



Statue of Amenhotep III and Queen Tiy

Amenhotep IV and Monotheism

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c. 1361–1344 B.C.

Amenhotep IV ruled during the 18th dynasty. His father was Amenhotep III. He married Nefertiti. In the second or third year of his reign he began to build a new city, Akhetaton, named after the god Aton. He believed Thebes, the old capital, was dominated by a god named Amon.

Then he changed his name. He no longer wanted to be called Amenhotep relating him to Amon, but Akhnaton after a god named Aton. He decreed Aton to be the only god, establishing monotheism, and closed the temples of all other gods. Many believed he did this because he wanted to decrease the power of the priesthood of Amon.

Amenhotep III died and his wife Tiy came to see her son Akhnaton and his wife Nefertiti. What happened next is a mystery. It appears that Tiy argued with her son about monotheism. He became very ill. Nefertiti was sent away from the palace with her servants and Tutankhaton (who was, perhaps, Akhnaton's half-brother).

Smenkhkare married Akhnaton's oldest daughter and was named co-ruler of Egypt. Three years later Smenkhakre, his wife, and Pharaoh Akhnaton were dead. Tutankhaton, whose name was changed by the priest of Amon to Tutankhamon would be Pharaoh.

R E S O U R C E S

The Ancient Egyptians, pgs. 54, 55

Kingfisher Hist. Encyc., pg. 26

Mummies, Tombs & Treasures, pgs.
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Pages of History, Vol. 1, pgs.
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Reign of Tutankhamon

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c. 1333–1323 B.C.

One of the largest archeological finds in the world was the discovery of Tutankhamon's tomb. It was discovered by an archaeologist named Howard Carter. On November 4th, 1922 Carter found Tutankhamon's tomb.

It appears that Tutankhamon ascended the throne in about 1334 B.C. at about the age of nine. Some think he was Akhnaton's half-brother, others that he was his son. He was married while still a child to Ankhsenpaaton, who was the third daughter of Nefertiti. It is believed that he reigned about nine years and died at the age of eighteen. No one is certain what caused the death of this boy king.

During his life, "Tut's" name was changed from Tutankhaton to Tutankhamon to signify the change from monotheistic worship of "Aton" to the worship of "Amon," the old religion, which allowed the worship of other gods.

We may not know all of what Tut did during his reign, but we do know that the treasures he left behind have helped us to understand the past in a way that we may not have had they not been discovered. His tomb is an extraordinary example of the riches of the Egyptian pharaohs.

R E S O U R C E S

Mummies Made in Egypt

Mummies, Tombs & Treasures, pgs. 92–95

Pages of History, Vol. 1, pgs. 139–144

Pharaohs of AE, pgs. 143–152

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Tut's Mummy Lost... and Found

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Statue of Ramses II, Luxor Temple

Later New Kingdom in Egypt

Later New Kingdom in Egypt

c. 1300–1090 B.C.

During this period (Dynasties 19 and 20) Egypt regained its power and influence in Asia formerly lost under Akhnaton's rule. During these dynasties Egypt battled the Hittites from Asia and the Philistines from Palestine.

Ramses I, the first Pharaoh of the 19th dynasty, and his son, Seti, were not warriors and primarily dedicated themselves to domestic affairs.

Ramses II, son of Seti, came to rule when he was 18. He led Egypt in the battle of Kadesh against the Hittites. This battle had no clear victor yet there is no event in Egyptian history more depicted in Egyptian art.

Ramses II built the temple at Abu Simbel. It had four giant statues of himself guarding the entrance. He built seven major temples in Nubia. After this period Egypt began to die again.

R E S O U R C E S

The Ancient Egyptians, pgs. 56, 57

Kingfisher Hist. Encyc., pg. 20

Mummies, Tombs & Treasures, pgs. 96–112

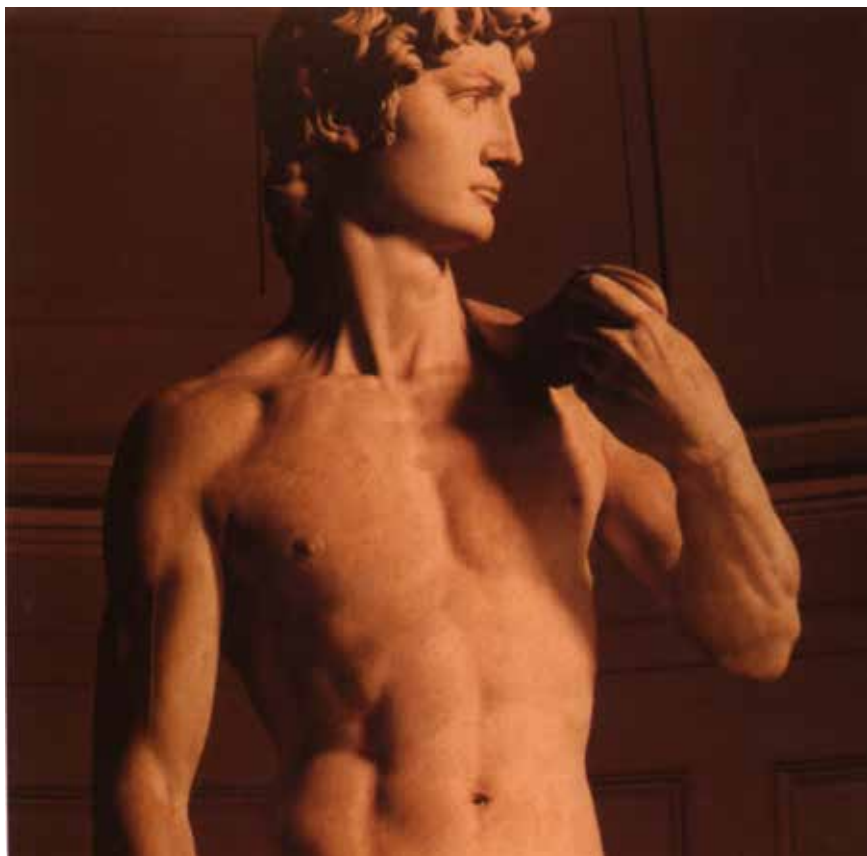
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David

Michelangelo

Davidic Kingdom

I & II Samuel
I Chronicles

Davidic Kingdom

I & II Samuel

I Chronicles

c. 1011–971 B.C.

At the direction of God, the prophet Samuel went to visit Jesse in Bethlehem to find the next king of Israel. After seeing all of David's older brothers, David was finally shown to Samuel. Samuel was moved by the Spirit of God to select him as Israel's next king.

Shortly thereafter, David made an impression on the Israelite army by slaying Goliath, the giant Philistine warrior. At first, King Saul delighted in David's victory and welcomed him to come live as a member of his own family. But Saul became jealous because the people of Israel cheered David more than King Saul. Saul tried to kill David, but David escaped and lived as an outlaw until Saul's death when he returned and was made king.

David reigned for approximately forty years as the second and most prominent king of Israel.

R E S O U R C E S

Bible

Children's Ill. Bible, pgs. 116–133

Child's Story Bible, pgs. 152–163

Journey Through the Bible, pgs. 120–131

Pages of History, Vol. 1, pgs. 146–150

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Student Bible Atlas, map 9

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