BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY CLASS # 4

Yosef in Egypt. New archeological findings

	Dynasty	**Years**
Predynastic Period of Egypt		c. 3500-3000
Early Dynastic Period of Egypt	1st 2nd	c. 3000-2686
Old Kingdom *"The Age of Pyramids"*	3rd 4th 5th 6th	2686-2613 2613-2494 2494-2345 2345-2181
First Intermediate Period	7th 8th 9th 10th	2181-2160 2160-2025
Middle Kingdom of Egypt	11th 12th	2125-1985 1985-1773
Second Intermediate Period	13th? 14th? 15th 16th 17th	1773-1550
New Kingdom of Egypt *"A time of famous Pharaohs"*	18th *(Ahmose I, Akhenaten, Tutankhamen, Hatshepsut, Thutmose III)* 19th 20th	1550-1295 1295-1186 1186-1069
Third Intermediate Period	21st 22nd 23rd 24th	1069-945 945-715 818-715 727-715

The 12th Dynasty Dates According to the OC and NC

King		OC	NC
Amenemhat I	=	1937-1908 BC	1803-1774 BC
Senuseret I	=	1917-1872 BC	1774-1730 BC
Amenemhat II	=	1875-1840 BC	1745-1712 BC
Senuseret II	=	1842-1836 BC	1716-1698 BC
Senuseret III	=	1836-1817 BC	1698-1658 BC
Amenemhat III	=	1817-1772 BC	1678-1631 BC
Amenemhat IV	=	1772-1763 BC	1633-1626 BC
Sobekneferu	=	1763-1759 BC	1627-1624 BC
Start of the 13th Dynasty			
Sobekhotep I	=	1758-1755 BC	1624-1621 BC

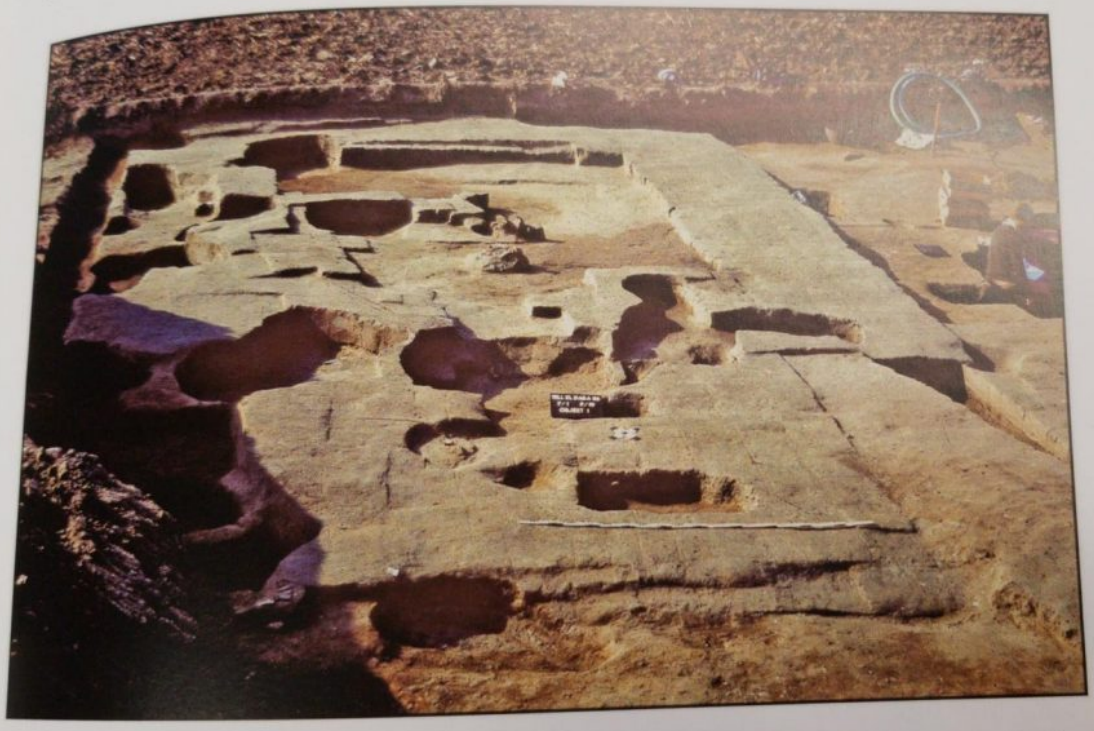

Fig. 85: The remains of the pyramid tomb just below the modern agricultural surface. The front section of mudbricks is the floor of the chapel and, behind it, the platform of the pyramid. [Courtesy of the Austrian Archaeological Institute]

