



Footsteps of Faith: A Biblical Exploration of Egypt

Bible Passages for Each Stop on the Egypt Itinerary

October 30 – November 13, 2026, with Sinai Extension

Alexandria Days 2–3

Alexandria

Apollos was “born at Alexandria” (Acts 18:24). Acts 6:9 mentions the Alexandrians’ synagogue in Jerusalem. Paul sailed on Alexandrian grain ships (Acts 27:6; 28:11).

St. Mark Church

Tradition says Mark founded the church in Alexandria. Read Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37–39; 2 Timothy 4:11; 1 Peter 5:13.

Alexandria Library

The Septuagint, the Greek Old Testament, was translated here from Hebrew around 250 BC—at least for the Torah. It is the version the New Testament writers usually quote.

Wadi El Natroun

This valley produced natron, the “nitre” of Jeremiah 2:22 and Proverbs 25:20. It was a mineral salt mixture used as a cleansing agent, like lye or baking soda. “For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD.” (Jer. 2:22)

Although this is not where Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, that incident became a model for the monastic movement begun by early Christian monks. They withdrew from society, fasting, praying, and confronting temptation by relying on Scripture, as Jesus did. Its monasteries carry on the Desert Fathers’ tradition (see Matthew 4:1–2).

Cairo and Giza Days 4–5

Crypt Church called The Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus, also called Abu Serga, in Coptic Cairo

According to Coptic tradition, the crypt beneath Abu Serga is where the Holy Family took refuge during their flight to Egypt: Matthew 2:13–15, quoting Hosea 11:1, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.”

Egypt’s place in God’s plan

Isaiah 19:19–25, “Blessed be Egypt my people.”

Memphis (Saqqara area)

Memphis was an early capital of unified Egypt and the Capital during the Old Kingdom, when the pyramids were built. Memphis is the Greek form of the Egyptian

name, Men-nefer which is associated with the pyramids near Saqqara. Noph is the biblical Hebrew name for Memphis. So the Bible refers to Saqqara, which eventually became a name for the city, “Noph.” (Isaiah 19:13—“The princes of Zoan have become fools, and the princes of *Memphis* are deluded...”); also see Jeremiah 46:14, 19; Ezekiel 30:13; and Hosea 9:6. And Jer. 44:1 includes Noph among the Egyptian places where the prophet’s fellow Judeans were living and was a popular place for the Jewish refugees and settlers to go and live.

Pyramids and Sphinx

The Bible never mentions the pyramids. But they fit the world of Joseph’s Egypt (Genesis 41–47) because the oldest (Cheops, etc.) were built before Joseph came to Egypt, and he would have seen them. Job 3:14 speaks of kings “which built desolate places for themselves.” The legend that the pyramids were “Joseph’s granaries” is not true!

Luxor Days 6–8

Karnak Temple

Thebes is “No” or “No-Amon” in Jeremiah 46:25, Ezekiel 30:14–16 and Nahum 3:8. Karnak’s Bubastite Portal lists the campaign of Pharaoh Shishak (Sheshonq I), a strong match for 1 Kings 14:25–26 and 2 Chronicles 12:2–9.

Valley of the Kings

Joseph and Jacob were embalmed in Egypt (Genesis 50:2–3, 26), but they lived in Goshen, part of Lower Egypt, whereas Valley of the Kings was a royal cemetery and not a palace district, in Upper Egypt. And Exodus opens with an important verse in 1:8, “a new king... which knew not Joseph.”

Temple of Hatshepsut

Some popular writers suggest Hatshepsut, Egypt’s celebrated female pharaoh, was the same “Pharaoh’s daughter” who adopted Moses (Exodus 2:5–10). Scholars do not support this. The identification depends on a proposed early chronology of the Exodus and remains unconfirmed.

Nobles’ Tombs

If you see a tomb with brickmaking scenes, Exodus 1:13–14 and 5:7–19 will be even more meaningful.

Alabaster workshop

Mark 14:3 writes of the alabaster jar of ointment: “A woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head.” (Egyptian alabaster is a calcium-carbonate stone, often called travertine in museum descriptions, and can be creamy white or honey-colored.)

Sailing the Nile

Exodus 2:3 describes Moses’ journey in a small basket among the reeds, and Exodus 7:17–21 refers to the Nile turned to blood in one of the plagues.

Nile Sailing Days 9–11

Edfu, Temple of Horus

“Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment” (Exodus 12:12). The plagues in Exodus 7–12 contest Egypt’s gods, showing God is the only God and power.

Fishing and farming island

Isaiah 19:5–10 describes Egypt’s fishermen and flax workers. Numbers 11:5 lists “the fish... cucumbers... melons” of Egypt. Deuteronomy 11:10 mentions watering “with thy foot.”

Kom Ombo, crocodile god Sobek

Ezekiel 29:3–5 calls Pharaoh the “great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers.” Leviathan appears in Job 41:1 – “Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down its tongue with a cord?”

Ptolemaic temples

Daniel 11 describes the “king of the south,” meaning the Ptolemies (descendants of one of Alexander the Great’s generals to whom he divided his kingdom).

Aswan and Abu Simbel Days 12–13

Aswan

Aswan is “Syene” in Ezekiel 29:10 and 30:6, “from Migdol to Syene.” Isaiah 49:12 mentions “Sinim,” which the Dead Sea Isaiah Scroll reads as Syene.

Nubian lunch

Nubia is the biblical Cush, the “Ethiopia” of older translations. See Acts 8:26–39 (the Ethiopian official of Queen Candace), Psalm 68:31, Isaiah 18 and Zephaniah 3:10.

Elephantine Island

A Jewish settlement with its own temple stood here in the 400s BC. Its papyri include a Passover letter. Read Jeremiah 44:1 and Isaiah 11:11, both of which name “Pathros” (Upper Egypt).

Abu Simbel

Ramesses II is the most common candidate for the Exodus pharaoh. Exodus 1:11 names the store city “Raamses.”

Sinai Extension Day 15 onward

Shur and Marah

Exodus 15:22–25.

Wilderness of Sin

Manna and quail (Exodus 16:1–15).

Feiran Oasis

Tradition places the Rephidim here, with water from the rock and the battle with Amalek (Exodus 17). These were thought to be non-human, giants of a people.

Mount Sinai

The site of the Commandments! See Exodus 19–20 and 24, plus Elijah was here at Horeb (1 Kings 19:8–18) and Paul mentions it in Galatians 4:25.

St. Catherine’s Monastery

They have what they believe is the original burning bush (Exodus 3:1–6).

Enjoy!!

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