

Monday, May 30, 2016

Egyptian History; Displaced Dynasties

The following is a beginning I wrote for a proposed wikipedia page about a chronology of the ancient near east. It starts with a revision of Egyptian History, a need that has been clear for many years. The current Egyptian chronology was built upon many faulty assumptions based upon limited knowledge. The failures of this chronology are numerous, documented by many revisionists over the years, yet no one has been able to put all the pieces together. I spent many years reading various proposed revisions, but in 1998 I read the first parts of a new revision, covering ground everyone else seemed to consider settled, that work became the book *Nebuchadnezzar and the Egyptian Exile*, found here: <http://www.displaceddynasties.com> But let me tell you my story first.

My first chronology question began when, while studying the Bible and commentaries, I read that Ramesses II was the Pharaoh of the Exodus. A claim so absurd that it puts the Bible in doubt. The Pharaoh of the Bible drowned in the Red Sea after his first born was killed by the death angel. Ramesses lived into his 90's, has a tomb and his mummy has been found. How could this be? It stemmed from a faulty Egyptian chronology, only I did not have the expertise to see how to change it, only to see that something was wrong when I compared the Bible to books on ancient Egypt. My second entry into Egyptian History came with the documentary, *Pharaohs and Kings*, a biblical quest, by David Rohl. He opened a whole new world of showing the problems of Egyptian Chronology. He has gone on to write many books and has created a New Chronology based upon his findings. Lastly I read *Centuries of Darkness* by Peter James et al. A phenomenal book which details how faulty Egyptian Chronology has distorted the history of many other areas, particularly creating Greek Dark ages which are not existent from the Greek data. (This is by no means exhaustive, there are many other works which point out problems as well.)

All of these reference what appears to be the first major revisionist, Immanuel Velikovsky, someone whose works I have never read, and all suffer from the problems he did, a resistant academia who refuse to move off of their accepted chronology. All claim that the revisions are no better, and in some ways worse than the accepted chronology and therefore should just go away. Currently, unlike the early days of the 1880's, there has been a lot of work done in archaeology and chronological studies by many diligent people, but they are handicapped by the accepted Egyptian chronology causing very strained interpretations of results.

This brings us back to the focus of this post; a chronology which begins with a change no one else I have seen proposes, moving the 26th dynasty of Egypt parallel to the 27th dynasty, or Persian dynasty, and pulling everything else forward in time. This revision is the best I have seen to date and stands upon the work of all the previous people who have documented so many problems with the current academic chronology.

What is needed now is people from all the different historical disciplines to read this chronology and apply their expertise to test it, to compare it to the huge volume of good work out there on various archaeological sites and documents which have been translated, to find out if it continues to stand.

I am requesting a wider reading of this chronology and a recognition that a new understanding of the ancient near east is needed if we are to truly understand the past. What follows is an attempt at an introduction to this chronology:

Displaced Dynasties Chronology

This alternative chronology of Ancient Near Eastern History was begun by Jim Reilly in 1997 and continues through the present day. The chronology continues through four books on Egyptian History and 10+ papers on related cultures and their specific chronologies as they relate to this revision.

The first book in the series, *Nebuchadnezzar & the Egyptian Exile*, is described by Jim Reilly as follows:

The first volume in the Displaced Dynasties series was motivated by a single consideration. Almost seven chapters in the Hebrew Bible, exclusively contained in the writings of the biblical prophets Ezekiel and Jeremiah, describe an invasion of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, dated with some precision around the year 565 B.C. According to these two eyewitnesses the devastation inflicted on Egypt was catastrophic. Every temple in the country (with one exception) was demolished. Most of the population of Egypt was slaughtered or taken captive. Only a small remnant survived. For years Egypt was left without a resident pharaoh. Temple worship ceased. The devastation lasted for forty years, though from extra biblical sources we can determine that sporadic restoration activity was underway during the final two decades, following the 543 B.C. takeover of the country by Cyrus the Great. This rebuilding intensified under Cambyses, following his 525 B.C. expedition to Egypt, and into the reign of Darius I.

There is but a single problem with this history. According to Egyptologists it never happened. The denial is based on an Egyptian timeline which places Manetho's 26th (Saite) dynasty in the time frame 664-525 B.C., leaving no room either for a twenty year interregnum or for an 18 year rule by the Persians prior to 525 B.C. Amasis (570-526 B.C.), the penultimate Saite dynasty king, ruled throughout the critical forty year period.

