



MIDDLE KINGDOM ARCHITECTURE

Lecture 4



Dr. Mona Yehia
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Lecture Content

- **The Middle Kingdom:** Introduction, main features, ...
- **Funerary Architecture:** Underground tombs, Mortuary temples
- **Underground tombs:** Rock Cut Tombs, Bani Hassan tombs, Examples
Shaft Tombs,
- **Temples:** Characteristics, parts, examples

The Middle Kingdom: **Introduction**

- 1- Old Kingdom collapsed around **2100 B.C.**
- 2- After 200 years of chaos, a new dynasty came to power and moved the capital of Egypt to **Thebes** where they restored order and stability.
- 3- Was ruled by the **11, 12 & 13 Dynasties.**
- 4- The Middle Kingdom began when pharaoh **Mentuhotep II** united Egypt.



The Middle Kingdom: **Introduction**

Main Idea:

The Middle Kingdom was a golden age of **peace**,
prosperity, and **advances in the arts and**
architecture.

The Middle Kingdom: **Introduction**

Sculptors created large wall carvings and statues of pharaohs showing them as ordinary people rather than god-like.

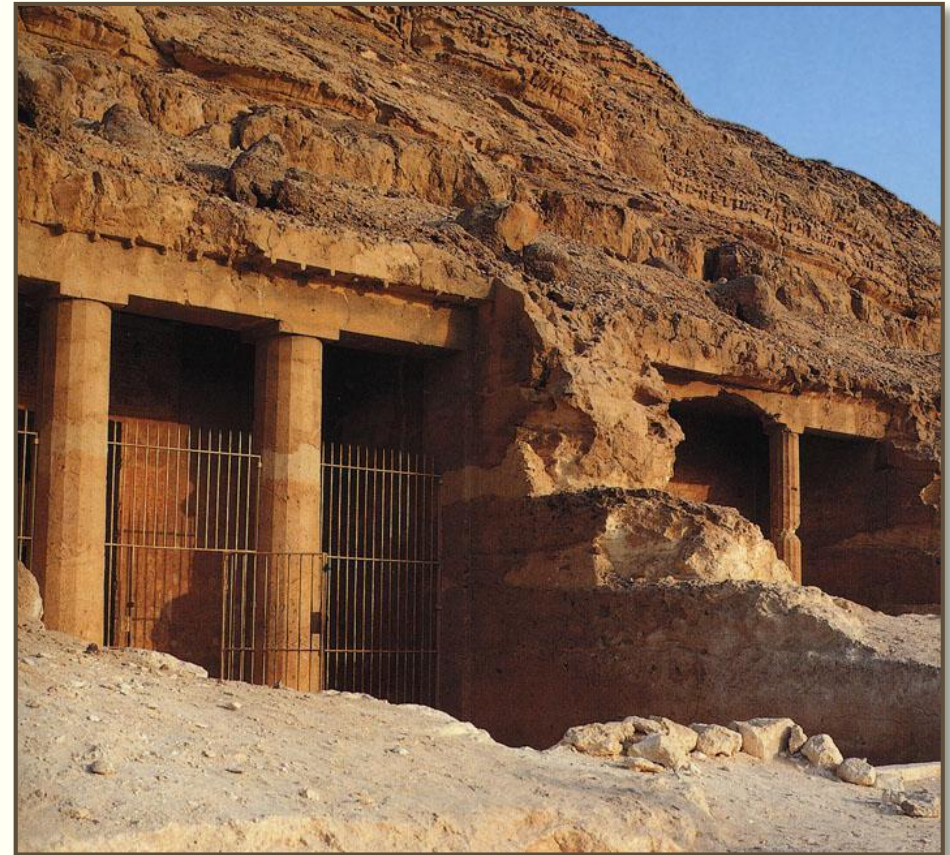
Architects created a new form of architecture in which pharaohs had their tombs cut into cliffs West of the Nile in the Valley of the kings.

Painters covered the walls of tombs and temples with colorful scenes of the daily life.

Arts and architecture flourish during the Middle Kingdom

The Middle Kingdom: **Architectural Characteristics**

- 1- The pyramid tombs so popular in the Old Kingdom were replaced by **mountain tombs** in the Middle Kingdom.
- 2- Egyptian tombs return to below the ground.
- 3- Two categories of structures come into use:
 - Underground tombs
 - Mortuary Temples.
- 4- Most of the tomb and burial chamber construction was carried out at Del Al Bahari



The Underground Tombs: **Rock Cut Tombs**

- Two types of Underground tombs were built by pharaohs and nobles during the Middle Kingdom:

1. Rock cut tombs
2. Shaft tombs

- Many of these are found along the cliff of the Nile



The Underground Tombs: **Rock Cut Tombs - Definition**

- A **Rock Cut Tomb** is a burial chamber that is cut into an **existing, naturally occurring rock formation**, usually along the side of a hill.



The Underground Tombs: **Rock Cut Tombs - Location**

- The location is on the east bank of the Nile is somewhat unusual – the west being the domain of Osiris.
- The tombs are reached via a long steep flight of stone steps up the hillside



The Underground Tombs: **Rock Cut Tombs**

➤ 1) Beni Hassan Rock cut tomb:

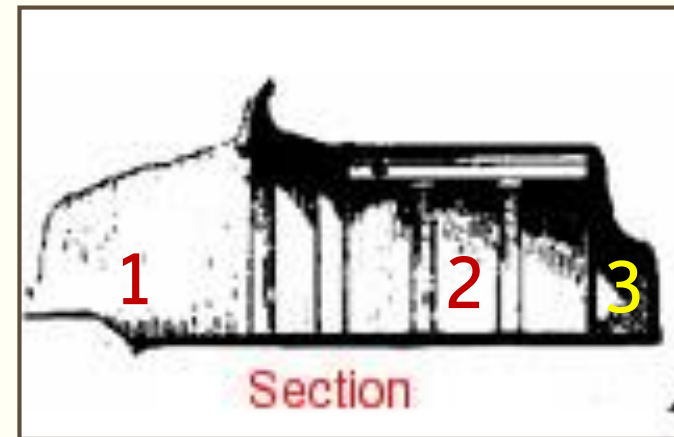
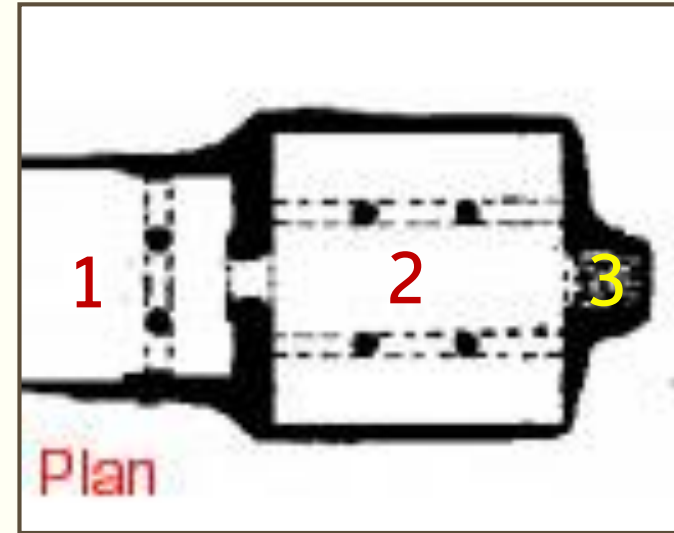
- Is a transition stage in the style of the tombs from the Old Kingdom to the New Kingdom
- Of the 39 tombs on the upper part of the cliff, only 12 were decorated.
- The tombs vary in size.
- These tomb provide information about **colorfully painted scenes of daily life**



