



◀ The southeast corner of the Great Pyramid of Khufu, showing some of the huge blocks of stone, weighing up to 15 tons each, that went into the building.

Chapter 5

KHUFU BUILT THE BIG ONE

The Bible date for the Exodus is approximately 1445 B.C. Exodus 6:4 and Galatians 3:16–17 indicate that God made a covenant with Abraham 430 years before this date, about 1875 B.C. Soon after this date Abraham went to Egypt to escape the effects of a famine in the land of Canaan (Gen. 12:10). Josephus wrote that Abraham “communicated to them arithmetic, and delivered to them the science of astronomy; for before Abram came into Egypt they were unacquainted with those parts of learning; for that science came from the Chaldeans into Egypt.” So Abraham may have helped the Egyptians to achieve the mathematical accuracy that is found in Khufu’s pyramid.

KING SENEFERTU
▲

DYNASTY 4 CONTINUES

REVISD DATES: 19A C.B.C. ▲ TRADITIONAL DATES: 2551–2536 B.C.

◆ ◆ ◆ The Pyramid of Khufu built ◆ ◆ ◆

▲ KING KHUFU

▲ KING DJEDEFRE

◆ ◆ ◆ GENESIS 12:1–3 Covenant with Abraham

GENESIS 12:10 Abraham visits Egypt

GENESIS 12:2, 21:5 Isaac born





of the length of the four sides at the base. This feature suggests knowledge of the value of pi, centuries ahead of the Greeks.

The pyramid contains an estimated 2.3 million blocks of stone averaging 2.5 tons in weight each, with the biggest some weighing a massive 15 tons. We do not know for sure how long it took to build the pyramids. If we accept Herodotus' report that Cheops' pyramid took 20 years to build, we can calculate the rate at which the construction stones were put in place. If we assume that the Egyptian builders worked 12 hours per day continuously for 20 years, the 2.3 million blocks would require 25.3 minutes to be put in place each hour, or just over 2 minutes



to place each block, averaging 2.5 tons accurately in place, many feet above the ground. This feat is truly amazing even by today's construction standards and suggests a very highly developed knowledge of engineering. If we accept a shorter time period of just two years, in line with the claims given in the Best Pyramid, we realize that one of these huge stones was precisely placed every 13.5 seconds.

All this has led to wild speculation about how the pyramids were built, such as the involvement of UFOs etc., but there is no insurmountable or archaeological evidence to support these speculations, which leaves us with the conclusion that we do not know for sure just how this gigantic feat was accomplished. With all our modern inventions and machines, it would still be a challenge to any civil engineer to build such a pyramid today. Instead, we are left to marvel at the ingenuity, craftsmanship, and

1 If you can obtain permission to climb to the top of Khafre's pyramid, this is the route to make your climb.

2 The original entrance to Khafre's pyramid is in the north face.

3 The entrance used by modern visitors to descend this, it was made by Caliph Mamun 1,000 years ago in an attempt to reach the entrance he hoped he would find inside.

4 Some of the huge white Tura limestone facing stones are still in place at the bottom of the pyramid. They occurred because they were buried under the sand when the stone masons built the upper facing stones.

5 Still piled up against the first pylon of the temple of Khafre are some of the small blocks that formed the ramp up which the blocks of stone were dragged. A similar ramp may have been made to haul the stones to the top of Khafre's pyramid.



organizing skill of this wonderful people who lived so long ago. They were certainly not primitive cave men, but rather were highly intelligent and cultured people.

The man who supervised this giant project was Khafre's nephew, Hemiunu. His statue was found in a chamber of his tomb. It is a magnificent life-sized statue, and depicts him as a solidly built fellow with a capacious bosom (bellying his back). Tomb robbers had broken into the tomb at an early date and severed the head and smashed it to retrieve the infallible eyes. However, archaeologists carefully gathered the pieces, enabling the statue to be restored.

The entrance to this pyramid is on the north side above ground level and it is 26 feet (8 m) off center. This was obviously not due to a miscalculation by the builders. Rather, it was undoubtedly a subtle attempt to thwart the

inevitable tomb robbers. They would naturally start their illicit digging from the center, and that is what they did.

The entrance used by tourists today is a device named which was cut through the stones and finally connected with the ascending passage. The man responsible for this entrance, which was constructed about 1,100 years ago, was a Turkish governor called Marsden, who was apparently hoping to find treasures in the tomb chamber. However, we do not know if he was successful or not.

As the original pyramid builders anticipated, Marsden's men started digging through the center of the pyramid and might have gone clean through it and out the other side without finding anything, except for a piece of rock. It appears that as the workmen hauled away with their picks they dislodged the stone which sealed the entrance to the ascending passage. Its crash in the floor of the



▲ 1 Ornamental columns at the front of the temple of Seti I at Abydos. 2 Each column (or small) in Seti's king list contains the names of the kings preceding Seti I. 3 Seti's son Ramesses, wearing a powerful rib-belt, is standing at the head of Seti's temples.

because he early crowned his youthful son (Ramesses II as co-regent). The boy with a side lock is shown in this king-list, holding a scroll in his hand.

Having been an army general, it is not surprising that Seti was eager to undertake, in his first year, a military invasion of the lowlands of Palestine and Syria to quell a rebellion. He left a graphic relief of this military expedition on the outside north wall at Karnak. This was no ill-fated battle, because archaeologists at Bethshane unearthed two victory stipes which he had left there.

His triumphal text said, "His majesty was informed as follows: The despicable foe who hath from the town of Harnath has gathered a large force, capturing the town of Bethshane, and is league with the people of Phil; he has prevented the chief of Rehob from getting on. So his majesty dispatched the first division of Amun, mighty of bows, against the town of Harnath. The first division of Re, abounding in valour, against the [captured] town of Bethshane; and the first division of Seti, strong of bows,



against the town of Yennari. In the space of a single day they had fallen to the power of his majesty."

Back home, his relief boasted, "He ends at beginning the battle, he delights to enter into it, his heart is gratified at the sight of blood. He logs off the heads of the disidents. More than the day of rejoicing he loves the moment of crushing [the foe]. His majesty slays them at one stroke — he leaves them no heirs, and whoever escapes his hand is brought prisoner to Egypt."

Seti built a small but delicate mortuary temple on the west bank at Thebes, and his tomb is the longest and deepest in the Valley of the Kings — more than 328 feet (100 m) in length. On the walls the tomb paintings retain their brilliant color, and on the roof are pictured the heavenly constellations.

His mummy was a masterpiece of embalming. The body has been hacked about by robbers, but his face is the best-preserved and most lifelike of any of the royal mummies. He seems to be peacefully sleeping.



▲ Hieratic hieroglyphs, written on the wall of the temple of Seti I at Abydos, well-preserved because the roof of the temple covered it, preventing the sunlight from fading the pictures. ▼ On the north wall of the temple of Karnak, Seti means his chariot to make war with his enemies.

