

was succeeded by a series of monarchs of declining power, also bearing the name of Ramses. During the Empire Period there had been many great expeditions into Palestine, Syria, and other countries, and tremendous amounts of plunder had been brought to Egypt to increase the glory of the pharaoh and to enrich the temples of Amun.

During the next five hundred years lesser rulers struggled to maintain the glories of Egypt, but fell far short of the achievements of their predecessors.

6. The Persian Period.

After a brief time of being in subjection to the Assyrians or to the Babylonians, Egypt came into the hands of the Persian rulers of the ancient world (525-332 B.C.). During this time there was a Jewish military colony in Elephantine, far south in Egypt. This colony left important records in the Aramaic language, known as the Elephantine papyri, which shed considerable light upon the period of the exile.

7. The Hellenistic Period.

In 332 B.C. Alexander the Great conquered Egypt. After his death in 323 B.C. one of his generals named Ptolemy seized Egypt and established a dynasty that continued for three centuries. These rulers brought Greek blood into the control of Egypt, but maintained the fiction of continuing the organization and trappings of the pharaohs.

8. The Roman Period.

After the conquest of Cleopatra by Octavian in 30 B.C., Egypt was incorporated into the Roman Empire. Large numbers of Jews lived in Alexandria, which was a great center of Hellenistic culture. The land continued under Roman power until the Arabic conquest in A.D. 641, which destroyed many of the remains of the life and culture of ancient Egypt. Desiring to build a new capital in which no