first historian to associate the document entitled the *Admonitions of Ipuwer*, yet to be analyzed by us, with the time of the biblical plagues, identified by him as a series of natural disasters. Velikovsky also noted the fact that the *Admonitions* clearly described the intrusion of foreigners (Egyptian Amu) into Egypt in conjunction with these disasters, taking advantage of the weakness and

political disruption which resulted. Then, from the biblical story of the Exodus, he noted that the Israelites, while fleeing from Egypt, encountered tens of thousands of Amalekites on the north-eastern border of Sinai, whence ensued an armed conflict between the two groups. It was Velikovsky's argument that the Amalekites at the time were on their way to Egypt, where they would soon overrun the country. It followed that the Amalekites were the Amu mentioned in the *Admonitions*. And Velikovsky had already determined that the Amalekites were the Hyksos.

Thus was born the thesis that the Hyksos/Amalekites conquered Egypt at the time of the Exodus, and occupied the country until Apophis was driven from the land almost four hundred years later, at the time of the emergence of the monarchy in Israel (see Figure 23 below).

Figure 23: Velikovsky's Chronology of the Hyksos Period



The informed reader will appreciate immediately why this thesis is untenable for our *Displaced Dynasties* revision. For the record we list our reasons. There are at least four.

1) While Velikovsky was adamant that Egyptian dynastic dates are grossly in error, he accepted without question the traditional history's ordering of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period dynasties, though unlike most Egyptologists he identified the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty as the last of the Middle Kingdom dynasties and the 14<sup>th</sup> as the first of the Hyksos dynasties. Thus for Velikovsky, alone among scholars, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate Period

consisted entirely of Hyksos invaders. He did agree with these same scholars, however, that there was but a single stretch of time during which traditional native pharaonic rule was interrupted in Egypt between the start of the Middle Kingdom and beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty. For the revisionist Velikovsky, as for all traditional historians, there existed no intrusion of rebel kings between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> dynasties.

By including the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty with the Middle Kingdom, and the 14<sup>th</sup> with the Hyksos era, Velikovsky managed to maintain the continuity of dynasties, but in doing so he conflicts seriously with the evidence at hand. The 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty as described by Manetho is hardly deserving of the name dynasty. Its 60 kings must have ruled simultaneously in various areas of the country if their combined reigns lasted only the forty or fifty years allotted to them in the traditional history. They were nomarchs, not pharaohs in the traditional sense of that term. It is surely a stretch to suggest that one of the final rulers of this “dynasty” was the powerful pharaoh who ruled at the time of the Exodus, as described in the Hebrew Bible. Perhaps this is the reason why Velikovsky avoids discussing the subject. To make matters worse, Manetho identifies the kings of this “dynasty” as Diospolite (Theban), suggestive of the fact that they ruled only in the south of the country.

Even more at odds with the evidence is Velikovsky’s claim, made almost in passing, that the 14<sup>th</sup> dynasty kings were Hyksos. Manetho goes out of his way to identify the 15<sup>th</sup> dynasty as the first of his dynasties of Hyksos invaders.

2) Not only does Velikovsky misrepresent Manetho’s dynasties 13 and 14, he also stands in conflict with both the biblical data and Manetho regarding the origins of the Amalekite/Hyksos. According to the Hebrew Bible the Amalekites, at the time of the Exodus, were not a national group migrating from the Arabian Peninsula toward Egypt, as Velikovsky argues. They are described as domiciled in the western Negeb, in the region between present day Gaza and the wilderness area around Beersheba in southern Palestine. And according to Manetho the Hyksos originated in Phoenicia, at least 50 to 100 miles further north up the Mediterranean coast. If the Hyksos are indeed the Amalekites, then they

must be Amalekites at a later stage in the development of that nation. In the next chapter we will outline our own thesis of Hyksos origins.

3) If Velikovsky is correct, and foreign occupation of Egypt took place at the end of, and not prior to, the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty, then Velikovsky would be at a loss to explain the text of the *Prophecies of Neferti*, which we will examine in the next chapter. This important document describes a time of trouble and of extensive civil war *prior to* the advent of Amenemhet I, the founder of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty. Needless to say, Velikovsky ignores the text of the *Prophecies*.

