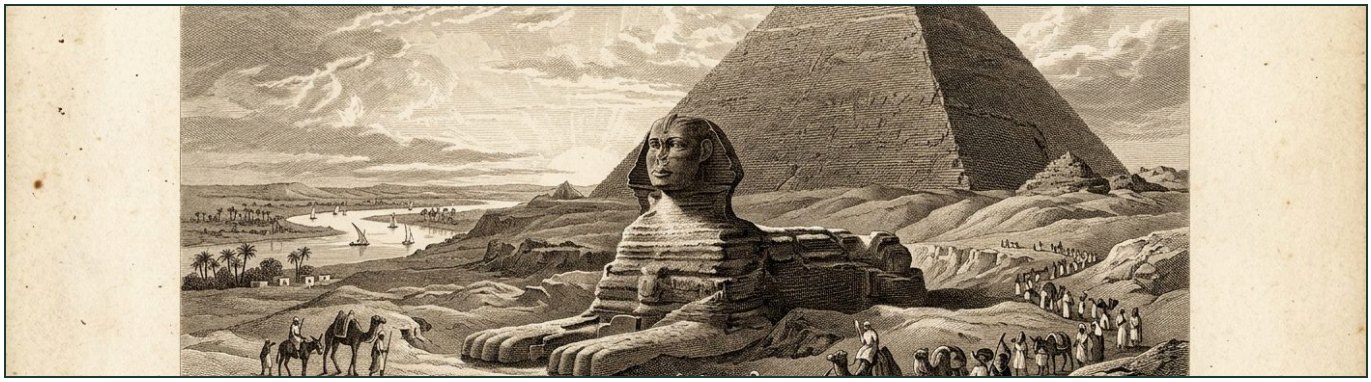


3100 BC – 30 BC

Ancient Egypt Timeline

Ancient Egypt was one of the world's first great civilizations, ruled by pharaohs along the Nile River for more than 3,000 years.

~3100 BC

Egypt Unified

Pharaoh Narmer unites Upper and Lower Egypt into a single kingdom for the first time.

> **Why it mattered:** *Unification created one of the ancient world's first great civilizations, which would endure for more than three thousand years.*

~2650 BC

Age of the Pyramids Begins

Pharaoh Djoser's architect Imhotep builds the first pyramid — the Step Pyramid at Saqqara.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Step Pyramid pioneered large-scale stone construction and launched the great age of pyramid building that followed.*

~2560 BC

Great Pyramid of Giza

Pharaoh Khufu completes the Great Pyramid at Giza — the tallest structure humans had ever built.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Great Pyramid remained the tallest building on Earth for more than 3,800 years and still stands as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.*

~1550 BC

The New Kingdom

Egyptian rulers expel foreign invaders and begin the New Kingdom, the most powerful era of Egyptian history.

> **Why it mattered:** *Pharaohs like Thutmose III, Hatshepsut, and Ramesses II built a wealthy empire and left behind Egypt's most spectacular temples and monuments.*

Ancient Egypt Timeline *continued*

~1353 BC

Akhenaten's Radical Reign

Pharaoh Akhenaten bans Egypt's traditional gods and orders everyone to worship only the sun god Aten.

> **Why it mattered:** *His radical religious change was reversed after his death and Egypt returned to its many gods — one of history's most striking experiments in religious change.*

~1323 BC

Tutankhamun Rules and Dies Young

The young pharaoh Tutankhamun rules for about ten years before dying at roughly eighteen years of age.

> **Why it mattered:** *Though a minor king in his own time, his nearly untouched tomb was found in 1922 and gave the world its most dazzling look inside an ancient Egyptian royal burial.*

~1274 BC

Battle of Kadesh

Pharaoh Ramesses II fights the Hittites to a standstill at Kadesh and later signs a peace treaty with them.

> **Why it mattered:** *The resulting peace treaty is one of the oldest known written treaties in history — a record of two rival empires agreeing to stop fighting.*

332 BC

Alexander the Great Conquers Egypt

The Macedonian king Alexander the Great takes Egypt from Persian rule and founds the city of Alexandria.

> **Why it mattered:** *Greek language and culture blended with Egyptian tradition, and Alexandria became one of the ancient world's great centers of learning and trade.*

305 BC

Ptolemaic Dynasty Begins

One of Alexander's generals, Ptolemy, becomes pharaoh, founding a Greek-Egyptian royal dynasty.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Ptolemies ruled for nearly 300 years, blending Greek and Egyptian culture and making Alexandria home to a famous library and lighthouse.*

30 BC

Cleopatra and the End of Pharaonic Egypt

Cleopatra VII, the last pharaoh of Egypt, dies after being defeated by Rome, and Egypt becomes a Roman province.

> **Why it mattered:** *More than three thousand years of pharaonic Egypt came to an end — the age of the pharaohs was over.*