

Week 4: Into Egypt

*“The place which is closed is opened, the place which is sealed is sealed.
That which lieth down in the closed place is opened by the Ba-soul which is in it.”*
Book of the Dead



Due to its location, geographical advantages, and the fertility of the Nile River, a stable and long-lasting empire developed in Egypt. The Israelites lived in Egypt for 400 years, and it was in Egypt that the first promise made to Abraham—that his descendants would number as the stars—began to be fulfilled. This class seeks to answer the question, “Who were the Egyptians?” Egypt is a major player in the early history of the Old Testament, and it is important to take the time to ask who the Egyptians were—religiously and culturally—in addition to asking how Egypt operated as a dominant empire.

Readings:

- Genesis 37; 39-46:7; 47
- Article on Egypt: <https://www.ancient.eu/egypt/>
- Egyptian Myth of Creation: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/egy/leg/leg13.htm>
- The Legend of Ra and Isis: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/egy/leg/leg20.htm>
- Article on the Book of the Dead: <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/bod.htm>

Examine each map carefully. Which direction does the Nile flow? How does it provide safety, fresh water, and fertile land?



