

Handout
Almost Lost to History: King Tut and His Tomb
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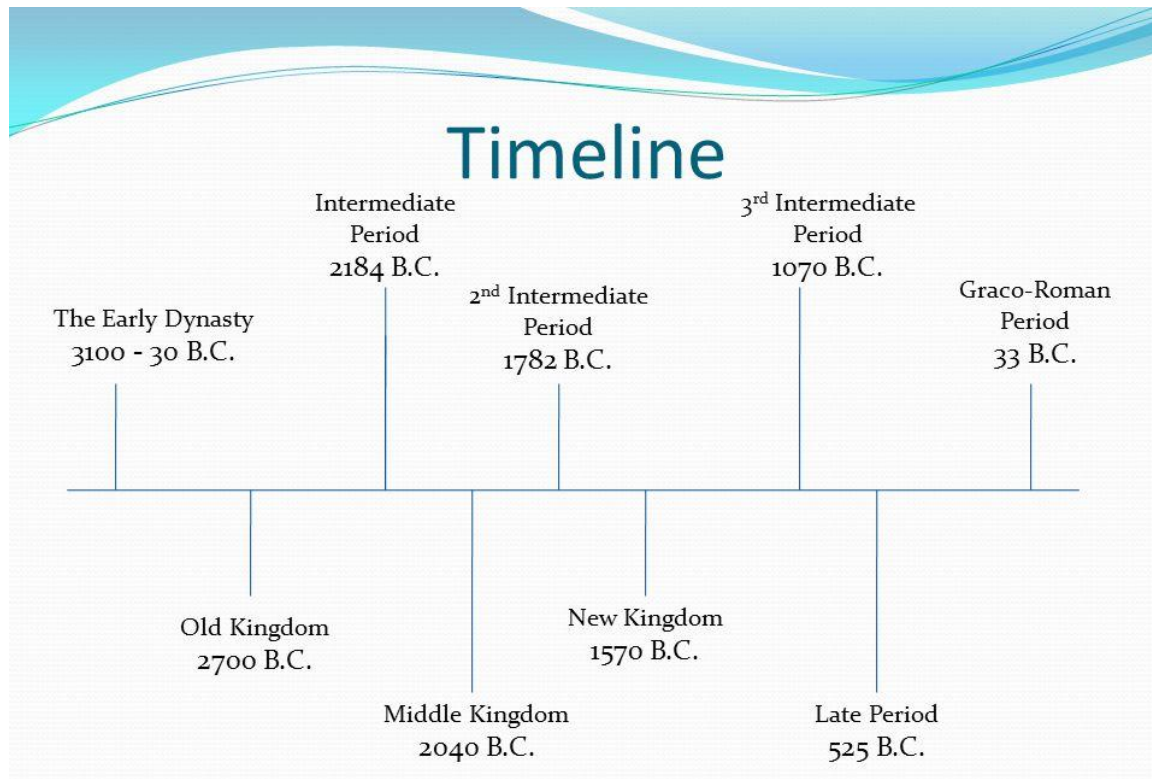
Contents:

1. Timeline of Egyptian history
2. Complete translation of The Restoration Stela of Tutankhamun
3. Suggestions for further reading
4. American Research Center in Egypt: join for a special program in November on Tutankhamun!

Timeline of Egyptian History

Period Discussed Today:

The Amarna Period and the Reign of Tutankhamun in the 18th Dynasty of the New Kingdom



Tutankhamun's Restoration Stele

Complete Translation of: *The Restoration Stele of Tutankhamun (in the Cairo Museum)*. Dr. Williamson's translation, but with reference to the excellent translation in: *Egyptian Historical Records of the Later Eighteenth Dynasty*, Fascicle VI, B.G. Davies, 1995.

May he be given Life, like Re forever and ever, Beloved of Amun Lord of the Two Lands, Foremost in Karnak [Ipet-esut], beloved of Atum Lord of the Two Lands of Heliopolis; of Re-Horakhte and Ptah-south-of-his-wall, Lord of Memphis; and of Thoth, Lord of Hieroglyphs, the one who appeared upon the throne of the living Horus, like his father Re.

The good god, son of Amun, son of Kamutef [literally, Bull-of-his-Mother, a title of the god Horus, the divine king of Egypt embodied by the living king], the good son, the holy egg whom Amun created, father of the Two Lands, the one who makes the one who made him, the *bas* [souls] of Heliopolis united in order to form him, to be King forever and ever, as Horus, living immortally. He is the effective King who did what was good for his father and all the gods. He restored everything that was ruined, to be his monument forever and ever. He has vanquished chaos from the whole land and has restored Maat (the goddess of Truth, Justice, and Order) to her place. He has made lying a crime, the whole land being made as it was at the time of creation.

Now when His Majesty was crowned King the temples and the estates of the gods and goddesses from Elephantine as far as the swamps of Lower Egypt had fallen into ruin. Their shrines had fallen down, turned into piles of rubble, and overgrown with weeds. Their sanctuaries were as if they had never existed at all. Their temples had become footpaths. The world was in chaos and the gods had turned their backs on this land. If an army was sent to Djahy to extend the boundaries of Egypt, it would have no success. If you asked a god for advice, he would not attend; and if one spoke to a goddess likewise, she would not attend. Hearts were faint in bodies because everything that had been, was destroyed.

