

Biblical and Archeological Evidence for a 15th century BC Exodus

- 1 Kings 6:1 designates 480 years from the Exodus to Solomon's dedication of the temple. The dedication was 966 BC. That makes the Exodus 1446 BC.
- The "Dream Stela" of Thutmose IV on the sphinx gives evidence that Thutmose was not the legal heir to the throne. It would be logical that the eldest son was killed in the 10th plague.
- In Judges 11:26, Jephthah assigns 300 years between his day (c. 1100 BC) and the Conquest. This would seem to indicate a 15th century Exodus.
- To support the biblical chronology of Moses, Pharaoh must have reigned in excess of 40 years. Moses stayed in the wilderness until Pharaoh died. Only possibilities: Thutmose III, Ramses II.
- The Last Level at Hazor, wiped out by Barak and Deborah, contains Mycenaean IIIB Pottery; this requires, at the latest, a date in the late 13th century. This pushes Exodus much earlier.
- The Merneptah Stela (c. 1220 BC) mentions Israel by name. They must have been there for a long time for the Egyptians to accept them as a nation.
- The Amarna Tablets (1400 BC) tell of the upheaval caused by the "Habiru." This could have been the Hebrews, possibly classified under a general category.
- The length of time assigned to the Judges period in Scripture, even with overlapping, cannot be squeezed into the century and a half allowed by a 13th century BC Exodus.
- Finds at the Timna temple indicate sedentary civilizations in Negev at least in early 14th century BC. Edomite, Moabite, and Ammonite tribes were wandering earlier than that.
- Lachish, Debir, and Bethel are not said to have been burned at the time of the Conquest. The layer of ash could be due to Egypt's conquests.
- In Exodus 1:11, Israelites were said to have been building the city of Rameses. This supports an earlier Exodus for three reasons: 1) The name "Rameses" is used much earlier than the 13th century BC. 2) The city was built before the birth of Moses; thus, before Rameses II, even with a late Exodus. 3) This was a store city, not a capital city.
- The Hebrews need not be related to the Hyksos. There is much evidence that Jacob went to Egypt almost 150 years before the Hyksos period began.
- Though not known as a great builder, Thutmose III is known to have had some building projects in the delta region.
- It is very likely that the periods of "rest" during the Judges were the periods of tighter Egyptian control. The Egyptian invasions were against the Canaanites.
- There is just as much evidence for putting the patriarchs in Middle Bronze I as there is for putting them in Middle Bronze II.