

Dr. Robert Vannoy, Genesis, Session 30, Joseph's Coming to Egypt pre-Hyksos Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide Quiz, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Vannoy, Genesis, Session 30, Joseph's Coming to Egypt pre-Hyksos, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture excerpt from Dr. Robert Vannoy's Old Testament History course discusses the timing of Joseph's arrival in Egypt relative to the Hyksos period. The lecture presents arguments for both a pre-Hyksos and a Hyksos-era arrival, analyzing biblical verses and their interpretations to support each position. Key debates revolve around the meaning of "Hyksos," the identity of the "king who knew not Joseph," and the relative population sizes of the Israelites and Egyptians. Ultimately, the lecture concludes that precise dating remains uncertain, with Joseph's arrival likely falling between 1900 and 1700 B.C. The lecture also highlights the interconnectedness of this question with the dating of the Exodus.

**2. 31 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Vannoy, Genesis, Session 30 – Double click icon to play in
Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL]
Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament →
Pentateuch → Genesis).**



**Vannoy_Genesis_Se
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3. Briefing Document: Vannoy, Genesis, Session 30, Joseph's Coming to Egypt, pre-Hyksos

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided lecture excerpts, including relevant quotes:

Briefing Document: Joseph in Egypt - Timing and Context

Overview:

This lecture excerpt focuses on the historical context of Joseph's arrival and rise to power in Egypt, specifically examining whether it occurred before or during the Hyksos period. The lecturer, Dr. Robert Vannoy, emphasizes the lack of conclusive evidence and the reliance on interpretations of biblical passages and historical possibilities rather than concrete proof. The discussion is directly tied to the dating of the Exodus, as a late date for the Exodus would place Joseph's arrival during the Hyksos rule, while an early date would place it before.

Main Themes and Key Ideas:

1. **Map Exercise (Context):** The lecture begins with a map assignment, designed to familiarize students with biblical locations. This underscores the importance of geographical context in understanding biblical history.
 - *"The purpose is to familiarize yourself with locations. Get a Bible atlas, use that, and find these locations."*
 - *"I might just say with tribal borders if you compare Bible atlases you're going to find differences, exactly where those lines are drawn."*
1. **The Problem of Dating Joseph's Entry:** The central question is when Joseph entered Egypt, tied inextricably to the dating of the Exodus. This issue is important since the date of the Exodus is debated, and that will directly effect the dating of Joseph.
 - *"We were discussing: when did Joseph enter Egypt? We looked at the problem of date, which relates to the problem of the date of the exodus, and with an early date view, it would mean that Joseph entered Egypt prior to the time Hyksos in the native Egyptian times."*
 - *"If you take the late date of the Exodus, that effects the date of Joseph in a way that would place his entry into Egypt during the time of the Hyksos."*

1. **Arguments for Joseph's Arrival Before the Hyksos:** Dr. Vannoy presents three primary arguments favoring Joseph's presence in Egypt *before* the Hyksos period. Each relies on interpreting Biblical passages.
 - **Egyptian Sentiment Against Shepherds:** The claim is that the Egyptians' disdain for shepherds described in Genesis 46:34, indicates a native Egyptian dynasty on the throne rather than the Hyksos, who were considered "shepherd kings".
 - *"In Genesis 46:34, you read, 'You should answer, 'Your servants have tended livestock, from our boyhood on, just as our fathers did. Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen, for all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians.'"*
 - *"Now that statement, some argue, is indicative of a native Egyptian dynasty on the throne, the reason being the idea that the Hyksos were shepherd kings."*
 - The lecturer acknowledges that the term "Hyksos" as "shepherd kings" is disputed and could mean "foreign rulers".
 - *"So, to the degree that you would accept the alternate rendering of Hyksos as "foreign rulers" instead of "shepherd kings," would be the degree that you negate this as a line of argument."*
 - **The New King Who Knew Not Joseph:** A reversal of a previous argument, suggesting that the "new king" in Exodus 1:8 was actually a *Hyksos* ruler, not a native Egyptian. If the Israelites had been allies with the Hyksos, they wouldn't have been enslaved. Therefore, proponents argue the Israelites were at odds with them.
 - *"If the Israelites were friends and allies of the Hyksos as has often been argued, why were the Israelites then not expelled when the Hyksos were. See the Hyksos ruled from about 1750 to 1570 B.C. The exodus didn't come until quite a time after that."*
 - *"The conclusions of the advocates of this earlier view is, that the Israelites and the Hyksos were not allies, but they were antagonists, and that the Hyksos oppressed the Israelites during the time of their reign. So that the new king who knew not Joseph, who came in Exodus 1:8, represented the Hyksos rulers who then in turn put oppression on the Israelites."*

