

Cleopatra's Needles



THE stirring story of Joseph, son of Jacob, is contained in the closing chapters of GENESIS. From chapter 41 we learn that Pharaoh was so well pleased with Joseph that he appointed him his chancellor, and gave him, as wife, the lady Asenath, daughter of the priest of On. It is highly probable that this lady, like Pharaoh himself, was a descendant of the Hyksos (Shepherd Kings).

By Asenath, Joseph had two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. These two boys were to inherit the great Birthright blessing (GENESIS 48:14-22). Like Moses, who came after them, they must have spent a considerable part of their childhood in the vicinity of the temple of On, at which their maternal grandfather officiated. In the public square in front of the temple stood two obelisks. Today, these distinctive monuments are no longer in their original setting. One was removed in 1877 and subsequently erected on the Victoria Embankment in London. The other was presented by Khedive of Egypt to the city of New York, where it stands today in Central Park on a knoll south-west of the Metropolitan Museum.

These two blocks of rose-red Syene granite - the so-called "Cleopatra's Needles" - are two further pointers in the long chain of events which give a strong hint concerning the present whereabouts of the "lost" children of Israel. One stands in London, the heart of that Nation and Company of Nations promised in GENESIS 35:1-29 and led by Ephraim; the other is in New York, the metropolis of that "great people" promised to Manasseh (GENESIS 48:1-22)