

Imhotep

Was He Joseph in Egypt?

There is a character and story line written in Egyptian records that match the story of Joseph. The problem is that historians discount it because it does not match their assumed timeline of Egyptian history. Genesis 45:8 gives us the titles given to Joseph by Pharaoh which helps to make this connection. *"So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt."*

National Geographic, January 1995, describes a man called Imhotep who saved his country from a famine. "Perhaps most confident was Imhotep, the architect who probably conceived of building Djoser's [pharaoh] tomb completely from stone. Known as a sculptor, a priest, and a healer, Imhotep is considered the preeminent genius of the Old Kingdom. He assembled one workforce to quarry limestone to ship the crude blocks by boat to Saqqara, and yet another to haul the stone to the site, where master carvers shaped each block and put it in place.

"On a granite boulder above the Nile's First Cataract, the formidable rapids at Aswan, a sculptor who lived much later [thus the facts are not totally accurate] chiseled out in hieroglyphs the story of how Imhotep had even saved his country from famine.

Josephus relates that Abraham was responsible for bringing the knowledge during the early part of the First Dynasty, about 1915 BC. It would be about 200 years later when Joseph would be elevated to his high position in Egypt, second only to the pharaoh. During this same time of the 3rd Dynasty, there appears on the scene a most incredible individual in the ancient records- a man called Imhotep.

For many years, Egyptologists had doubted that Imhotep had been a real person -- they found it rather difficult to believe the various accomplishments credited to him in the accounts written over a thousand years after he was supposed to have lived. At times Imhotep has been termed the Leonardo da Vinci of ancient Egypt, but in fact he was more than that. Da Vinci gained the reputation of a genius -- Imhotep was eventually elevated to the status of a god.

In Egypt's long list of gods, very few were ever actually living among them, but Imhotep did. Manetho wrote that "during his [Djoser of the 3rd Dynasty] reign lived Imouthes [i.e., Imhotep], who, because of his medical skill has the reputation of Asclepius [the Greek god of medicine] among the Egyptians and who was the inventor of the art of building with hewn stone." It was this statement that caused the specialists to doubt the existence of a real man named Imhotep. But in 1926, the question was settled once and for all -- Imhotep was a real man.

When excavations were carried out at the Step Pyramid at Sakkara, fragments of a statue of pharaoh Djoser were found. The base was inscribed with the names of Djoser and of ...

- "Imhotep, Chancellor of the King of Lower Egypt, Chief under the King, Administrator of the Great Palace, Hereditary Lord, High Priest of Heliopolis, Imhotep the Builder, the Sculptor, the Maker of Stone Vases..."

Inscription showing the name and titulary of Imhotep in the 3rd row to the left, and the Horus-name of Djoser. This inscription was found on the base of a sculpture of Djoser, thus indicating Imhotep was a real man, as opposed to a god.

Inscription of the 7 Year Famine

The stone goes on to describe the severe famine and Djoser's dream and the interpretation of it by Imhotep. Imhotep tells him he must consult the god because the answer is not in him. Then, the pharaoh dreams a dream which foretells the event. Next follow seven years of plenty, which is reverse from the Biblical account. The pharaoh levies a tax of 10% on all of the population except for the priesthood. The Biblical account tells of a 1/5, or 20% tax, with the priesthood exempt. All of the components of the Biblical account are present in this inscription, except that the story has been "Egyptianized" to fit their religious beliefs.

"Imhotep, the Voice of the God, Im (I AM)"

The name, Imhotep, in ancient Egyptian is translated to mean "the voice (or mouth) of Im"; however, there is no record of a god in Egypt called "Im". But, we all know the God, "I AM":

- "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." Exodus3:14
- "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." John 8:58

God told Moses to tell the pharaoh that "I AM" had sent him because "I AM" was the name by which the Egyptians had known Joseph's God. Could "Im" have been "I AM"?

The Bible states the name that was given to Joseph by the pharaoh, Zaphenath-paneah. It has been translated by some to mean, "the God lives; the God speaks". Since we do not fully understand the meaning of the Egyptian word "hotep," it is quite possible that the translation of Imhotep ("The voice of I AM) is identical to the Biblical name of Joseph ("the God lives; the God speaks). (From www.arkdiscovery.com/joseph.htm)

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I will give **two books written** that challenge the widely accepted dates of Egyptian Pharaohs that make a good case for **Djoser/Imhotep being** Joseph and the Pharaoh he served. I will also post a PDF file of quotes from one of the books that helps to explain the position.