The Underground Tombs: **Rock Cut Tombs - Examples**

➤ 1) Beni Hassan Rock cut tomb:

- It consists of three elements:
 1. Colonnade entrance portico for public worship
 2. Behind portico, a chamber or hall with columns supporting the roof serving as a chapel
 3. A small recess towards the back of the chapel where the person is buried



The Underground Tombs: **Rock Cut Tombs - Examples**

➤ 1) Beni Hassan Rock cut tomb:

1-A) The Colonnaded entrance

- The columns on the exterior were shaped like a prism with 8 or 16 sides.
- The fluted columns they used in the entry way were an influence to the **Greeks**.



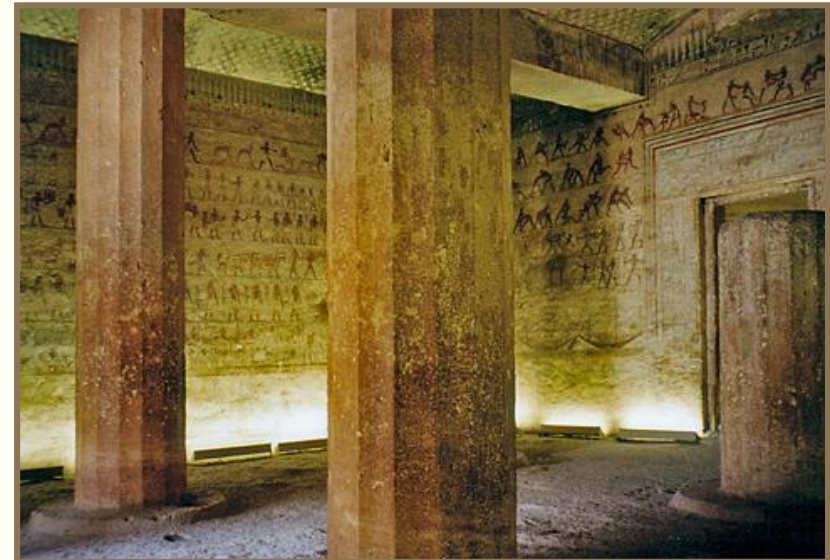
The Underground Tombs: **Rock Cut Tombs - Examples**

➤ 1) Beni Hassan Rock cut tomb:

1-B) The Portico (Chapel):

• The Columns:

1. Freestanding columns.
2. Fluted shafts imitative of dressed timber.
3. Simple bases.



The Underground Tombs: **Rock Cut Tombs - Examples**

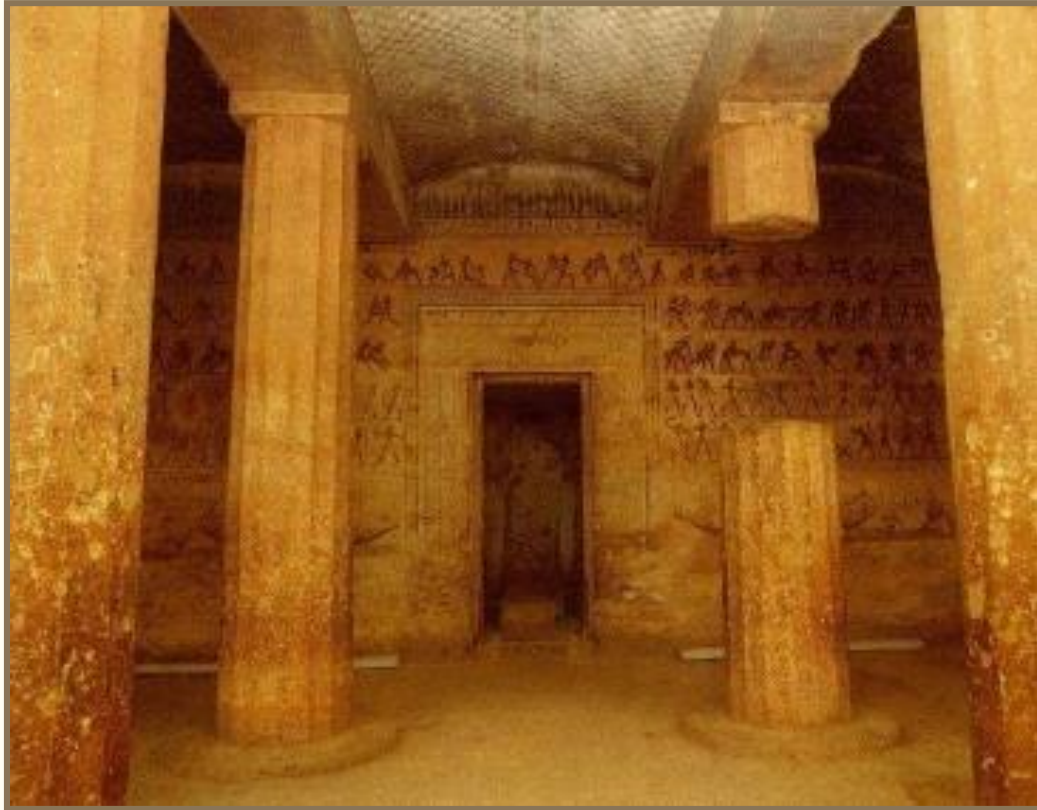
➤ 1) Beni Hassan Rock cut tomb: 1-B) The Portico (Chapel):

- Decorations:

