

Living In Egypt:
Think Like An
Egyptian

Egypt: Gift of the Nile

Names of Egypt

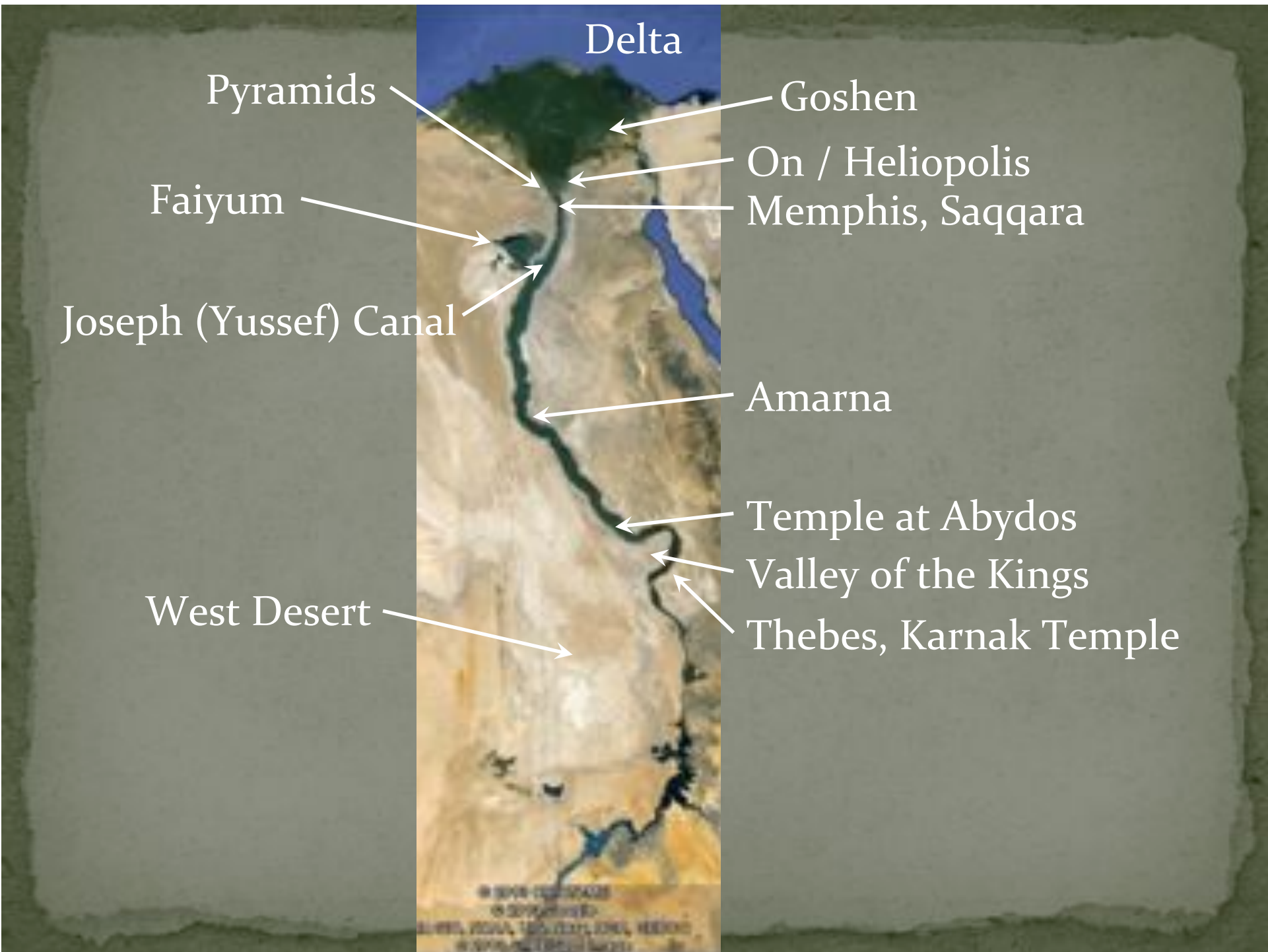
Msr = Mitzer

Egypt = Ha(t)-ka-ptah
"temple of the soul of Ptah"

KMT: Kemet, the black land
Black land of Horus

Contrast with:
Deshret: Red land of Seth





Delta

Pyramids

Goshen

Faiyum

On / Heliopolis

Memphis, Saqqara

Joseph (Yussef) Canal

Amarna

Temple at Abydos

Valley of the Kings

West Desert

Thebes, Karnak Temple

Geography and Agriculture

Nile Flows from central Africa northward

Inundation between June and September

One of the most fertile places on earth

Egypt was the breadbasket of the ancient world

Planting occurred in October – November

Harvest: March – April, when Nile was at its lowest

Egypt was the gift of organized labor



Geopolitics and Strategy

Invasion Axes into Egypt

North: Sea invasion via Mediterranean

South: River assault down the Nile

East: Philistine Road

West: Libyan coast

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Trade and Travel

The Nile flows from south to north

The prevailing winds blow from north to south

Navigation: Egyptians never ventured into the open ocean

Geography: No place matters much outside of Egypt

Colonies: Egypt had no desire to spread beyond the Nile

Even when they conquered, they put the land to tribute, and always went home, no desire to stay

Science & Engineering

Medicine

Chemistry

Architecture

Mathematics

Astronomy

Everyday Culture

Cleanliness

Egyptian women

Love and Marriage

Food & Dietary Customs

Religion and Piety

Religion and morality / piety

Gods, priests, temples, and cult statues

Festivals

The Dead

Values and Worldview

Ma'at

Rhythms of life / Rhythms of the Nile

Balance, harmony, beauty, order, nature, proportion, truth

Stability, consistency, eternity

Change is bad; Foreigners are bad

Historical worldview

Thinking Egyptian

The most culture-bound, conservative culture on earth

Orderly, tradition-bound, resistant to change

Worldview is based on tradition, not reason or system

Inward oriented

Why Egypt?