4) By far the most pressing criticism of Velikovsky is forthcoming from the Berlin stele in combination with data preserved by Jewish historians, which clearly positions the Exodus at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> dynasty, not the 13<sup>th</sup>, and divides the time of intrusive occupation into two separate and distinct phases, one preceding and one following the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty. Velikovsky's thesis that the Hyksos invaded Egypt at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty is clearly impossible if the Berlin chronology is even remotely accurate.

The reader must surely be asking by now why we have introduced Velikovsky only to reject his thesis. The answer is two-fold. On the one hand it must be clearly stated that we have not rejected Velikovsky's argument that the Hyksos and the biblical Amalekites are part of the same ethnic group. Instead we have rejected only Velikovsky's claim that the Hyksos/Amalekites invaded and occupied Egypt immediately following the biblical plagues and the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt. In our concluding chapter we will return to the subject and re-examine the origins of the Hyksos to determine their ethnicity.

We have also introduced Velikovsky for one other reason. When the great revisionist scholar surveyed the opinion of Egyptologists concerning the *Admonitions of Ipuwer* papyrus, to determine the approximate time when it was composed, he was informed that it was written during the Middle Kingdom. He concluded therefore that it must have been written at the end of the Middle Kingdom, since it clearly reflects a time of discontinuity in Egyptian pharaonic rule. And since he believed, partly on the basis of the biblical description of the Exodus, partly on other



grounds, that the Amu invaders were the Hyksos/Amalekites, he had no choice but to date the Exodus at the end of the Middle Kingdom with the Hyksos invasion following on its heels. But what to do with the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> dynasties, typically conceived by Egyptologists as neither part of the Middle Kingdom nor of the Hyksos invaders. He “solved” this problem by adding the 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty to the Middle Kingdom and the 14<sup>th</sup> to the Hyksos group of dynasties following. This was a regrettable decision, since all of Velikovsky’s original reasoning was correct.

This most recent discussion of Velikovsky informs us that scholarly opinion does date the *Ipuwer papyrus* to the time of the Middle Kingdom in Egypt, i.e. that the document has affinities with the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> dynasties. But in the revised history it does not follow that it describes events at the end of the Middle Kingdom. Strictly speaking, in the revised history there is no “Middle Kingdom”. Dynasties 11 and 12 are separated by a century of “civil war”, a pharaonic interlude during which “rebels” ruled the country. And there is therefore no need to identify the Amu as Hyksos, nor to argue that the *Admonitions* describes a Hyksos invasion. If the *Admonitions* is somehow related to the “plagues” at the time of the Exodus, all that can be argued is that the biblical plagues were followed by a prolonged period of “civil war” and social chaos throughout Egypt.

The introduction of Velikovsky also provided the context in which we were able to discuss the problematic 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> dynasties, providing an alternate solution to the one outlined in *Ages in Chaos*. As it turns out the Hyksos did invade Egypt at the conclusion of the “Middle Kingdom”, as concluded by Velikovsky. But the “Middle Kingdom”, if it can still be called by that name, ended with the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty, not the 13<sup>th</sup>. And the Hyksos dynasties included only dynasties 15-17, as Manetho seems to argue. There was no need for Velikovsky to add dynasty 14 to the Hyksos group. The 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> dynasties are out of place. They belong between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup>. And the *Admonitions*, according to our interpretation of the document, have nothing to do with the arrival of the Hyksos in Egypt.

### A Parting Comment

We entitled this chapter “Intrusive Occupation of Egypt – An Overview”. Our objective was to discuss the dual occupations of Egypt clearly outlined by the Berlin stele - the one between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> dynasties, the other between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> dynasties – with a view to determining the identities of the intruders in the two instances. Thus far we have only laid the groundwork. We have suggested that the occupants of our Intermediate Period 2A were most likely the kings of Manetho’s dynasties 13 and 14, and that our Intermediate Period 2B consisted solely of the Hyksos kings of Manetho’s dynasties 15-17. As to ethnicity we have said nothing concerning the Period 2A kings and have suggested only the possibility that Velikovsky may have been correct when he identified the Hyksos as Amalekites. We leave it to our next chapter to develop these themes further.

This book, and with it our revision of Egyptian dynastic history, is almost complete. In the next chapter, our last, we will flesh out the revised history of dynasties 12-18. We will identify the occupants of Intermediate Period 2A, justify our reduction in length of the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty from 205 to 100 years, explain the origins of the Hyksos/Amalekites, and trace the rise of the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty against the background of the Jewish monarchy sufficiently far into the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium to merge with our treatment of the later 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty kings in our last book. And then, at long last, we will rest our case