



◀ The southeast corner of the Great Pyramid of Khufu, showing some of the huge blocks of stone, weighing up to 70 tons each, that were used in its 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.

DYNASTY 4 CONTINUES

KING KHUFU REVERSED DATES 194 C.B.C. TRADITIONAL DATES 2514-2494 B.C.

The Pyramid of Khufu built

▲ KING KHUFU

▲ KING DJEDEFRE

GENESIS 12:1-4 Covenant with Abraham

GENESIS 12:10 Abraham visits Egypt

GENESIS 12:2-5 Isaac born

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of the length of the four sides at the base. This feature suggests knowledge of the value of pi, accurate 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 pyramid. 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 26.3 minutes to be put in place each hour, or just over 2 minutes



to place each block, averaging 2.5 meters (8 feet) 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, as first with the stone girdle in the Bent 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 (but there is no inscriptional 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 engineers to build such a pyramid today. Instead, we are left to wonder at the ingenuity of the



- 1 If you can obtain permission to climb to the top of Khafre's pyramid, this is the chance to make sure! (10)
- 2 The original entrance to Khafre's pyramid is in the north side.
- 3 The massive roof of masonry which housed this passage made by Cheops Mehem 2,000 years ago is an attempt to repair the weakness by burial in several feet of rock.
- 4 Some of the huge masonry blocks forming the roof are still in place at the bottom of the pyramid. They were so heavy they were buried under the sand before the stone blocks and the upper finishing stones.
- 5 Small piles of stones at the base of the pyramid are made of the small blocks that formed the steps up which the blocks of stone were dragged. A similar step may have been made to haul the stones to the top of Khafre's pyramid.



ingenious 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, Hemiunet. His statue was buried in a chamber of his tomb. It is a magnificent life-sized statue, and depicts him as a solidly built fellow with a prominent helmeting his work. Tomb robbers had broken into the tomb at an early date and removed the head and smashed it to pieces on the tomb's walls. 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 ground. 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 digs digging from the center, and that is what they did.

The entrance used by visitors today is a device named which was cut through the masonry and finally connected with the ascending passage. The man responsible for this entrance, which was constructed about 5,100 years ago, was a Turkish governor called Marston, 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, Marston's men started digging through the center of the pyramid and might have gone clear through it and out the other side without finding anything, except for a piece of luck. It appears that as the workmen hauled away with their picks they dislodged the stone which sealed the entrance to the ascending passage. In crash at the base of the

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▲ 1 Unusual relief on the floor of the temple of Seti I at Abydos. 2 Each column (wall in Seti I) has its own set of hieroglyphs. 3 Seti's wife Ankhnesneferibre, wearing a purple shawl, is standing at the head of Seti's daughter.

▲ Hieroglyphs on the wall of the temple of Seti I at Abydos, well-preserved because the roof of the temple covered them, protecting them from fading by sun. ▼ The west wall of the temple of Seti I at Abydos, showing a relief carving of a chariot with a horse.

Seti because he early crowned his youthful son Ramesses II as co-regent. The boy with a side lock is shown by this king-father, holding a scepter in his hand.

Having been an army general, it is not surprising that Seti's son eager to undertake, in his first year, a military expedition of the frontiers 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 an ill-fated, because archaeologists at Behdeton unearthed two victory stela which he had left there.

His (triumphant) son said, "His majesty was informed as follows: The despicable Seos who hath from the town of Harshat has gathered a large force, capturing the wives of Terhath, and to league with the people of Fidal, he has presented the chief of Bahet been getting war. So his majesty dispatched the first division of Anos, mighty of horses, against the town of Harshat. The first division of Ra, abounding in valour, against the captured wives of Behethan, and the first division of Seti, strong of bows,

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

Back home, in a relief located, "The moment of beginning the battle, he delights in every way in his lower is gratified at the sight of blood. He lays all the bones of the slain dead. More than the day of receiving he loves the moment of crushing (the foe). His majesty was more at one stroke... he became there no horse, and whenever escapes his hand is brought prisoner to Egypt."

Seti built a small but delicate military temple on the west bank at Karnak and his tomb is the largest 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 painted the beautiful constellations.

His majesty was a masterpiece of archery. His body has been hacked about by swordsmen, but his face is the best-preserved and most lifelike of any of the royal mummies. He seems to be peering through the



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