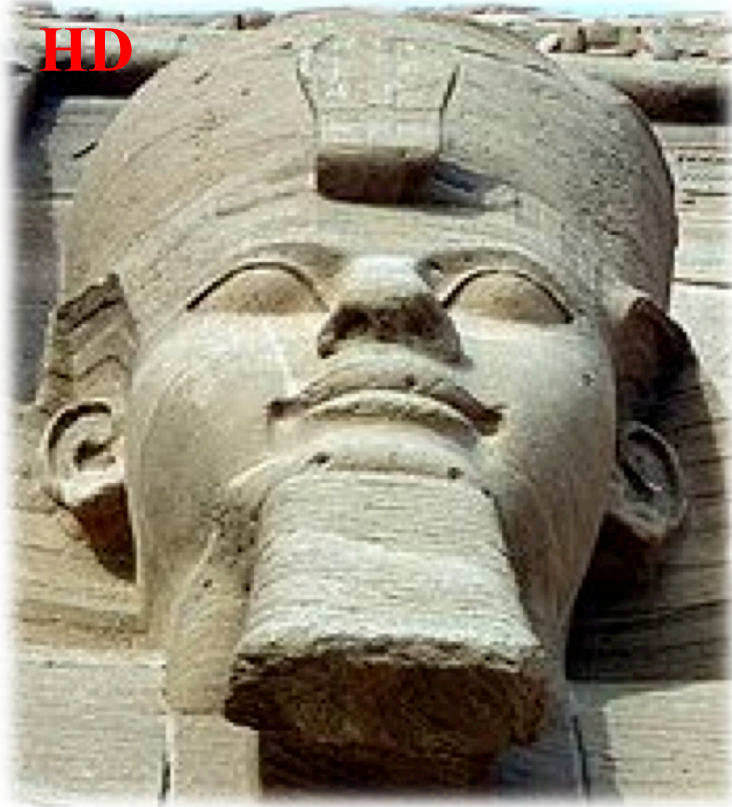


Lost Civilizations

Egypt : Ramses II : The pharaoh city builder



Ramses II continues to fascinate us over the centuries, because he is the symbol of the triumphant Pharaoh, and one of the greatest builders of Ancient Egypt.

One could compare him to Louis XIV, the Sun-King, with whom he shared a surname, because he was the son of Ra, the Sun God himself.

He ruled as an absolute monarch, and raised the prestige of the Pharaohs to its ultimate peak.

His reign was exceptionally long – 65 years – which meant he was able to build Temples as monuments to his power along the length of the Nile, in particular at Karnak, Luxor and Abu Simbel; as well as his burial temple, the Ramuseum.

Ramses II was born in about 1304 BC, and he became involved when he was very young in the military campaigns of his father Sethi 1st.

He was 25 when his father died, and he was consecrated Pharaoh. He created his capital city at Pi Ramses, the equivalent of Versailles, in the Nile river delta.

He had two major royal wives, of whom Nefertiti was his favourite; many secondary wives, concubines, and a host of children.

In 1274, aged 30, he was at the head of his army at the famous battle of Qadesh, in the north of present-day Lebanon. This victory, which is shown on a number of monuments, was perhaps not as glorious as the legend tells. In fact, he signed a truce with the King of the Hittites, which is the first international treaty recorded in history, and began 40 years of richness and prosperity.

When the temple of Abu Simbel was inaugurated, he was 50. At the same time, Queen Nefertari disappeared.

He died at 90, in 1913, after ruling for 67 years. He had already buried most of his wives and of his hundred children.

His thirteenth son, Ramses III, inherited the throne at 60 years old.

Directed by Jacques VICHET

A documentary of 52'

French Version
English Version

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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