Now some days after His Majesty appeared upon the throne of his father and he ruled the "Two Banks of Horus" [Egypt], the Black Land and the Red Land being under his authority and every land bowed down before his might. How His Majesty was in his palace which was in the House of Aakheperkare, being like the Sun in the sky, and His Majesty carried out the works of this land and everything the Two Lands needed every day. Then His Majesty considered in his heart and looked for something which would be effective for his father Amun. He made the holy statue out of genuine electrum, giving to it more than he had done before. He made his father Amun 13 poles long, the holy statue being made of electrum, lapis lazuli, turquoise and every noble and precious stone, although the majesty of this noble god had been only 7 poles long before. His Majesty made monuments for the gods, making their statues from electrum from the tribute of the foreign lands. He renewed their sanctuaries as his monuments forever and ever, endowing them with offerings forever, laying aside for them divine offerings daily, laying

aside bread from the earth. He added great wealth on top of that which existed before, doing more than his predecessors had ever done. He allocated *waab*-priests, God's Servants, and the heirs of the Chiefs of the Cities to be the sons of wise men whose reputation is established. He has enriched their tables with gold and silver, bronze, and copper without limit. He has filled their storehouses with male and female workers and with His Majesty's booty. He has added to the wealth of every temple, doubling, trebling and quadrupling the silver, gold, lapis lazuli, turquoise and every noble precious stone, together with byssus, white linen, ordinary linen, oil, fat, resin, incense, perfumes, and myrrh without limit.

His Majesty, may he have Life, Prosperity, and Health, has made quays for the river from new wood from the hillslopes from the pick of Negau, inlaid with gold, the tribute of foreign countries, so that they might decorate the river. His Majesty, may he have Life, Prosperity, and Health, picked male and female servants, musicians and dancers who had been women of the palace, their cost being charged to the palace and to the treasury of the Two Lands. I shall have them protected and guarded for my ancestors, the gods, in the hope that they will be contented, by doing what their *kas* (souls) wish while they protect Egypt.

Now the gods and goddesses of this land are rejoicing in their hearts, the Lords of the temples are in joy, the provinces all rejoice and celebrate throughout this whole land because good has come back into existence. The Ennead [the nine gods of creation] in the temple, their arms are raised in adoration, their hands are filled with jubilees forever and ever. All life and might is with them, and it is for the nose of the mighty King Horus, repeater of births [reborn forever in the body of the living king], beloved son of his father Amun Lord of the gods, who made the one who made him [a creator god who self-creates], the King of Upper and Lower Egypt, his eldest son, the true and beloved one who protects his father who begot him. His Kingship is that of his father Osiris, son of Re, the son who is good to the one who begot him, plentiful in monuments, rich in wonders, the one who makes an accurate monument for his father Amun, fair of births, the King who has established Egypt.

The Tell el-Amarna Project Web site: <https://www.amarnaproject.com/>

Maps, details of current research, and many other resources can be found here!

Do you want to support our work at Tell el-Amarna?



Go to the Amarna Trust: <https://www.amarnatrust.com/> And <https://www.amarnatrust.com/supporting-the-trust/>

Further Reading:

Douglas Brewer and Emily Teeter, *Egypt and the Egyptians* (second edition), Cambridge University Press, 2007. (General information on Egypt, is slightly out of date but still helpful.)

Marianne Eaton-Krauss, *The Unknown Tutankhamun*, Bloomsbury, London 2016. (An exhaustive review of most of the evidence and current academic debates surrounding Tutankhamun's reign, including the CT scans and DNA evidence. Dry, but very informative.)

Z. Hawass, Y. Z. Gad, S. Ismail, R. Khariat, "Ancestry and Pathology in King Tutankhamun's Family," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 303 (7), pgs. 638-47. (Original article re: the DNA analysis and etc, disputed by many specialists, including Frank Rühl)

Nozomu Kawai, "The Time of Tutankhamun: New Evidence," in *Scribe*, Spring 22, Issue 9, 2022, pgs. 44-53. (Dr. Kawai is currently noted as a leading expert on Tutankhamun.)

Barry Kemp, *The City of Akhenaten and Nefertiti: Amarna and Its People*, Thames and Hudson, 2014.

William J. Murnane, *Texts from the Amarna Period in Egypt*, SBL, GA, 1995.

Anna Stevens with contributions by Dr. Jacquelyn Williamson and other members of the Tell el-Amarna expedition, *Amarna: A Guide to the Ancient City of Akhenaten*, The American University in Cairo Press, March 9th, 2021.

Nicholas Reeves, *The Complete Tutankhamun: The King, The Tomb, The Royal Treasure*, Thames and Hudson, London 1995. (General guide to the tomb and its contents, but not up to date with the current scholarship).

Nicholas Reeves, "The Gold Mask of Ankhkheperure Neferneferuaten," in *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections*, vol. 7:4, 2015, pgs. 77-79.

D. Silverman, J. Wegner, J. Houser Wegner, *Akhenaten and Tutankhamun: Revolution and Restoration*, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, PA, 2006. (an exhibit catalogue of the collection of Tutankhamun-related items in the University of Pennsylvania Museum.)

Jacquelyn Williamson, *Nefertiti's Sun Temple: A New Cult Complex at Tell el-Amarna*, Brill/Harvard Egyptology Series, 2016.

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