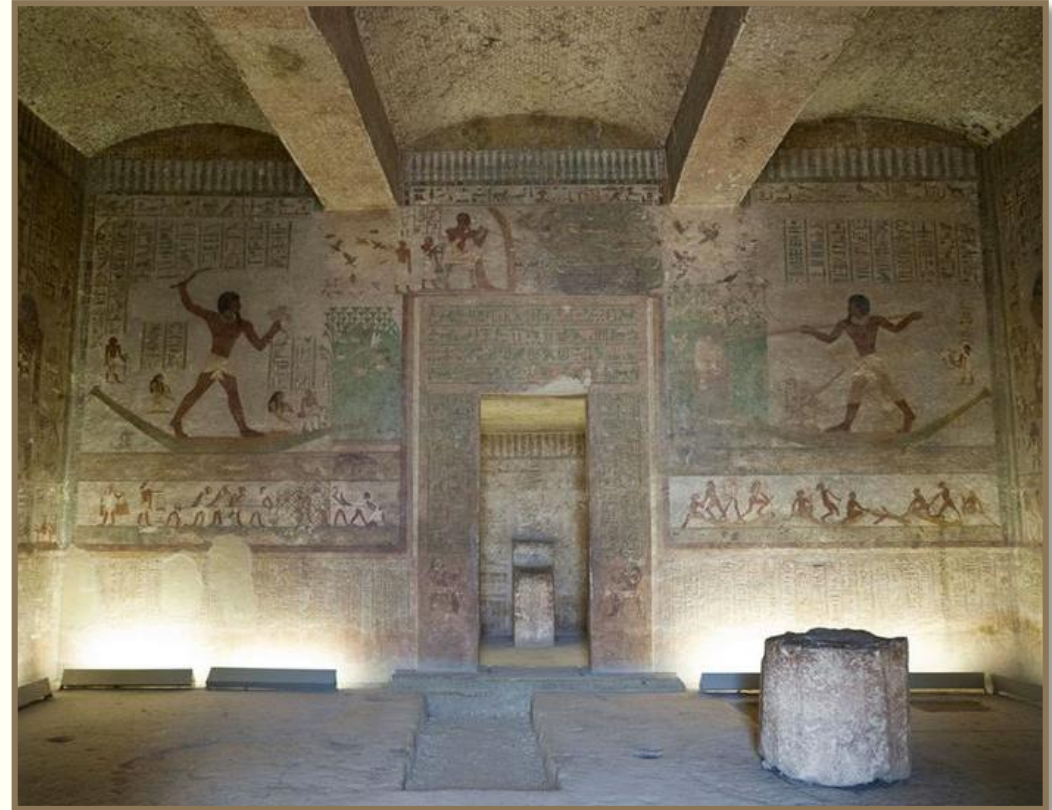
1. The walls host many remarkable paintings displaying the owner of the tomb during his daily life activities.



The Underground Tombs: **Rock Cut Tombs - Examples**



Tomb of Amenemhat



Tomb of Khnumhotep

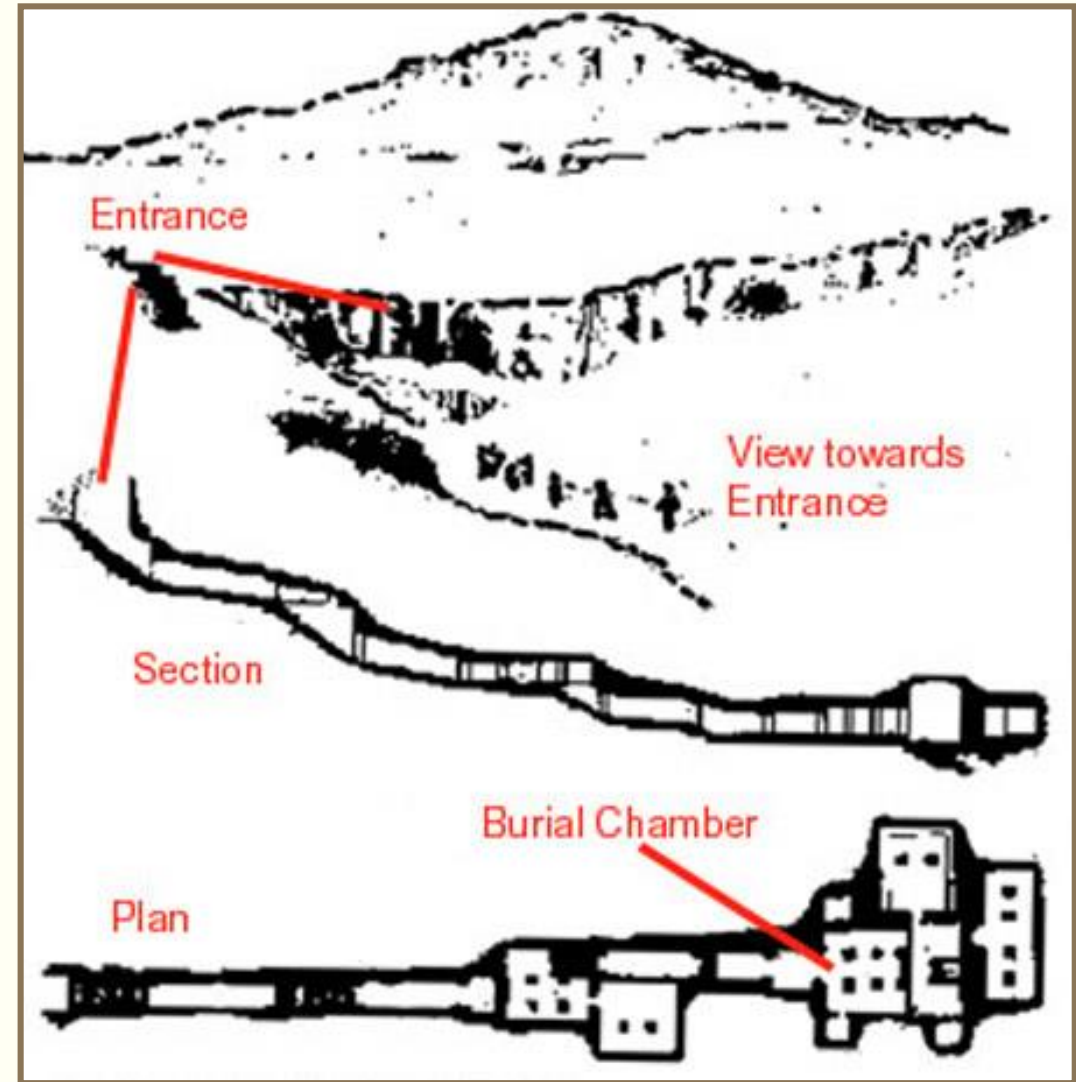
The Underground Tombs: **Shaft Tombs - Valley of the King**



The Valley of the Kings in western Thebes, Egypt.