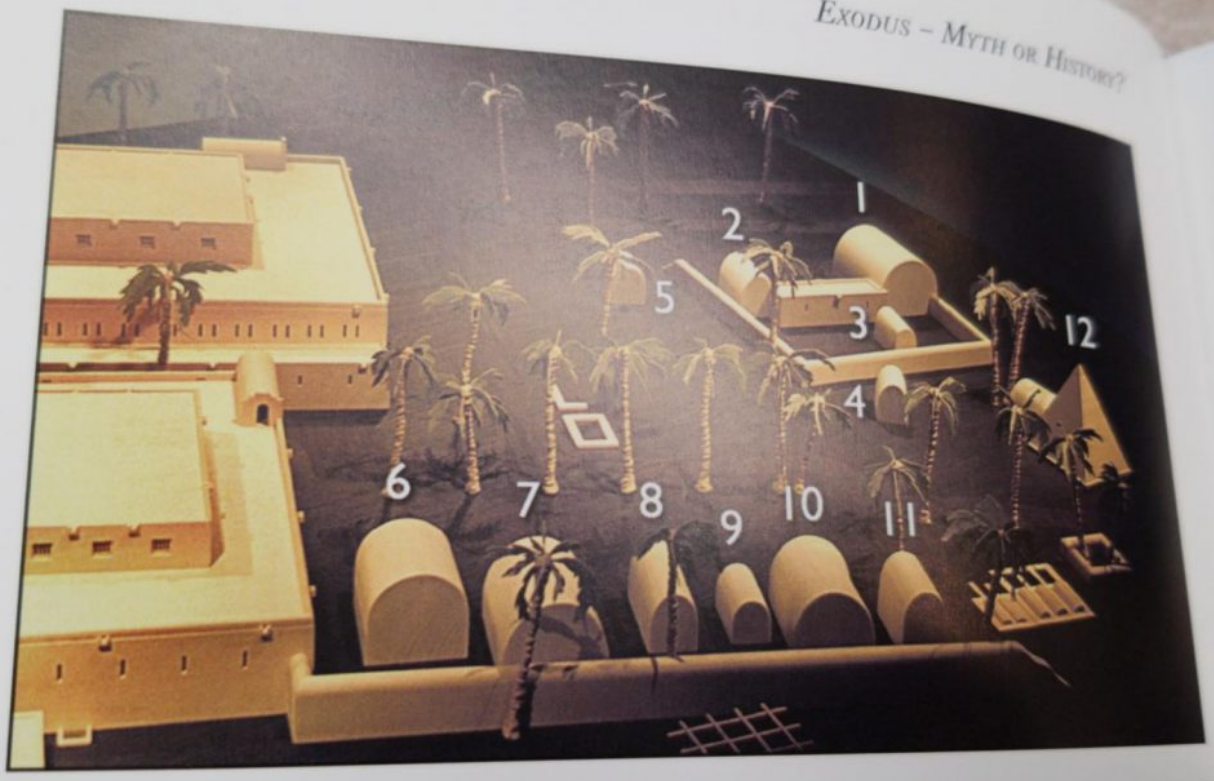

Fig. 84: Model of the Area F palace garden cemetery, showing twelve principal tombs; eleven with vaulted chapels and one believed to have been a pyramid. [Austrian Archaeological Institute]

statue was wearing an Egyptian [illegible] make out red and black stripes, plus a pigment which had disappeared but which may have been cream, yellow or light blue. This is what the official web site of the Austrian archaeological mission at Tell ed-Daba has to say about this remarkable statue.

> Of special interest was the discovery of fragments of a smashed tomb statue. The head, parts of the cloak and the seat were found in tomb p/19-Nr. 1. Other fragments, such as a joining shoulder and the left foot were discovered in nearby tombs. The statue was made of limestone and originally was larger than life. It portrayed a seated man wearing a striped cloak and a red, mushroom shaped hairstyle. Such hairstyles are found on various Egyptian depictions of Asiatics in the Middle Kingdom. The skin color of the man is shown as yellow. In the right hand he is holding a throw stick which is resting against his right shoulder. Egyptian Middle Kingdom images showing people as Asiatics most commonly show these as conquered enemies. This man, on the other hand, held a position of power, on a local level. He reached this position, however, by maintaining – even emphasizing – what for the Egyptians constituted an 'Asiatic'.[4]

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To me – and I hope to you – this all pointed towards one conclusion. Without searching for it … and it has to be said, without realizing it … the Austrian archaeological mission at Tell ed-Daba had found the lost city of the Israelites located at the heart of the biblical land of Goshen. They had unearthed the house of Jacob and the palace of the vizier Joseph with its twelve-columned façade representing the twelve sons of Jacob. They had found twelve main tombs in the palace garden, one of which was a pyramid tomb with a colossal cult statue of its occupant, which once stood in the chapel attached to the tomb. They had discovered that the burial chamber had been accessed in antiquity via a tunnel and the entire contents – including the body – removed. The tomb had not been plundered but, nevertheless, it was empty. The colossal cult statue had been smashed into pieces and parts had rolled into the tunnel. This statue had been made in the royal workshops of Amenemhat III in whose time there had been a prolonged famine caused by a series of high Nile inundations. The cult statue represented an Asiatic official with yellow skin and sporting an Asiatic throw stick as his scepter. He had flame-red hair. And he wore a coat of many colors. Short of finding a name on the missing part of the statue, I could only come to one conclusion … this complex in Tell ed-Daba Area F was the home and tomb of Joseph – the Asiatic vizier famous for his multicolored dream coat and the man who brought the Israelites into the land of Goshen – the foreigner who had saved Egypt from the great famine and who had been rewarded by Pharaoh with a magnificent pyramid tomb in the heart of the Asiatic city of Avaris.

Notes and References

1. S. Quirke: *The Administration of Egypt in the Late Middle Kingdom* (Whitstable, 1990), p. 148.
of the Late Kingdom, pl. 11, 51 & 58.
Press, London, 1996), p. 29.