

Miguel Christopher

Professor David Emanuel

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RAMSES II A FORMIDABLE PHAROAH

There are many reasons to refer to Ramses ii as a formidable Pharaoh. To begin, a Pharaoh is a Monarchical Ruler. In ancient Egypt, as an Egyptian Ruler, Pharaohs were both heads of state and the religious leaders of their people. The term Pharaoh means Great House, a reference to the palace where the Pharaoh resides. There are several distinctions between a Pharaoh and a King. The main difference between both terminologies is, that a Pharaoh is connected with the divine according to ancient Egyptian beliefs. A King is generally recognized as a mortal man who rules over a given territory. The Pharaoh provided an important link between the Egyptian people and their gods. Maintaining religious harmony and performing ceremonies were part of the Pharaoh's role as head of the religion.

Ramses ii was an Egyptian leader, he might be considered Egypt's greatest pharaoh, due to his great accomplishments and exploits and his determined influence. Ramses¹¹ ruled the Egyptian ancient civilization. He was also called by the name Ramses the Great, due to the great honor that was bestowed upon him during his time. Ramses ii showed and demonstrated great power, mentally and physically.

There was such awe-inspiring honor to the title of Pharaoh to the point that he was virtually recognized as a god himself, they were often worshiped as gods and treated as mortal vessels for spirit deities. A King is generally recognized as a mortal man who rules over a given territory. The Pharaoh provided an important link between the Egyptian people and their gods.

Maintaining religious harmony and performing ceremonies were part of the Pharaoh's role as head of the religion. Pharaohs could either be male or female. Well-known female pharaohs were Nefertiti and Cleopatra; as opposed to the term king, only males are Kings.

An interesting known fact about Pharaohs is the unique and distinguished crowns they wore. The Pharaoh wore a crown that had an image of the cobra goddess. Only the Pharaoh was allowed to wear the cobra goddess. It was said that this goddess would protect the Pharaohs by spitting flames at their enemies. (Kitchen) Because of the Pharaoh's deep association with spiritual occultic practices, it was often said that Pharaohs used dark magic in much of their royal duties and in battles.

Pharaohs built great tombs and temples for their gods and for themselves. The tombs the Pharaohs built for themselves were flamed by the belief that they could take much of their possessions in their tombs so they could live well in the afterlife. Pharaohs ruled in dynasty successions, passing down heirs to the throne from dynasty to dynasty. Dynasties could last from hundreds to almost thousand years of heirs to the throne. Pharaohs were believed to be incarnate of the spirit deity or the gods that ancient Egypt believed and worshipped; as a result, many of these ancient pharaohs, as told in many ancient historical texts, possessed extraordinary abilities of intellect and physical prowess, and strengths. The Pharaoh was the high priest of every temple in Egypt. It was the Pharaoh's duty to build great temples and monuments celebrating his own achievements and paying homage to the gods of the land who gave him the power to rule in his life and would guide him in the next life, this was their belief. As lord of the land, the Pharaoh made laws, owned all the land in Egypt, collected taxes, and made war or defended the country against foreign aggression.

Ramses ii was a great military leader. He led the Egyptians into the Levant and led a military intervention that led Egypt to take over Canaan. His leadership began at the tender age of 10, already leading military campaigns as a commander of his father's Sety 1's troops, and at 14 he was appointed Prince and came to the throne at 15. Ramses ii then governed for the next 67 years, approximately. Ramses ii made Egypt progress in many ways. He made Egypt increasingly better in terms of modernization, quality of life, liberty, and independence.

Warfare was an essential aspect of the rule of the Pharaoh, especially when it was necessary for the restoration of balance and harmony in the land. ("Ramses II." *Britannica Academic*) Ramses II responded immediately when it came to conquest and warfare with a great strategy. He established Egyptian control, reaching Hittite's borders, and making Kadesh an area of contention. Ramses II being a skillful military commander left Egypt with four military divisions, Ramses' decision made sense strategically, to move along two fronts and to cover the flank of the advancing army and its logistics. This concept of war was manifested in the poem of Pentaur, written by the scribes of Ramses II, the Great (1279-1213BCE), regarding his victory over the Hittites at the battle of Kadesh in 1274BCE. The Hittites, according to Ramses II had disrupted the balance of Egypt and so needed to be dealt with severely. The Pharaoh had a sacred duty to defend the borders of the land, all this was also inspired by the deep sensitivity of his beliefs in his deity gods, that it was their will for this to be. Everything in Egypt was influenced and surrounded by their beliefs and their deep engagement with their spirit deity gods. The Pharaoh had the sacred duty to attack neighboring countries for natural resources if it was thought this was in the interest of harmony and balance. (Santosuosso)

