

AN AMERICAN FINDS THRONE ROOM OF PHARAOH, WHO RULED AT THE TIME OF THE EXODUS

Discovery is Remarkable Confirmation of Biblical History—On Very Spot Where Moses Pleaded for Liberation of the Israelites Dr. Fisher Stands With Uncovered Head.

Exodus, Chapter VII, Verses six to twelve:

And the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Show a miracle for you; then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and it shall become a serpent.

And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the Lord had commanded, and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants and it became a serpent.

Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents; but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

The very room in which Moses and Aaron made their dramatic pleas for liberation of the Israelites has been found!

Most remarkable of all the confirmations of the Biblical story of the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt is this which has just been announced by Dr. Clarence S. Fisher, head of the Eckley B. Cox, Jr., expedition to the museum of the University of Pennsylvania.

For in excavating the palace of Menephtah II—the Pharaoh who ruled Egypt at the time of the Exodus—Dr. Fisher brought to light for the first time in thousands of years the throne room of that ancient ruler in an amazing state of preservation.

Before the gladdened eyes of the distinguished American Egyptologist was outspread the actual scene of the first act of one of the greatest dramas of the world's history—the exodus of the Jews from their bondage in Egypt that ended in their entry into the Promised Land.

And like a rapidly-reeling moving picture film, the momentous events which took place in this epoch-making throne room swept before his memory.

For there in the foreground of the chamber, laden with the dust of centuries, was the throne of the hypocritical, weak and vacillating Pharaoh, as delineated in the scriptural account.

Surrounding the throne room were the many chambers for various purposes and in the front was still standing a notable vestibule with rows of enormous pillars, beautifully carved.

And recalling the Biblical narrative the scientist visualized Menephtah's magnificent entrance into that majestic chamber in response to Moses' demand for his first audience after having been designated by the Almighty to deliver the down-trodden and abused Chosen People.

A fanfare of trumpets! Slaves and dancing girls emerge from behind the vestibule. Enter the stately priests to the swaying of incense by young neophytes. Then Pharaoh himself borne in a litter. He descends and mounts the throne. From the side rooms enter courtiers, officials and magicians in a veritable swarm.

The scientist turns about and the moving picture of memory sweeps the dust and debris from the floor. He sees Moses and Aaron enter. A gesture of the court chamberlain stills the chattering Egyptians and they watch keenly Moses, with his four score years of dignity enhanced by the divine inspiration, fearlessly cross the chamber, with his brother of four score and three years following. For in the fifth chapter of Exodus he had read:

And afterwards Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh. Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.

And they said, the God of the Hebrews hath met with us; let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the Lord our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

And the King of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? Get you unto your burdens.

Whereupon Pharaoh imposes additional burdens upon the Hebrews, taking from them the straw which they had heretofore been furnishing in the manufacture of brick, and compelling them to gather stubble for the purpose.

In Reverent Attitude

It was in this very throne room in which Dr. Fisher now stood with head reverently uncovered that Moses and Aaron, at the command of God, made their second application to Pharaoh for the liberation of their people.

Pharaoh demands of them some proof of their commission. With the Biblical narrative fresh in his mind Dr. Fisher could easily visualize the consternation of Menephtah when Aaron's serpent devoured those of the court magicians whose rods likewise had been changed into reptiles.

Again and again was this throne room the scene of the conferences between Moses and Pharaoh after the land of Egypt had been smitten with plagues by the Almighty. There on

the greatest of ancient Egypt, and when Dr. Fisher completes his work of excavating—the hot weather caused him to stop work, with only the general outlines and the throne room uncovered—there is no doubt that Egyptology will be richer in its lore by the finds that await only the resumption of the digging.

Menephtah II. was the 14th son of Ramesses II., whose long reign of 67 years was not unfavorable toward the Israelites. According to his monuments, Menephtah's face had a pleasing look, but this cannot be depended upon, for the sculptors, like the poets and scribes, were great flatterers.

He had already taken part in the affairs of government during the lifetime of his aged father, and in this capacity he appears on the monument of Ramesses II., by the side of his royal parent. It has been found from the monuments that Menephtah believed in and practised magic, surrounding himself (in the palace discovered by Dr. Fisher) with professed sorcerers and magicians. This fits in remarkably well with the Mosaic account: "The magicians did so with their enchantments."

Hitherto Egyptologists had supposed that Menephtah had not transmitted to posterity either grand buildings or temples, but this discovery of Dr. Fisher's now arouses the belief that it was his orders that caused the additions to be made to the palace handed down to him by his father, which made it the largest in Egypt.

Authorities also have differed as to the length of his reign, the monuments not telling of anything that happened after his eighteenth year. It was considered probable, therefore, that he did not rule much longer than that period.

But though short his reign was crowded with the most disastrous and miserable events. All of which account for the expectancy with which Egyptologists look forward to Dr. Fisher's complete report next winter.

Recent transfers of property have been recorded as follows:

In St. John County—Heirs of John Armstrong to J. J. Armstrong, property at Simonds; R. J. Cox to H. A. Mal-

lory, \$5, property on Pitt street; S. H. G. M. Harding, property at Rothesay, Carl Ingelme to Mabel L. Prime property at Westfield; Frederick Murphy to G. B. Jones, \$100, property at Studholm; W. D. Schofield to Frederick Murphy, \$500, property at Studholm.

British and Foreign Mails. British and foreign mails will close on Saturday, December 23rd. Letters at seven p.m. Parcels and papers at six p.m.

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Give Your Wife Chocolates

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Patrons: Her Majesty the Queen
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The Canadian Serbian Relief Committee

Honorary President: President R. A. Falconer, C.M.G., LL.D., University of Toronto
President: Dr. W. D. Sharpe, Late Commandant, British Naval Mission Hospital, Belgrade, Serbia.
Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, 1st Vice-President.
Hon. Treasurer: A. H. Campbell, Esq.

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J. C. CHESELEY,
Agent, Marine & Fisheries Dept.
St. John, December 19th, 1916.

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25¢

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