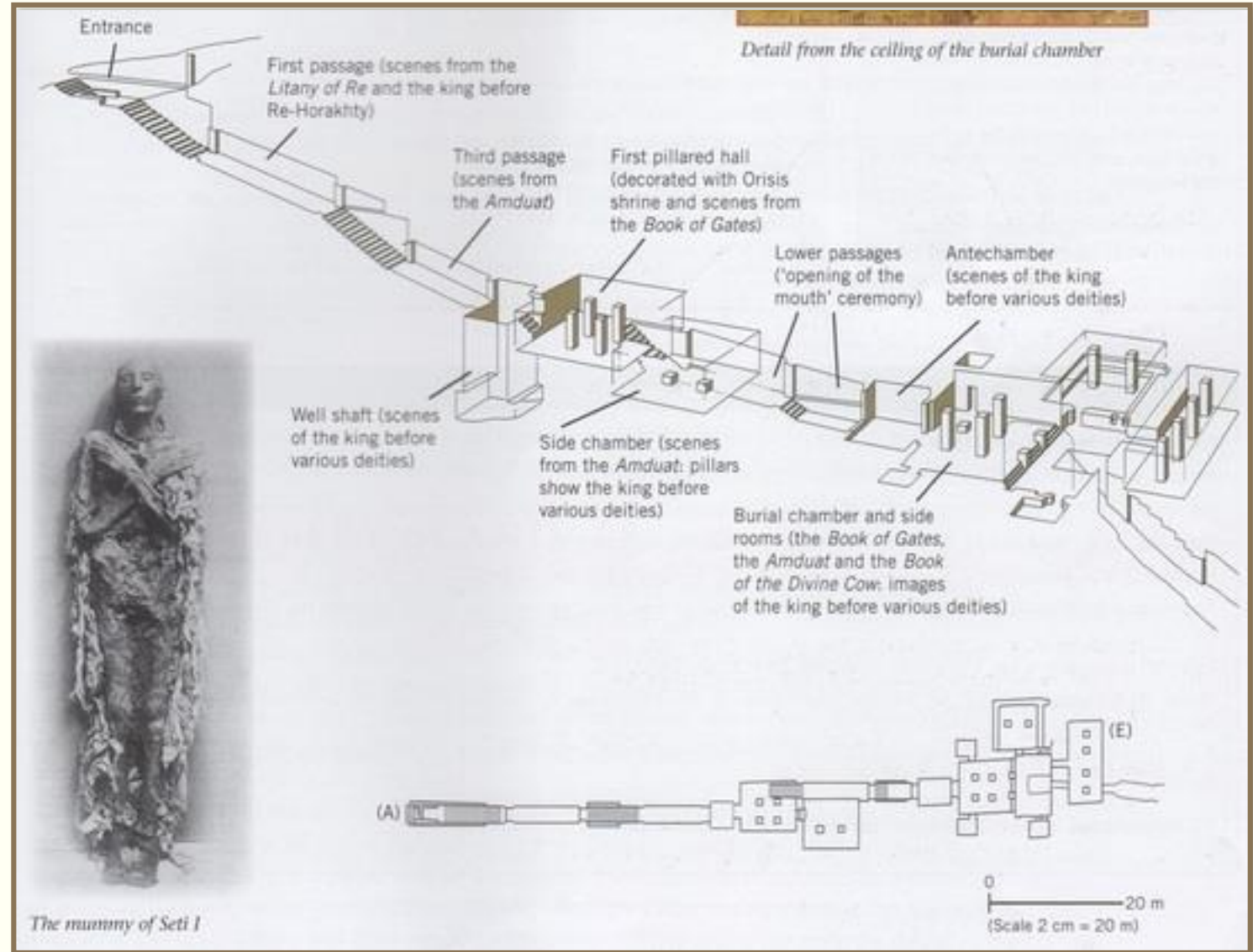
The Underground Tombs: **Shaft Tombs - Valley of the King**

- Were a complex series of underground corridors and rooms cut out of the mountains in the valley of the King at Del-Al-Bahari.
- Entrances were hidden to protect tomb treasures from grave robbers.



The Underground Tombs: **Shaft Tombs - Examples**

- **The Tomb of Seti I:**
- A) Corridor type tombs



The Underground Tombs: **Shaft Tombs - Examples**

➤ **The Tomb of Seti I:**

B) Corridors:

1- Flat Roofs

2- Colorful walls

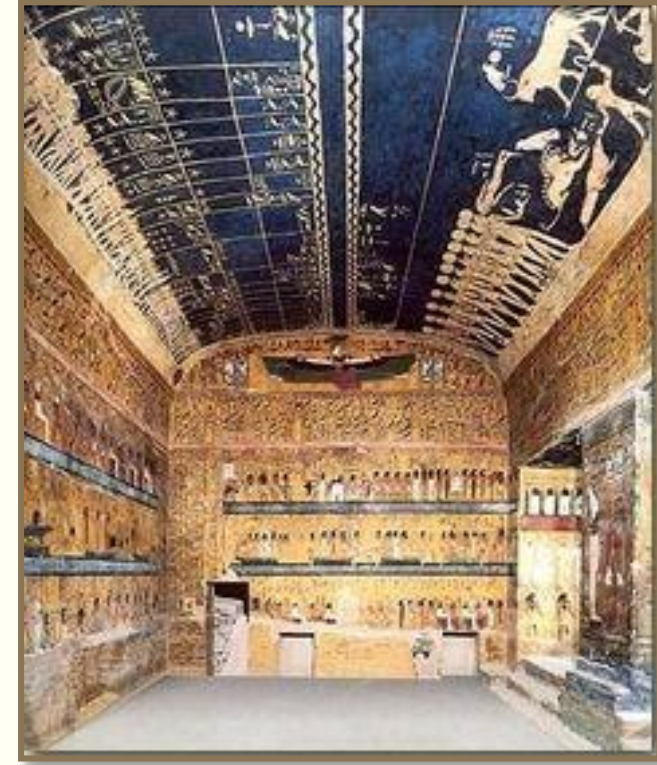


The Underground Tombs: **Shaft Tombs - Examples**

➤ **The Tomb of Seti I:**

C) Burial Chamber:

- 1- Underground (**Where Osiris is**)
- 2- Roof: Vaulted (**Solar Cycle Myth**)
- 3- Colorful Walls
- 4- The Book of Gates



