

Additional notes for teachers:

Many of the notes comprise deeper matters which have arisen in the course of preparation of the Students Notes. Other material has been appended for the purpose of providing background, explanations or interesting detail.

LESSON 17**1. THE HYKSOS, OR SHEPHERD KINGS**

The following background information on the Hyksos (Shepherd Kings) is called from Marston, "New Knowledge About the O.T."

Hyksos were originally Elamites (descended from Shem, Gen. 10:22) from Caucasus. They penetrated through Syria and Canaan (previously Hamitic) around the time of Abraham (e.g. Gen. 14:1-4 mentions 12 years domination by Elam etc.) Shem is the ancestor of all Hebrew peoples (Gen. 10:21) – Elamites, Phoenicians, Hebrews and Arabs.

Many of these Hebrew (Gen. 10:21) settled in Canaan and intermarried with the native Canaanites, imposing their own language, arts and civilisation on the land. Thus Melchizedek was of Semitic origin and the typical fortress pattern found throughout Canaan, i.e. high, strong walls on the top of a hill with a surrounding sloping rampart is not Canaanite but Elamite in origin.

So Abraham and Joseph are described as "Hebrews" (Gen. 14:13; 39:14; 41:12) and Canaan as the land of the Hebrews (Gen. 40:15).

Hyksos also conquered Egypt which they dominated for 8 centuries, 2371 – 1583 B.C. The 15th and 16th Dynasties (of Egypt) were Hyksos, contemporary with 13th, 14th and 17th which were driven out. The Hyksos introduced the horse into Egypt which greatly assisted in their conquests there and also in Syria and Canaan. Finally the Hyksos were driven out of Egypt and a new Dynasty established – the 18th. The first of this line is the "king who knew not Joseph" (Exod. 1:8).

2. ALL THE WISDOM OF THE EGYPTIANS

Although Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians" it is possible that much of this store of learning was of Hebrew origin, some at least being the result of Hyksos occupation and some perhaps going back to Abraham, e.g. Josephus claims that the arts of Arithmetic and Astronomy were communicated to the Egyptians by Abraham (Antiquities I ch. 8, p.2). Josephus also claims that Moses was a great military leader among the Egyptians, delivering them from the Ethiopians (Antiquities II ch. 10).

3. MOSES' MARRIAGE TO A MIDIANITE

Some explanation may be called for concerning Moses' marriage to the daughter of an alien priest (Jethro). It should be noted that the Midianites were descended from Abraham through Keturah and probably had some understanding of the Abrahamic Covenant. Jethro certainly shows some sympathy and understanding with the true worship (Exod. 18:9-12). See also the attitude of Hobab, Moses brother-in-law (Num 10:29-32). Though the record does not indicate Hobab's final answer, his acceptance of Moses' invitation is implied in the later history of the Kenites (See Judges 1:16 etc.)

TEACHING METHODS

1. Continue the theme of the changing scene in Israel's history (commenced in the previous lesson).
2. Categorise the factors which brought about Israel's plight in Egypt – the new Dynasty, then great prosperity in Goshen etc.
3. Refer to Heb. 11:23 and stress how faith once again was the avenue for changing the course of history.
4. Show how Moses, notably not unlike Paul, was raised up and trained for a specific mission to accomplish God's will.