- **Israelites' Numbers:** The statement in Exodus 1:9-10, about the Israelites becoming too numerous, is interpreted as referring to them being more numerous than the Hyksos ruling class, not the Egyptians. The King James version is more literal, stating, "The children of Israel are more and mightier than we.", which strengthens this argument.
- *"The argument is that statement is hard to understand in the mouth of a native Egyptian... If you read in the King James, this argument is strengthened. In the King James, you read in Exodus 1:9, "The children of Israel are more and mightier than we." The NIV says, "the Israelites have become much too numerous for us.""
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- *"It would have been the grossest exaggeration to assert that the Israelites were more numerous than the Egyptians, but it was quite possible that they were more numerous than the warrior caste of the Hyksos themselves."*
- 1. **The Problem of the Time Gap in Exodus 1:** Those advocating for an early Exodus date argue that there's a time gap between verses 14 and 15 in Exodus 1. They posit that a period of Hyksos rule and oppression happened before the "slave masters" in verse 15 were established. This is needed to fit a narrative of oppression across multiple regimes. However, this is an assumption.
- *"Now, what is argued here is that there's a time gap there that's not apparent in the text. But it's about the only way that the early date view of the Exodus can hold those things together."*
- *"But, you see that's an assumption. It's not at all clear in the text. So that's really a point, in a sense, that is a weak part of the early date view because it requires that. It's not impossible. It's possible, but it's an assumption needed to make that view work."*
- 1. **Tentative Conclusion:** The lecture emphasizes the lack of conclusive evidence and that a definitive dating cannot be established. Dr. Vannoy suggests Joseph arrived in Egypt between 1900 and 1700 BC, possibly during the early part of the Hyksos period.
- *"I think that, what we can say with certainty, is that Joseph came into Egypt between 1900 and 1700 B.C. And that perhaps the Hyksos were already there. You see the beginning of Hyksos period is another thing of somewhat obscurity."*

- *"So I think, what we can say is, Joseph came into Egypt between 1900 and 1700 B.C., perhaps the Hyksos were already there. But I don't think we can say much further than that for certain."*
- *"We're going to get back into this when we discuss the date of the Exodus because they are related."*

Key Takeaways:

- The timing of Joseph's arrival in Egypt is complex and debated, inextricably linked to the dating of the Exodus.
- There are no clear answers. Both arguments (pre-Hyksos or during Hyksos) are based on interpretations rather than solid archaeological or historical facts.
- Arguments for Joseph's arrival before the Hyksos rely on specific readings and interpretations of biblical texts.
- The lecture highlights the importance of considering historical context and the limitations of relying solely on biblical interpretation for historical dating.
- The issue is not definitively resolved and requires further examination, particularly with regard to the timing of the Exodus.

This briefing provides a clear overview of the lecture's content, highlighting the main points and the challenges of determining the precise historical context of Joseph's story. It also emphasizes the need to consider multiple interpretations of the scripture.

4. Study Guide: Vannoy, Genesis, Session 30, Joseph's Coming to Egypt, pre-Hyksos

Joseph in Egypt: A Study Guide

Quiz

1. What is the primary reason for the differing opinions on the timing of Joseph's arrival in Egypt?
2. How does the interpretation of the word "Hyksos" impact the argument for Joseph's arrival before their rule?
3. Explain one of the arguments used to support the idea that Joseph rose to power during the Hyksos rule.
4. According to the lecture, why is the sentiment against shepherds in Genesis 46:34 used as evidence for an early arrival of Joseph?
5. Why do some scholars believe the new king in Exodus 1:8 was a Hyksos ruler, rather than an Egyptian one?
6. What is the significance of the differing translations in Exodus 1:9, specifically between the King James Version and the NIV?
7. How does the "warrior caste" idea relate to the argument for the Israelites being more numerous than the Hyksos?
8. What assumption do advocates of an early Exodus date have to make to reconcile the events in Exodus 1:8 and 1:15?
9. According to the lecture, what are the certain date ranges that can be affirmed regarding Joseph's arrival in Egypt?
10. What issue related to the dating of the Hyksos and Egyptian dynasties makes it hard to determine the exact date of Joseph's arrival?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The primary reason for differing opinions is the difficulty in establishing the exact date of the Exodus, which impacts the dating of Joseph's arrival. An early Exodus date places Joseph before the Hyksos, while a late date puts him during their rule.
2. If "Hyksos" means "shepherd kings," it suggests they would not have been adverse to shepherds. Therefore, a negative sentiment against shepherds in

Joseph's time would indicate a native Egyptian rule before the Hyksos. However, if Hyksos means "foreign rulers," this argument loses its strength.