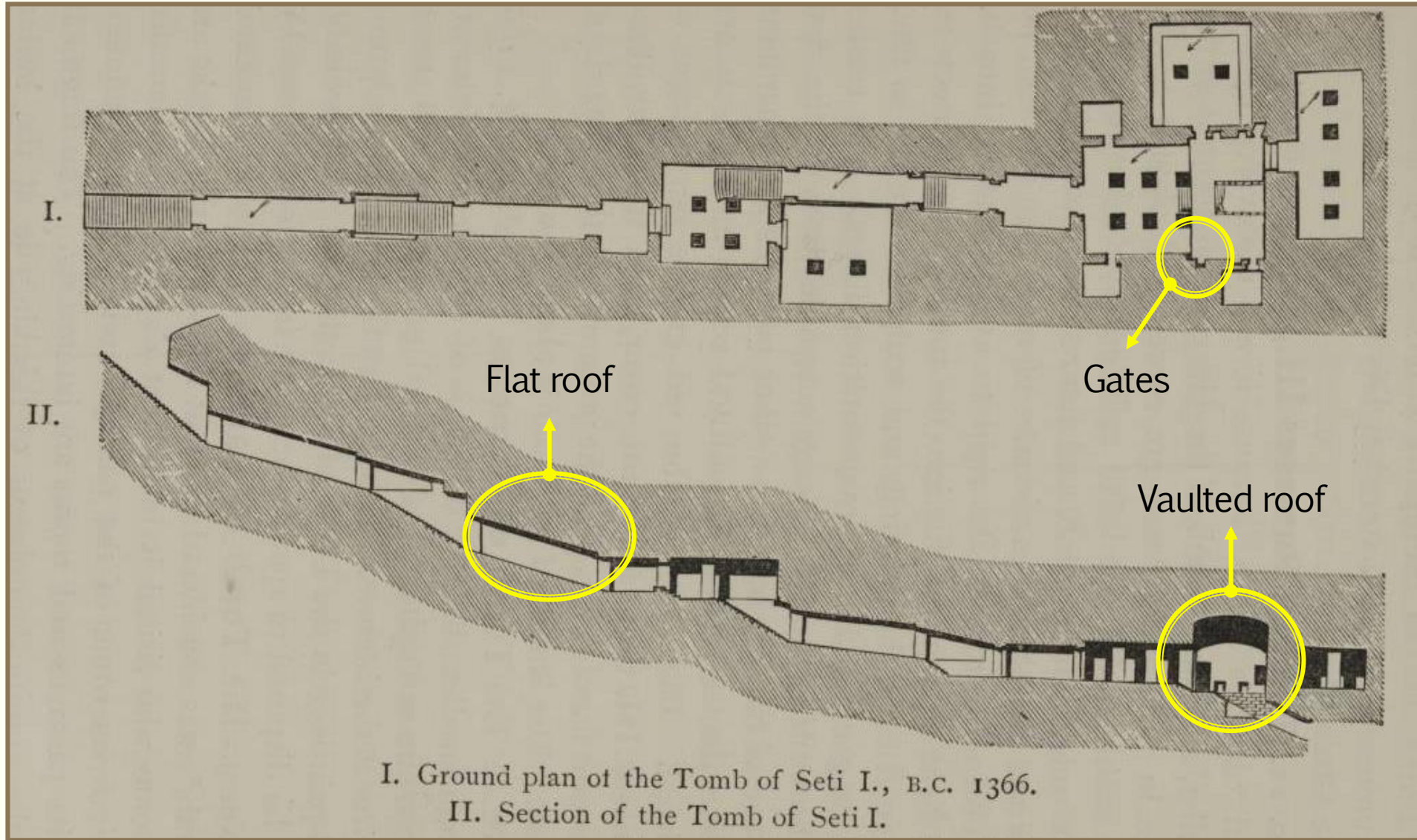
Roofs types

The Underground Tombs: **Shaft Tombs - Examples**

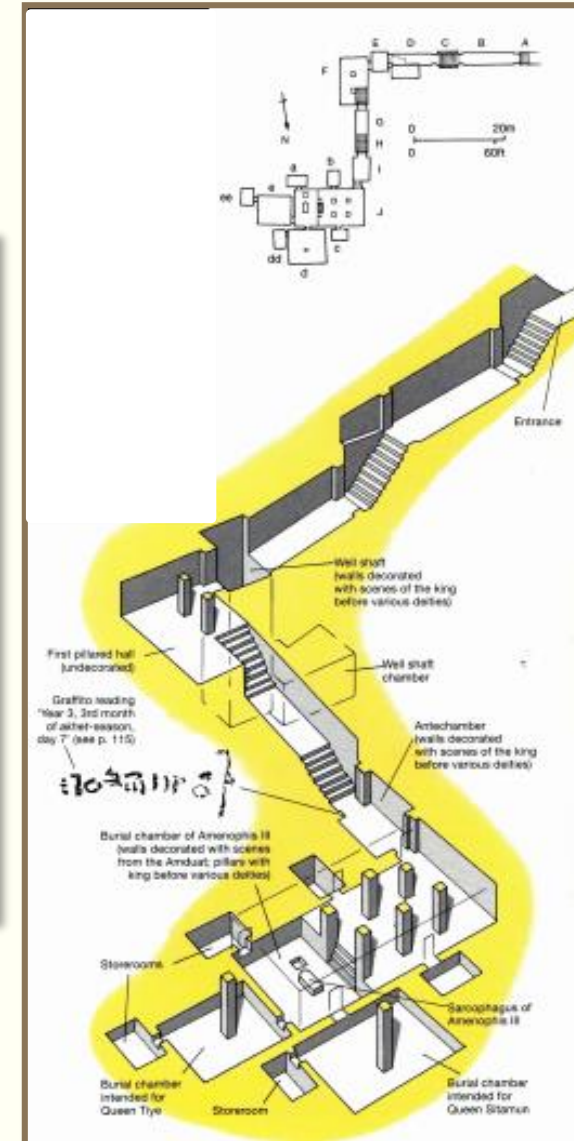
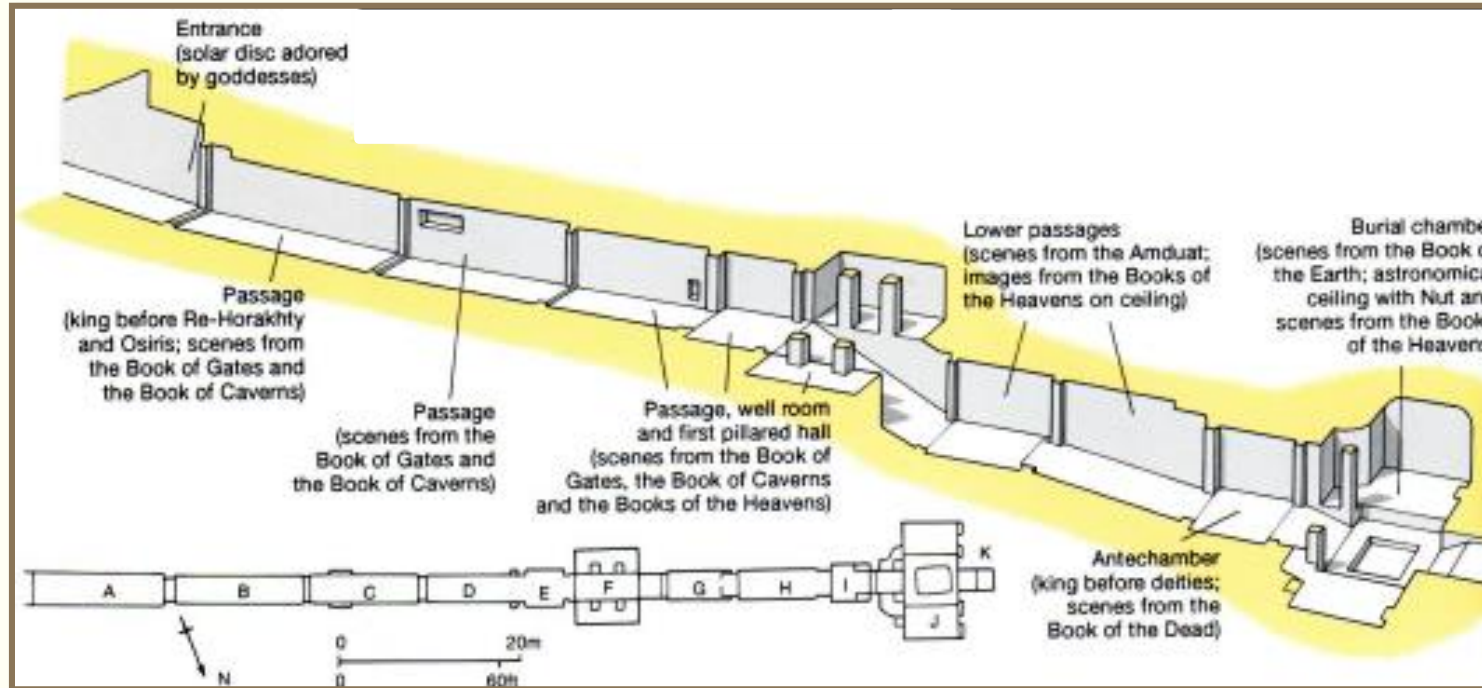
The Book of Gates



