



Bible Geography

Political Geography – Egypt

I REGIONS

- A. Lower Egypt – (See Old Testament World map)
 - 1. Northern Egypt
 - 2. Triangle shaped delta of the Nile (Isaiah 11:15) – (Nile Delta pic.)
 - 3. The land of Goshen was located in the eastern portion of the Nile Delta – (See Lands of Sojourn and Wanderings map)

- B. Upper Egypt – (See Old Testament World map)
 - 1. Southern Egypt – Egypt south of the delta
 - 2. A two to ten mile wide valley along the Nile River made up the most habitable part of the country
 - 3. History of Egypt began when Upper and Lower Egypt were united under Menes.

II. CIVILIZATION

- A. The People
 - 1. Short of stature
 - 2. Black skin
 - 3. Clean shaven (Genesis 41:14)
 - 4. Hair was black and straight

- B. Accomplishments
 - 1. Hieroglyphic system of writing
 - 2. Pyramids
 - 3. Knowledge in astronomy and mathematics



III. HISTORY

A. Early History

1. First Pharaoh to unite Upper and Lower Egypt was Menes. He is dated as earlier than a literal interpretation of the Bible chronology will allow (unless he lived before the flood [some calculate the flood occurring around 2340 B.C.]). We can assume that the standard chronologies are wrong here. The dates given to Menes by various scholars vary from each other by hundreds of years (around 3000 B.C.).
2. During this time, and later, Pharaoh was regarded as a god
3. Old Kingdom Period
 - a. Questionably dated as 2700-2200BC
 - b. Called the Pyramid Age

B. First Intermediate Period

1. Dated at 2200-2000BC
2. A period of weak central government

C. Middle Kingdom Period

1. Dated at 2000-1800BC
2. Pharaoh regains control of Egyptian states

D. Second Intermediate Period

1. Dated at 1800-1570BC
2. The rule of the Hyskos, foreign rulers who invaded and ruled Egypt for many years
3. They introduced the horse and chariot into Egypt
4. Some mark this as the time when Joseph became prime minister and Jacob along with his sons came to live in Egypt.

E. New Kingdom Period

1. Dated 1570-1065BC
2. The Hyskos were expelled
3. Also called the Empire Period
4. Egyptian Empire reached as far as the Euphrates River
5. It was during this time that some mark the time of the Children of Israel leaving Egypt.



F. Later Egyptian History

1. An important power until 525BC when it was annexed by Persia
2. Egypt was never again a major power outside its own boundaries

IV. SCRIPTURAL MENTION

A. First Mentioned as Mizraim (Genesis 10:6; Genesis 50:11)

B. First Mentioned as Egypt in Genesis 12:10

C. Mentioned Over 600 Times in the Bible

1. 24 times only in the New Testament
2. 12 times in Acts 7 alone

D. A Type of the World

1. Abram when **down** into Egypt (Genesis 12:10)
2. God tells Isaac not to go **down** into Egypt (Genesis 26:2)
3. Joseph was brought **down** to Egypt (Genesis 39:1)
4. God executes judgment against the gods of Egypt (Exodus 12:12)
5. Woe to them that go **down** to Egypt (Isaiah 31:1)
6. Solomon made **affinity** with Pharaoh (1 Kings 3:1 compare this w/ 2 Chronicles 18:1), an early indicator of what was to come (1 Kings 11:1); Note: every time **affinity** is mentioned in scripture it is associated with a bad relationship (1 Kings 3:1; 2 Chronicles 18:1; Ezra 9:14)