3. Some argue that the king who did not know Joseph was a native Egyptian king who came to power after the Hyksos expulsion. Then, the next set of events show a king of Hyksos rule, who oppressed the Israelites.
4. The strong negative sentiment against shepherds in Genesis 46:34 is used as evidence that a native Egyptian dynasty was in power, since it is argued that the Hyksos, were also shepherd kings. This would mean that Joseph came before the Hyksos.
5. Some scholars argue the new king was Hyksos because, if the Israelites were allies of the Hyksos, they wouldn't have been oppressed after their expulsion. The new king's oppression indicates he was a Hyksos ruler in a period of heightened tensions with the Israelites.
6. The King James Version states the Israelites were "more and mightier," while the NIV states they were "much too numerous." The King James suggests the Israelites may have been more numerous than the ruling class, the Hyksos, not the entire Egyptian population.
7. The argument suggests that the Israelites may have outnumbered the warrior caste of the Hyksos rulers, while not outnumbering the entire Egyptian population, aligning with the idea that a new Hyksos king felt threatened by the Israelites.
8. Advocates of an early Exodus date must assume a gap of time between Exodus 1:14 and 1:15. This time gap is needed to allow for the change of ruling power from the Hyksos to the 18th dynasty when the Hyksos were expelled.
9. According to the lecture, Joseph's arrival in Egypt occurred between 1900 and 1700 B.C., and it's possible that the Hyksos were already present at the time.
10. The early Egyptian chronology is disputed, which makes fixing the date of the beginning of the Hyksos period very difficult. There is no hard evidence for it.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the arguments for and against Joseph's arrival in Egypt prior to the Hyksos rule. Discuss the evidence and reasoning presented for both sides, and explain why the evidence is not conclusive.
2. Discuss how the dating of the Exodus influences the interpretation of Joseph's time in Egypt. How does an early versus late date for the Exodus alter the historical context and political environment of Joseph's story?
3. Evaluate the use of biblical texts (Genesis 46:34, Exodus 1:8, and Exodus 1:9-10) to support different theories about Joseph's arrival and the political climate of Egypt at the time. How do differing translations and interpretations influence the conclusions drawn?
4. Explore the concept of a time gap between Exodus 1:14 and 1:15 and its role in the early Exodus theory. Explain the necessity of this assumption and its potential implications for understanding the timeline of events in the book of Exodus.
5. Consider the challenges and uncertainties in dating ancient historical events. How do the issues discussed regarding the Hyksos period and the dating of Joseph's arrival illustrate the complexities of historical reconstruction?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Hyksos:** A group of foreign rulers who controlled Egypt during the Second Intermediate Period. The term's exact meaning is disputed, with some arguing it means "shepherd kings" and others claiming it means "foreign rulers."
- **Native Egyptian Dynasty:** Refers to a dynasty of rulers of Egyptian descent, as opposed to foreign conquerors like the Hyksos.
- **Exodus:** The departure of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, described in the book of Exodus.
- **Early Date of the Exodus:** A proposed earlier date for the Exodus, typically in the 15th century BC, which would place Joseph's arrival before the Hyksos.
- **Late Date of the Exodus:** A proposed later date for the Exodus, typically in the 13th century BC, which would place Joseph's arrival during the Hyksos rule.
- **Goshen:** A region in ancient Egypt where the Israelites settled, as mentioned in the book of Genesis.
- **18th Dynasty** A well-known period of Egyptian history where it is generally agreed that they expelled the Hyksos rulers.
- **King James Version (KJV):** An English translation of the Bible, published in 1611.
- **New International Version (NIV):** A modern English translation of the Bible.
- **Warrior Caste:** Refers to a specific class of people within a society who are primarily responsible for military duties. In the context of the Hyksos, it suggests a ruling class composed mainly of warriors.
- **Second Intermediate Period:** A period in Egyptian history characterized by political instability and the rule of foreign powers, including the Hyksos.