The Underground Tombs: **Shaft Tombs - Examples**



The Underground Tombs: Shaft Tombs - Examples



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Temple Types**

Types of ancient Egyptian Temples



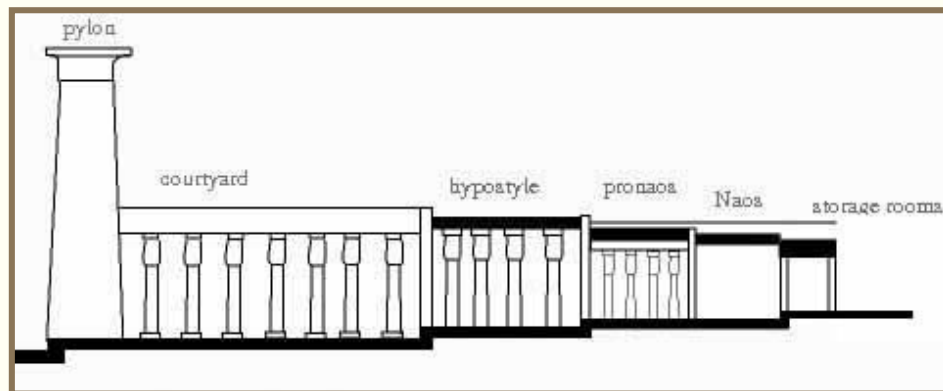
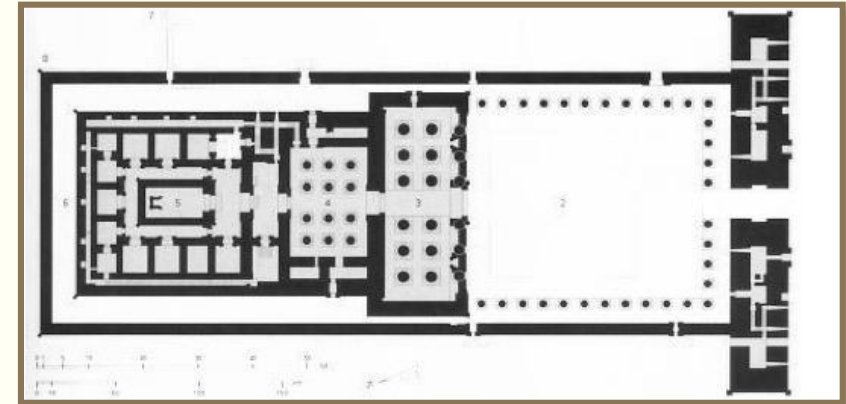
- 1) Mortuary Temples (Built in honor of the pharaoh)
- 2) Cult Temples (Built for worship of the gods)



- 1) Solar Temples (East West ➡ Amun Ra)
- 2) Cellar Temples (Any other orientation)

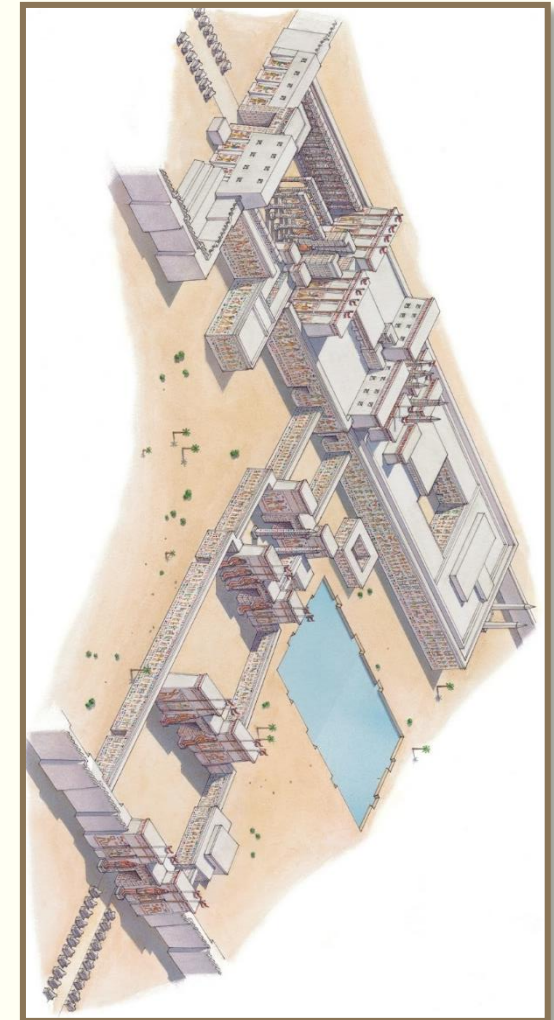
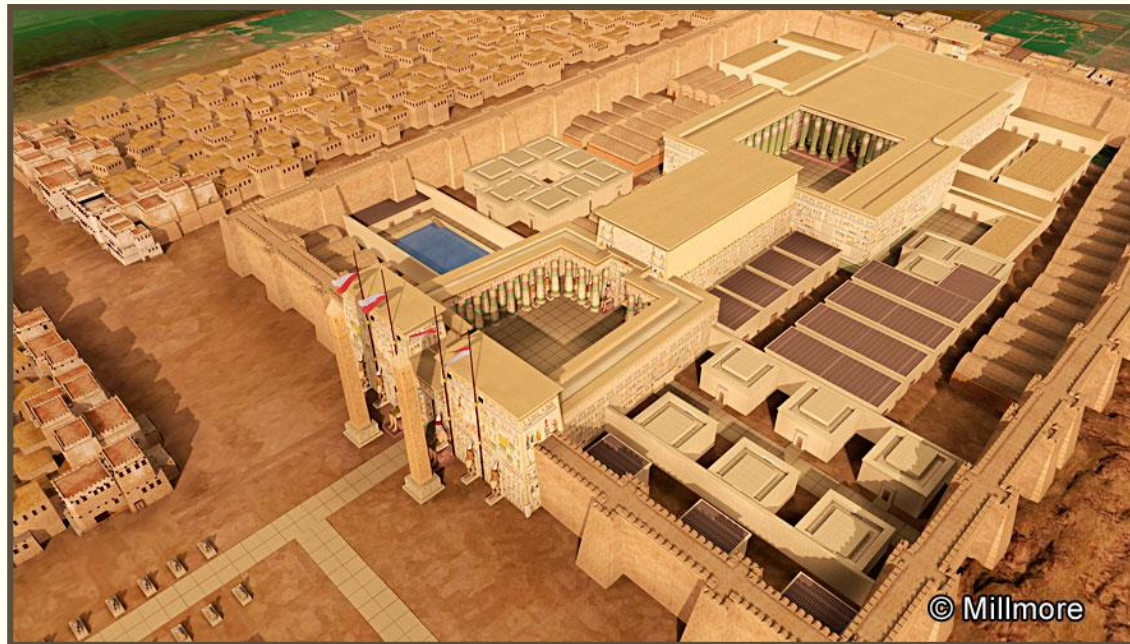
The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Characteristics**

1. **Plan:** Complex plan (courts, halls, chamber with the sanctuary deep inside the temple).
2. **Façade:** All Columns are concealed inside the external walls.
3. **Section:** Raised flooring and lowered roofs deeper inside the temple, with the sanctuary having the highest ground level and the lowest roof.



