

a Hyksos or Shepherd dynasty. The Hyksos were intruders from Asia. They had conquered Egypt and held it in subjection for several centuries. But the conquerors were themselves soon overcome by the higher civilization of the people they had subdued. In all respects save one they became thoroughly Egyptianized, and the Hyksos court was modeled on the court of the older Pharaohs. It was only in the matter of religion that they differed from their Egyptian subjects. In place of the gods of Egypt they worshiped as their supreme deity Susekh, whom they identified with the Sun-god of On or Heliopolis. They seem accordingly to have honored the temple of On, and a papyrus which tells the story of their final expulsion states that while Apophis held his court in the capital, On was occupied by the worshippers of the strange god. This would explain how the Hebrew foreigner came to marry the daughter of the priest of On.

Joseph's action in securing for the Pharaoh the landed property of Egypt is illustrated by the facts which a study of the monuments has brought to light. Before the age of the Hyksos the land of Egypt was held by feudal princes and other private proprietors, the crownlands being of comparatively small extent; after that age, in the time of the eighteenth and following dynasties the land is divided between the Pharaoh and the priests. Individual ownership of it has become a thing of the past; apart from the estates appropriated to the temples, the whole of Egypt belongs to the king. It is only the book of Genesis which tells us how the change had come about.

"The sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years" (Ex. xii. 40). If Apophis II. was the Pharaoh of Joseph the 430 years would bring us to the close of the nineteenth dynasty. Of this dynasty the central figure was Ramses II. During his long reign of sixty-seven years (B.C. 1348-1281) Egypt was filled with temples and other public buildings, the Egyptian armies marched into Syria and the Sudan, and Canaan was a province of the Egyptian empire. Egyptologists had long since come to the conclusion that in Ramses II. it is necessary to see the Pharaoh of the Oppression, and the conclusion was verified by Dr. Naville's excavations at Tel el-Maskhuta which showed that he was the builder of Pa-Tum or Pithom. But if Ramses II. were the Pharaoh of the Oppression, the Pharaoh of the Exodus must have been one of his immediate successors.

An Egyptian legend, reported by the historian Manetho, assigned the Exodus to the reign of his son and successor, Menepthah. Menepthah's reign was disturbed by a great invasion of Egypt on the part of the Libyans and the populations of the Greek seas, who swarmed into the Delta, destroying and pillaging as they went. At last, in the fifth year of the Pharaoh, the Egyptian troops succeeded in defeating the invaders in a decisive battle, and Egypt was saved. But the royal power had received a shock from which it did not recover. Two