5. FAQs on Vannoy, Genesis, Session 30, Joseph's Coming to Egypt, pre-Hyksos, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Joseph in Egypt and the Dating of the Exodus

1. **What is the main debate surrounding Joseph's arrival in Egypt, and how does it relate to the Exodus?** The primary debate revolves around when Joseph entered Egypt relative to the Hyksos rule. A crucial question is whether Joseph rose to power during a native Egyptian dynasty *before* the Hyksos, or *during* their rule. This debate is closely linked to the dating of the Exodus. An "early date" for the Exodus implies Joseph's entry occurred prior to the Hyksos period, while a "late date" would place it during Hyksos rule. The different perspectives on this question stem from differing interpretations of scriptural passages and their correlation with Egyptian history.
2. **What is the significance of the statement in Genesis 46:34 that "all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians" in the context of dating Joseph's arrival?** Some argue that the Egyptians' strong aversion to shepherds indicates a native Egyptian dynasty ruled at the time of Joseph. The reasoning is that if the Hyksos were indeed "shepherd kings," as some interpretations of their name suggest, this detestation wouldn't be as pronounced. This line of thought suggests that Joseph's rise to power occurred before the Hyksos period, when native Egyptians held the throne. It's important to note, however, that the meaning of "Hyksos" is disputed, and it might be better understood as "foreign rulers," weakening this argument.
3. **How does the identity of the "new king who knew not Joseph" in Exodus 1:8 factor into this debate?** There are conflicting views on this. One traditional view posits that this king was a native Egyptian ruler who rose to power after the Hyksos were expelled, reversing the favorable treatment that Joseph and his descendants had enjoyed. However, another argument suggests that this "new king" was a Hyksos ruler who came to power and implemented policies of oppression against the Israelites. This view connects to the question of whether the Israelites were allies of or antagonists to the Hyksos. If they were allies, why were they not expelled with the Hyksos later?
4. **What implications does the description of the Israelites' numbers in Exodus 1:9-10 have on determining the timing of the oppression?** The text states that the Israelites "have become much too numerous for us." Some interpret this to

suggest that the Israelites were more numerous than the ruling power in Egypt at the time. If the verse is taken literally and compared with the King James Version, which says they were "more and mightier than we," it becomes difficult to believe that they outnumbered the native Egyptian population. Therefore, this statement is sometimes seen as implying that the Israelites had become more numerous than the Hyksos who were ruling the land at that time, suggesting that the oppression began with the Hyksos reign.

5. **What is the proposed gap in Exodus chapter 1, and why is it a key element of the "early date" view?** The "early date" view of the Exodus suggests there's a significant time gap between verse 14 and 15 of Exodus chapter 1. The narrative moves from the initial oppression by the "new king" to increased oppression with slave masters and the building of Pithom and Rameses. Advocates of an early Exodus date posit a period in which the Hyksos were expelled and the native Egyptians took over, continuing the Israelites' oppression. This gap is an assumption, not explicitly stated in the text, but is needed to align the Hyksos period with the first oppression and to transition to the 18th dynasty for the Exodus.
6. **What is the relationship between the debate about Joseph's entry into Egypt and the debate about the date of the Exodus?** The timing of Joseph's entry into Egypt is closely tied to the dating of the Exodus. If the Exodus occurred early (e.g., in the 15th century BC), it suggests that Joseph entered Egypt prior to the Hyksos period. Conversely, a late date (e.g., the 13th century BC) implies that Joseph's rise to power occurred during the Hyksos rule, due to the placement of the expulsion of the Hyksos earlier in Egyptian history. These two events are linked historically and biblically, so the interpretation of one impacts the other.
7. **What conclusions can be drawn about the timing of Joseph's arrival based on the available evidence?** Despite the arguments, there isn't a definitive answer based purely on the available evidence. It's suggested that Joseph entered Egypt sometime between 1900 and 1700 BC. While the Hyksos may or may not have been present, the precise dating of their arrival is not firmly established, and a firm conclusion cannot be reached from this kind of scriptural evidence alone.

8. Why is pinpointing the precise dates in early Egyptian history so difficult?

Pinpointing precise dates in early Egyptian history is challenging because Egyptian chronology before the expulsion of the Hyksos has some uncertainties. While Egyptian chronology after the Hyksos expulsion is relatively well-established, dating earlier periods, including the start of the Hyksos rule itself, relies more on less definitive evidence and interpretations that are open to debate. This makes assigning specific dates to the Biblical narratives relative to Egyptian history rather difficult, and explains why different scholarly views exist.