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Characteristics**

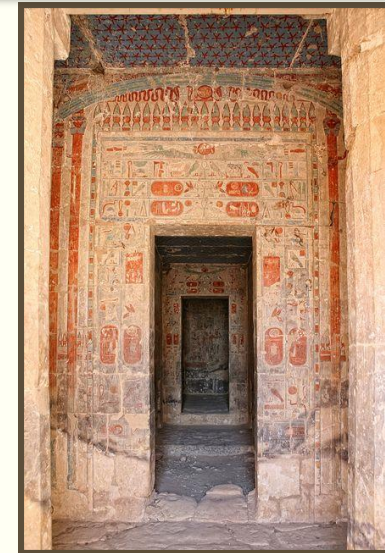
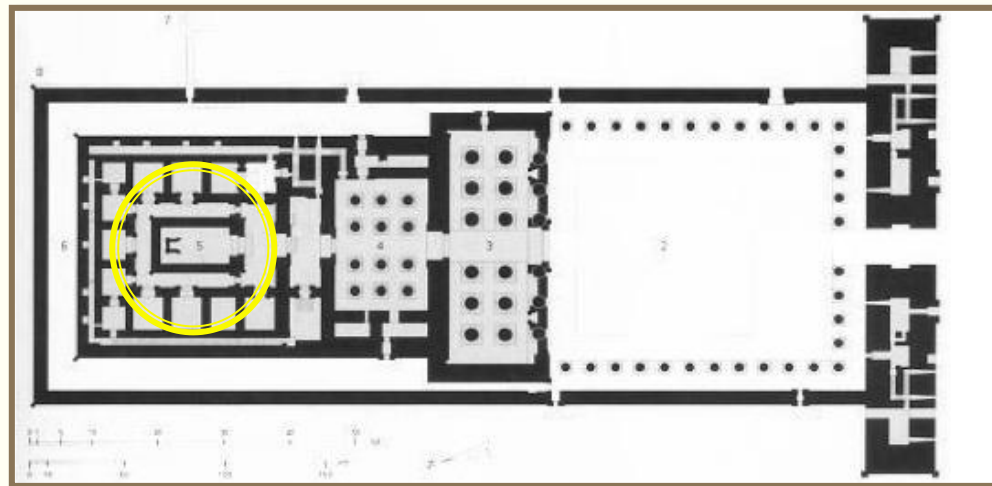
4. **Roof:** Flat stone roof, columns closely packed to support roof.
5. **Layout:** The external wall resembled a fortress isolating the temple from its surrounding which symbolically represented the Edfu Myth.



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

1. Sanctuary:

- Was the most special and important part of the temple.
- It was a very dark, no windows.
- Relatively small room.
- In the middle of it stood the shrine with the statue of the god.



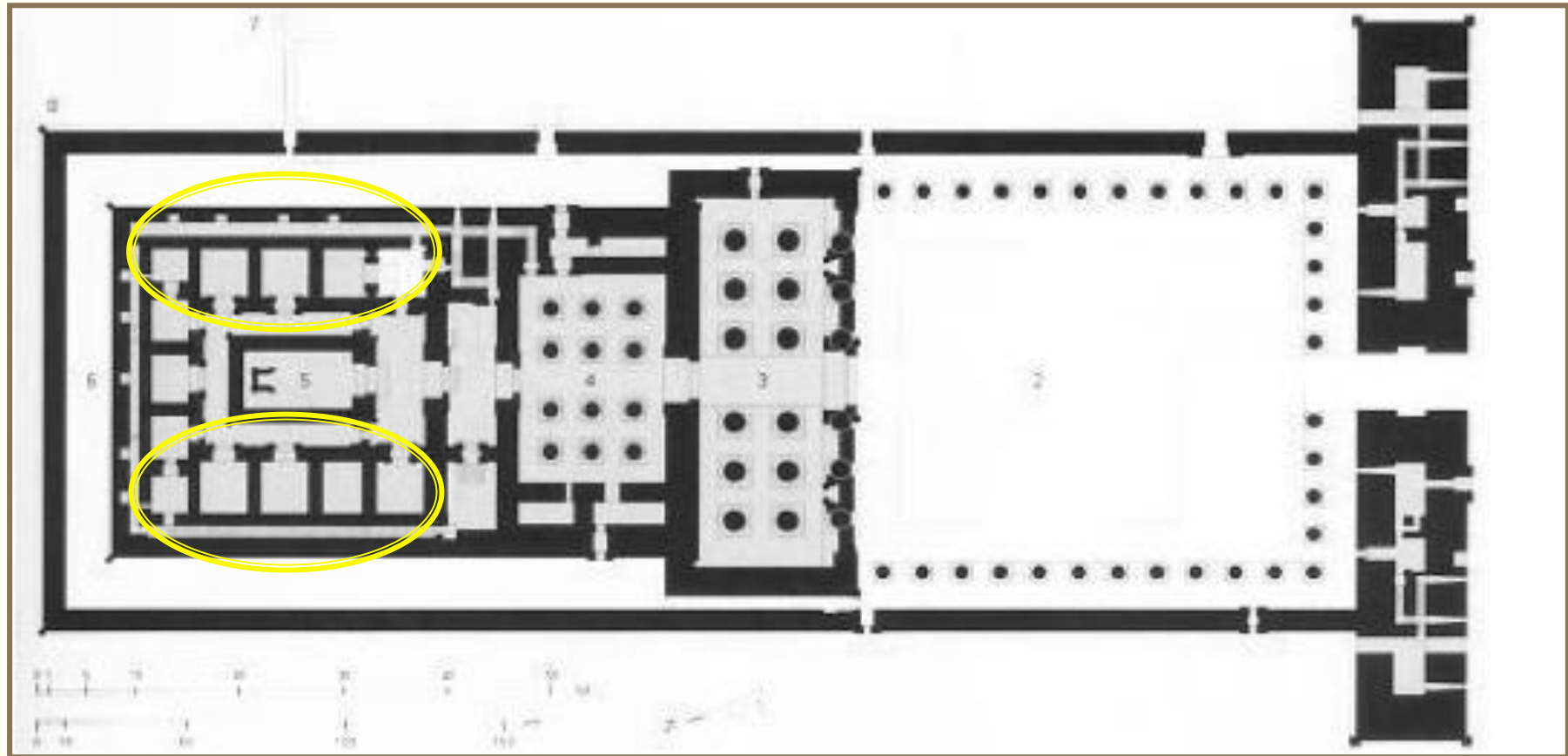
The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