But the historians are wrong. The fault lies in the Egyptian chronology on which the traditional history is based. That chronology, throughout the relevant period, is in error by 121 years! Saite dynasty dates need to be lowered by that amount, moving the dynasty to a position overlapping the first Persian domination of Egypt.

In the traditional history the Saite dynasty kings ruled Egypt for 139 years, from 664-525 B.C. They were succeeded by the Persians, who ruled for 121 years, from 525-404 B.C., this on the assumption that Cambyses came to Egypt in 525 B.C. as a conqueror and destroyer, initiating Persian rule over Egypt. We argue instead that in 543 B.C. Cyrus the Great invaded and conquered an Egypt defended only by a small Babylonian army of occupation. He immediately established Psamtik I as a vassal king, the first of the Saite dynasty pharaohs to rule Egypt as a province of the Persian Empire. In that capacity the 26th dynasty kings governed Egypt for 139 years, from 543-404 B.C.

This important change to Egyptian Chronology is the linchpin on which the revision rests. It relies heavily on the works of those who have gone before documenting the numerous chronological issues which exist because of a clearly extended Egyptian history. Every other revision, from Immanuel Velikovsky to David Rohl, has butted up against the 26th dynasty dates which were thought to be solid and therefore left little room for all that needed to be placed in a small length of time. Once this bottleneck is relieved the anomalies described in previous works, such as Peter James' Centuries of Darkness, begin to be amazingly resolved.

Egyptian History Revised

The four books in the Displaced Dynasties series are as follows:

Volume 1 - Nebuchadnezzar & The Egyptian Exile

Volume 2 - Piankhi the Chameleon

Volume 3 - The Genealogy of Ashakhet Part 1: From Amarna to Troy

Volume 4 - The Genealogy of Ashakhet Part 2: From Imhotep to Apophis

In the first book, The Chronicles of the Chaldean Kings are followed to show the sequence of events leading up to the Invasion of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar as told by Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The history of the 26th dynasty and particularly the reign of Pharaoh Amasis are shown to fit best in a context contemporary with the 27th, or Persian, dynasty. The Apis bulls of the Memphis Serapeum; The Udjahorresne Statue Inscription; The telescoping of the destruction wrought by Nebuchadnezzar into the history of Cambyses and the stories of Inaros, Amasis, Apries and Pharaoh Kbjd are all carefully placed within their proper historical context.

In the second book the Pharaoh Piankhi is given his proper due as a mighty king, many of whose accomplishments had been improperly given to his namesake 18th dynasty Pharaoh Thutmose III. He was contemporary with the end of the Assyrian empire and subsequent rise of the Babylonian empire. He waged many campaigns into the lands north of Egypt as chronicled on his inscriptions on the Temple of Amun in Thebes. The mis-identification of the Menkheperre Thutmose of the 18th dynasty with the Menkheperre Thutmose (Piankhi) of the 25th dynasty has placed the military exploits of Piankhi into the improper context of the 18th dynasty. This book sets that right.

In the third and fourth books, the Genealogy of Ashakhet, propose a chronology extending back into the times of the third Egyptian dynasty. Many synchronisms with Biblical material and other histories in the region are detailed and the true context of Troy and the Mycenaeans as well as the Santorini explosion are explained. Egyptian history is shortened to the point that the Biblical Joseph ben Jacob is seen to be one and the same with the great vizier Imhotep of the 3rd Egyptian dynasty.

Many new identifications of Biblical contacts with Egypt are demonstrated.

Menkheperre Piankhi is Pharaoh Necho who battles with Babylon over the Kingdom of Judah 2 Kings 23 and Jer 38;

Takeloth III of the Southern 23rd dynasty is Pharaoh Tirhakah of Cush who contests Sennacherib in Isa 38 and 2 Kings 19;

Akhenaten is Pharaoh Shishak who defeats Rehoboam;

Jeroboam I is Labaya of the Amarna letters;

Solomon is clearly in a Bronze Age context not the iron age which shows no great kingdom of Israel;

Seankhkare Mentuhotep III of the 11th dynasty is the Pharaoh of the Exodus;

and many other small and Large events line up perfectly with the Biblical Chronology as presented in the Hebrew Texts.

In addition numerous papers have been written to discuss more supporting material for the revision as well as to examine the implications for Babylonian and Assyrian ancient history, primarily that the Kassites were absentee overlords and contemporary with the "dynasty E" kings of Babylon. Subsequent papers extended Babylonian history back through Hammurabi.

All in all the revision is extensive, covering nearly all of Ancient Near Eastern history and affecting understanding of the Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians, Assyrians, Hittites, Mittani, Ugarit, Greeks, Trojans and especially the Hebrews.