

overthrown by a foreign conquest, by way of Suez, of wandering tribes from Arabia or Syria.

Middle Empire.—The foreign conquerors were known as Hyksos (*Shepherds*). During their ascendancy the Hebrews came into Egypt. The date for Joseph is fixed approximately * at B. C. 1750. The overthrow of the Hyksos power was completed under Thothmes III., whose date, about B. C. 1600, begins the time of the—

New Empire. Its period of greatest glory was under Ramses II., B. C. 1350. Besides conquests in Ethiopia, he made repeated campaigns through Syria to the upper portions of the Tigris-Euphrates valley, and possibly to Asia Minor. The Island of Cyprus was at this time under Egyptian ascendancy. On the mountain-side near Beyrout, in Syria, may still be seen immense reliefs of figures in Egyptian style, believed to date from these campaigns.

The son of Ramses II. was Menephtah. He is considered the Pharaoh of the Exodus, which would date, in this case, about 1314 B. C.

After Ramses III., about 1270 B. C., began the decline of the New Empire, which lasted, however, over seven hundred years longer. After 1200, it was ruled for a time by kings of an Ethiopian dynasty, and also for a time, by kings of Assyrian blood or appointment.

The final overthrow of Egyptian independence was effected by the Persian Cambyses, in B. C. 525. The institutions were not, however, changed by this conquest, nor by the succeeding conquests of the Greeks and Romans.

REVIEW OF THE LEADING DATES OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN HISTORY.

Old Empire (Pyramid kings), before.....	B. C. 2000
Hyksos, Middle Empire, ends about.....	" 1600
New Empire, ends.....	" 525
Persian period, ends about.....	" 333
Greek period, ends about.....	" 50
Roman period, ends with an Arab-Mohammedan conquest.....	A. D. 640

* By the computation of Brugsch and Josepheus.