Why did God send his people to Egypt?
Egypt as cradle for Israel

Canaanite vs. Egyptian worldview

Canaan is the crossroads of empires

Syncretistic, inclusive

Canaan was a theological blender

Egypt: extremely exclusive

They didn't care if Israel had their own religion

They had no desire whatsoever for conformity

Egypt was theological Tupperware (keeps everything separate)

**And There Arose A
New King In Egypt**

A New King

Exodus 1:6-8

6 Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. 7 But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. 8 **Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.**

Question: How long was Israel in Egypt?

How many Pharaohs would have risen in 400 years?

God's Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 15:13-16

Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation."

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How can you have 4 generations span 400 years?

That's 100 years per generation!

400 Years

“And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave [trouble] them and afflict them **four hundred years.**” Acts 7:6

430 Years

Exodus 12:40-41 (ESV)

The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.

430 Years

Exodus 12:40 (ESV)

(ESV): The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years.

(KJV): Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.

Much more true to the Hebrew

The whole sojourn does not take place in Egypt.

Sojourning and affliction of God's people is both in Canaan and Egypt

The sojourn begins with God calling Abram to leave Ur of the Chaldees and ends with the children of Israel leaving Egypt precisely 430 years later.

430 Years

Exodus 12:40 (ESV)

The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years.

Exodus 12:40 (Septuagint)

“And the sojourning of the children of Israel, while they sojourned in the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan, was four hundred and thirty years.”

This is an editorial, not likely in the original text, but does reflect the understanding of the Jewish Septuagint translators of the 2nd Century BC.

What does Paul say?

Galatians 3:16-18

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ. This is what I mean: **the law, which came 430 years afterward**, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void. For if the inheritance comes by the law, it no longer comes by promise; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise.

The law came 430 years after the Covenant with Abraham
Not after Israel's entrance into Egypt

Genealogy of Moses and Aaron



Exodus 6:14-26

Moses and Aaron are sons of Amram and Jochedeb (vs. 20)

Amram is the son of Kohath (vs. 18)

Kohath is the son of Levi (vs. 16)

Jochebed was the sister of Kohath, and the daughter of Levi (vs. 20)

Thus, Moses was the great-grandson of Levi through Amram

Moses and Aaron were the third generation from Levi, who entered Egypt. The generation after Moses, the fourth generation, entered Canaan, as God promised Abraham in Genesis 15:16

Genealogy of Caleb

Israel

Judah

Perez

Hezron

Caleb

1st generation: entered Egypt

2nd generation

3rd generation

4th generation: entered the promised land

See Genesis 46:12, 1 Chronicles 2:1-5, and 1 Chronicles 2:18

Thus, Caleb was the 4th generation from the entry to Egypt

Chronological Summary

430 years from God calling Abram to leave Ur of the Chaldees from God's Covenant with Abram regarding Isaac, Genesis 15

Israel was in Egypt for 215 years

65 years between death of Joseph and birth of Moses

215 Years of Population Growth?

70 people entered Egypt (Genesis 46:27)

Plus Joseph, his wife, and 2 children = 74 people total

Let's assume only 50 were of the next generation

215 years later (Exodus 12:37)

600,000 men on foot, besides women and children

Assume 600,000 women + 300,000 children

= 1.5 million total

1.5 million people / 50 young generation at start

= 30,000x factor increase in 215 years

= 4.9% annual population growth

Israel grew at 4.9% annually for 215 years

Could Israel Multiply That Rapidly?

Exodus 1:7 The people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

Israel grew at 4.9% annually for 215 years

Modern, sustained annual growth rates:

Niger	5.2%
Mali	4.9%
Uganda	4.8%
Afghanistan	4.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base

Note: Over 430 years, annual growth rate would have been 2.4%, a not very extraordinary rate. Around 30-40 countries today have a higher growth rate.

12th Dynasty Theory

Amenemhat I: probably murdered

Sesostris (aka. Senwosret) I: Pharaoh who elevated Joseph

Amenemhat II: Joseph was alive and highly respected

Sesostris (aka. Senwosret) II: Pharaoh when Joseph died

Sesostris (aka. Senwosret) III:

- Born after Joseph died

- Pharaoh of the oppression

- murders the baby sons

Amenemhat III: Pharaoh from whom Moses fled

Amenemhat IV: Pharaoh of the Exodus, died in Reed Sea

- Died prematurely with no male heir

- His tomb has never been discovered

Queen Sobekneferu

- Her reign ended in chaos, invasion, and civil war