

## EGYPTIAN RELIGION AND HISTORY: AN OVERVIEW

### Early Dynastic Period

- Dynasty 1  
c.3000 BC      Union of Upper and Lower Egypt into one nation under  
                  Menes/Narmer with capital at Memphis.  
                  Beginnings of writing  
                  Formative period of ritual and calendar.  
                  High God-Horus (as falcon).
- Dynasty 2  
c.2850 BC      Dissolution of United Kingdom  
                  Southern kingdom adopts Seth as its emblem.

### Old Kingdom

- Dynasty 3  
c.2780 BC      Southern and northern kingdoms reunited.  
                  Beginning of the development of Heliopolitan theology.  
                  Kings buried in step-pyramids.  
                  High god-Atum.
- Dynasty 4  
c.2600BC      Great pyramid age  
                  Concentration of power in the hands of the royal family  
                  High god-Atum or Re
- Dynasties 5  
and 6  
c.2500 BC      High priests of Heliopolis increase in power  
                  Decline of royal power  
                  Spread of Osiris cult pyramid texts

### First Intermediate Period

- Dynasties 7  
to 10  
c.2250 BC      Anarchy, followed by rise of rival kingdoms in Herakleopolis  
                  and Thebes  
                  Coffin texts

### Middle Kingdom

- Dynasties 11  
to 13  
c.2050 BC      State reunited with Theban power victorious  
                  Reorganization of monarchy.  
                  High god-Amun

### Second Intermediate Period

- Dynasties 14  
to 17  
c.1750 BC      Egypt ruled by Asiatic invaders, Hyksos

New Kingdom

Dynasty 18  
c.1580 BC

Hyksos driven out; native rule restored  
Egypt pursues aggressive military policy, becomes leading  
power of the Ancient Near East  
Priesthood of Amun reaches the height of its power  
Book of the Dead  
Rebellion against Amun worship by Akhenaton in favor of  
monotheistic Atonism (visible sun)

Dynasty 19  
to 21  
c.1320 BC

Restoration of Amun worship  
Second period of imperial wars  
Israelites attested in Palestine  
Intense literary activity-tales and love poetry

MYTHOLOGICAL SCHEME

In the Primeval Waters/ The Emergence/ The Order/ The Departure of the  
High God/ The Separation of Earth and Sky/ The Reign of Osiris/ The  
Passion of Osiris/ The Reign of Seth/ The Great Quarrel/ The Judgment/  
The Salvation of Osiris