- Immanuel Velikovsky, *Ages in Chaos* (1952),
- Emmet Sweeney, *The Genesis of Israel and Egypt*, (2001)

Then I will here include here a **comparison chart** of matching identities and events of both Joseph and Imhotep. Incidentally, these two are the **ONLY** historical record so far found in Egypt that closely match the Biblical record.

Comparison Between Joseph and Imhotep

Joseph & Imhotep Parallels to the Genesis Account

Carefully examine these Scriptures that proclaim Joseph's position and authority with the King of Egypt, Pharaoh to see how it compares to the Joseph Stone story.

Genesis 41:1-8 Pharaoh's Dream

Genesis 41:16 Joseph interprets dream

Genesis 41:33-36 Tax plan & storage

Genesis 41:37 Joseph's authority 2nd

Genesis 41:41-43 Signet ring, Gold chain

Genesis 41:44 Joseph's name - daughter

Genesis 41:47-49 Storage cities, measure

Genesis 47:20 Bought property 4 Pharaoh

Genesis 47:23-26 Tax plan 20% perpetual

Genesis 50:19 "I am in place of God"

Genesis 50:26 lived 110 years

Genesis 50:26 Mummy in Tomb in Egypt

Exodus 13:19 Bones moved to Shechem

Joshua 24:32 *Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem.*

Joseph's Hair

In the tomb of Imhotep in Saqqara someone in ancient times took a hammer to his face, but his hairdo is still intact. They call it a "mushroom" hairdo and it's specifically related to non-Egyptians from the area of ancient Canaan/Israel.

Interestingly, it's quite the "do", and the Talmud goes out of its way to tell us that Joseph was quite the fashionista (Genesis Rabbah, 87:3). In fact, the Rabbinic Midrash Tanhuma Vayyesheb 8 specifically talks about Joseph curling his hair.

Joseph	Imhotep
Second in command under Pharaoh	Second in command under Pharaoh Djoser
Lived to be 110 years of age	Lived to be 110 years of age
Great architect and builder	Great architect and builder
Stored up corn during 7 yrs of plenty	Stored up corn during 7 yrs of plenty
Saw seven years of famine - fed people	Saw seven years of famine - fed people
Interpreter of dreams	Interpreter of dreams
Built pyramids & palaces	Built the Step Pyramid & palaces
Zaphnath-paaneah-Over physicians	Was a physician
Instituted a income tax of one fifth	Instituted a income tax of one fifth
Married into the Priesthood of On	Married into the Priesthood of On
Knowledge of astrology	Knowledge of astrology
Coat of many breadths/colors (pas) =wide tunic)	-----
Became an educated man	A poet and educated medical writer
Overseer of public works	Overseer of public works
Legendary history	Legendary history
Name means to add, increase, to join or gather together	Name means the one who comes in peace
Was one of twelve siblings	Was one of twelve siblings)

Source: Betty Matteson Rhodes

Proofs of Joseph in Egypt

1. **The Joseph Stone** – carved in stone 1000 years after Djoser
2. **The Imhotep Story** – Pharaoh Djoser and Visier, Imotep
3. **The Storage Facilities** at Saqqara – grain storage facilities, not tombs
4. **The Tomb of Imotep** in Saqqara – missing mummy
5. **The Statues in Tomb** of Saqqara – ruined, mushroom hair, Asian, 2nd command, colored coat
6. **The Mummy of Joseph** in Shechem – Egyptian mummy with sword
7. **The Language of Genesis 37-50** – expressions are Egyptian not Hebrew
8. **The Papyrus in Brooklyn Museum** – describes and names Jews in Egypt
9. **The Joseph Canal** – Bahr Yussef, canal from Nile to Lake Moeris

Links to Explore

Opinion 1: Yes, Joseph was Imhotep of Egypt from Ark Discovery.com

<https://www.arkdiscovery.com/joseph.htm>

Opinion 2: No, Joseph was NOT Imhotep of Egypt from Christian Answers.net

<https://christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a016.html>

Joseph and Imhotep Were the same?

<http://www.s8int.com/joseph.html>

Imhotep and Joseph Were Not One and the Same

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.haaretz.com/amp/archaeology/imhotep-and-joseph-were-not-the-same-1.5420407>

Joseph Mummy Cover-up

<http://www.simchajtv.com/statue-of-biblical-joseph-found-story-covered-up/>

Decoding El Arish stone

<http://www.simchajtv.com/decoding-the-el-arish-stone-blog-entry-1/>

The Hyksos "Apopi" - Finding Amalekites

<http://hope-of-israel.org/amalekit.htm>

Summary of Joseph/Imhotep Controversy

<https://josephandisraelinegypt.wordpress.com/feature-article-imhotep-and-joseph-are-the-same-person/>