Ramses II (1279-1213BCE) was known to the Egyptians as Usermaare Setepenre, which means, "Keeper of Harmony and Balance, Strong in Right, Elect of Ra (one of their many

spiritual deity gods). He is also known as Ozymandias and as Ramses the Great. Ramses ii was the third Pharaoh of the nineteenth dynasty. The early life of Ramses ii revealed that he was the son of Sety 1 and Queen Tuya. Ramses ii was born into a family of intense, skillful military background. His grandfather, Rameses 1 had been a general and a vizier (one who supervises the running of a country, much like a prime minister) under king Horemheb, who, lacking an heir to the throne, appointed Ramses 1 as his successor in a move designed to ensure that the supreme leadership remained in the hands of men trained as warriors. Ramses 1's son, Sety 1, was well-versed in the art of warfare when he came to the throne after his father's brief reign. Sety's 1 eldest son Rameses ii, it is claimed that already at the young age of ten years old, Rameses ii was appointed commander and chief of the army, under his father Sety 1.(Freedman, 618)

The line of reasoning is usually developed by Taking the name "Ramses" in Ex 1:11 as a point of departure, the first step is the connection of the name "Ramses" with the new capital of Rameses 11 in the eastern Nile Delta. This residence was erected during the first years of the reign of Rameses 11 (1279-1213 b c e). Given that the kernel of Ex 1:11 points to the time of Rameses 11, this is connected in a second step with an Egyptian text: in the famous Papyrus Anastasi iv (51-61), an Egyptian officer reports about Shasutribes which crossed the Egyptian border into the eastern Delta.¹⁰ According to the report, nomads wanted to receive pastureland for their cattle from the Egyptian administration:¹ (Schipper)

Ramses ii was known for his artistic architectural genius. Ramses ii built a very famous temple by the name of Abu Simbel. The historic site comprises two massive rock-cut temples: in the village of Abu. Ramses ii went to Abu Simbel with his wife, in the twenty-fourth year of his reign. Ramses ii built the Abu Simbel temple in Egypt to intimidate his enemies and seat himself amongst the gods. Abu Simbel is one of the most recognized ancient sites in Egypt. For three

thousand years it sat located on the west of the Nile River, between the second cataracts of the Nile... (El-Noubi) Ramses ii was world-renowned as a great architect and skillful builder; he master-crafted the building of many monuments, structures, and temples, as mentioned previously, The Temple of Abu Simbel and Ramesseum.

Ramses ii lived a long life, said to have lived between ninety to ninety-six years. He married many wives and begat many children. He had over two hundred wives and concubines and over one hundred children. A famous wife he had was named Nefertari, to whom he dedicated great temples. In the final analysis, there is the debate that Ramses ii should be regarded as the Pharaoh of the oppression and events that lie behind Exodus 1, situated in the first half of the thirteenth century (BCE) (Shcipper, 266)

I found this to be a very interesting topic to research. Ramses 11 is portrayed as a timeless personality, a character that is as much ancient as modern. Ramses 11 manifested that wisdom and intelligence fuel the fires of all true leadership and magnify life and living abundantly. I found Ramses 11 to be a topic and personality to be studied and researched, I recommend it very much. Ramses 11 showed himself to be very in tune with the life of his time and very in tune with himself.

The Postmortem of Ramses ii:

As the famous old saying says, so-called, all good things must come to an end. Ramses ii died at an age well into his nineties. The cause of Ramses ii death was severe arthritis and hardening of the arteries. Ramses ii was first buried in the Valley of the Kings, on the western banks of Thebes. The Mummy of Ramses ii was found and docketed on his coffin combined with analysis of the find, circumstances render possible reconstruction of his Postmortem fate. The information is found in the book of The Dead Spell with archaeological realia. (Dahms 399)

I must, to completely conclude, I must worship and give All the Honor and all the Glory to the Eternal true King of kings and Lord of lords; Jesus, who rose from the dead and lives forever. Philippians 2:10 “So that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth...

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