1. Sanctuary:



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

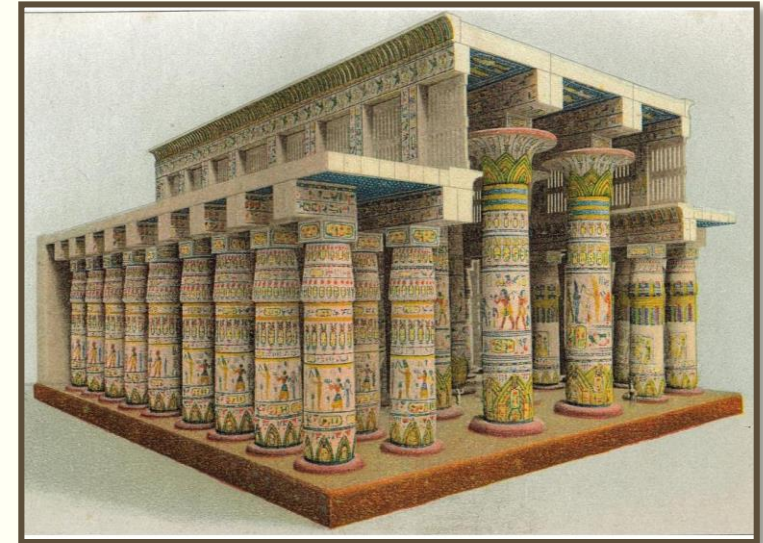
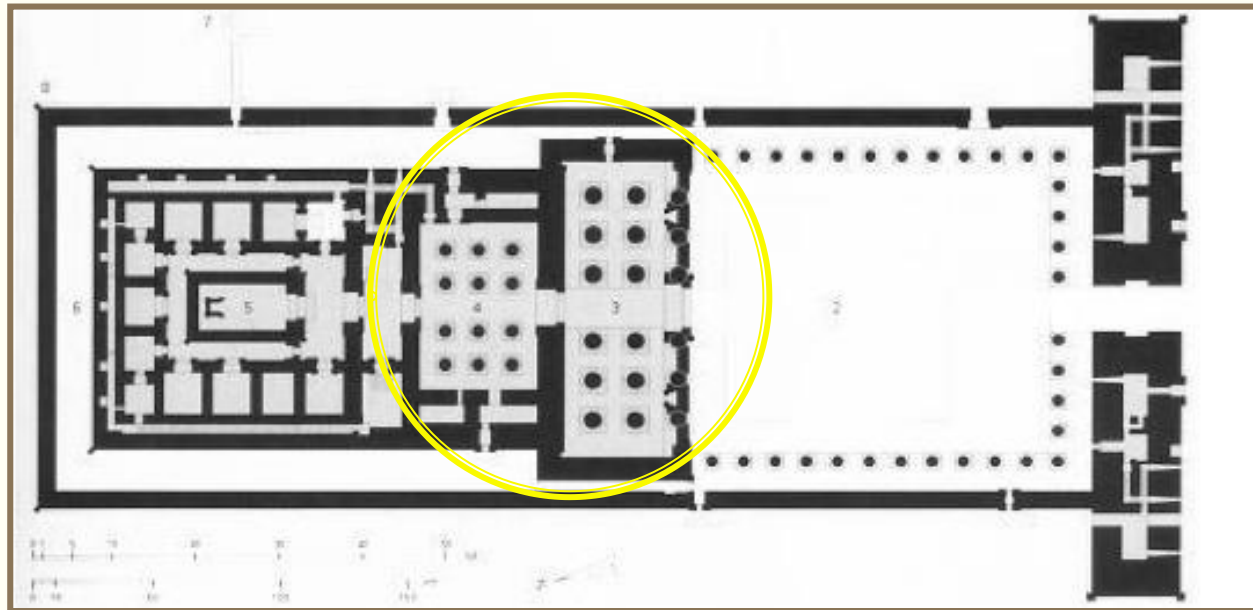
2. Chapels:



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

3. Hypostyle Hall:

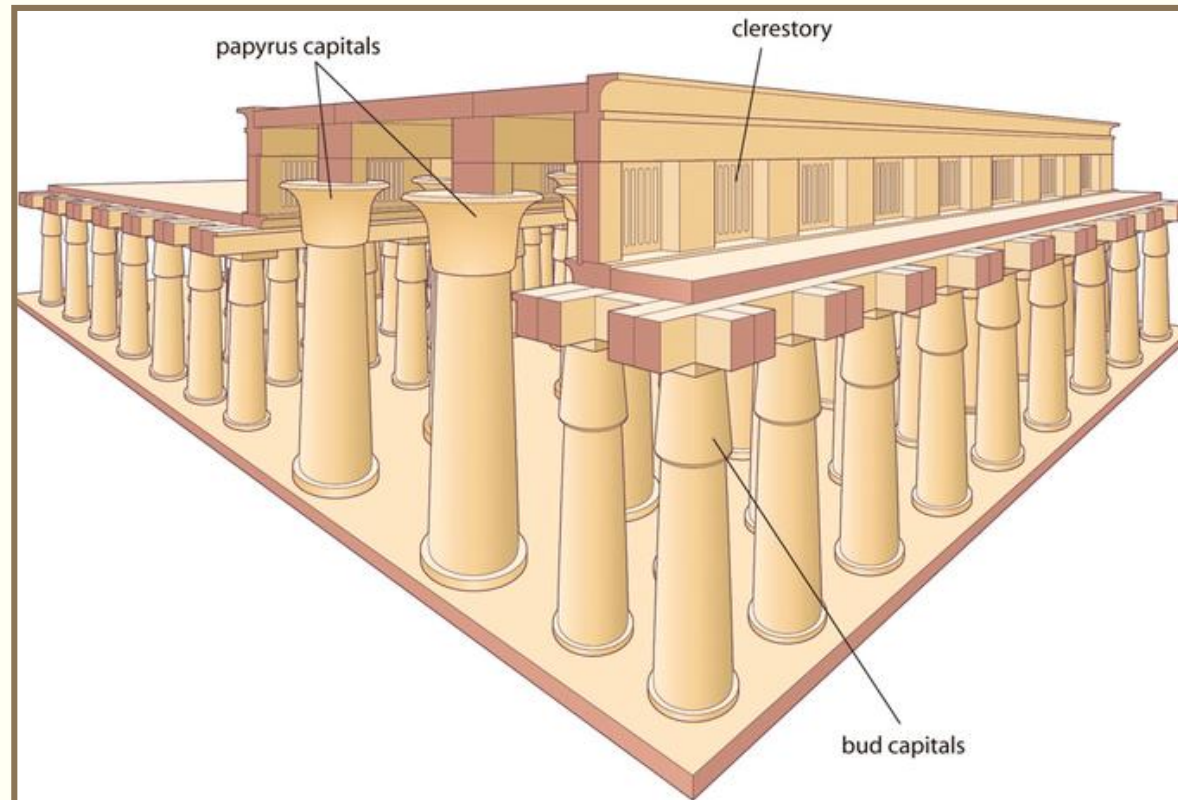
- Large colonnaded hall.
- Roofed except for the central aisle which was lit by windows (Clearstory window).



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

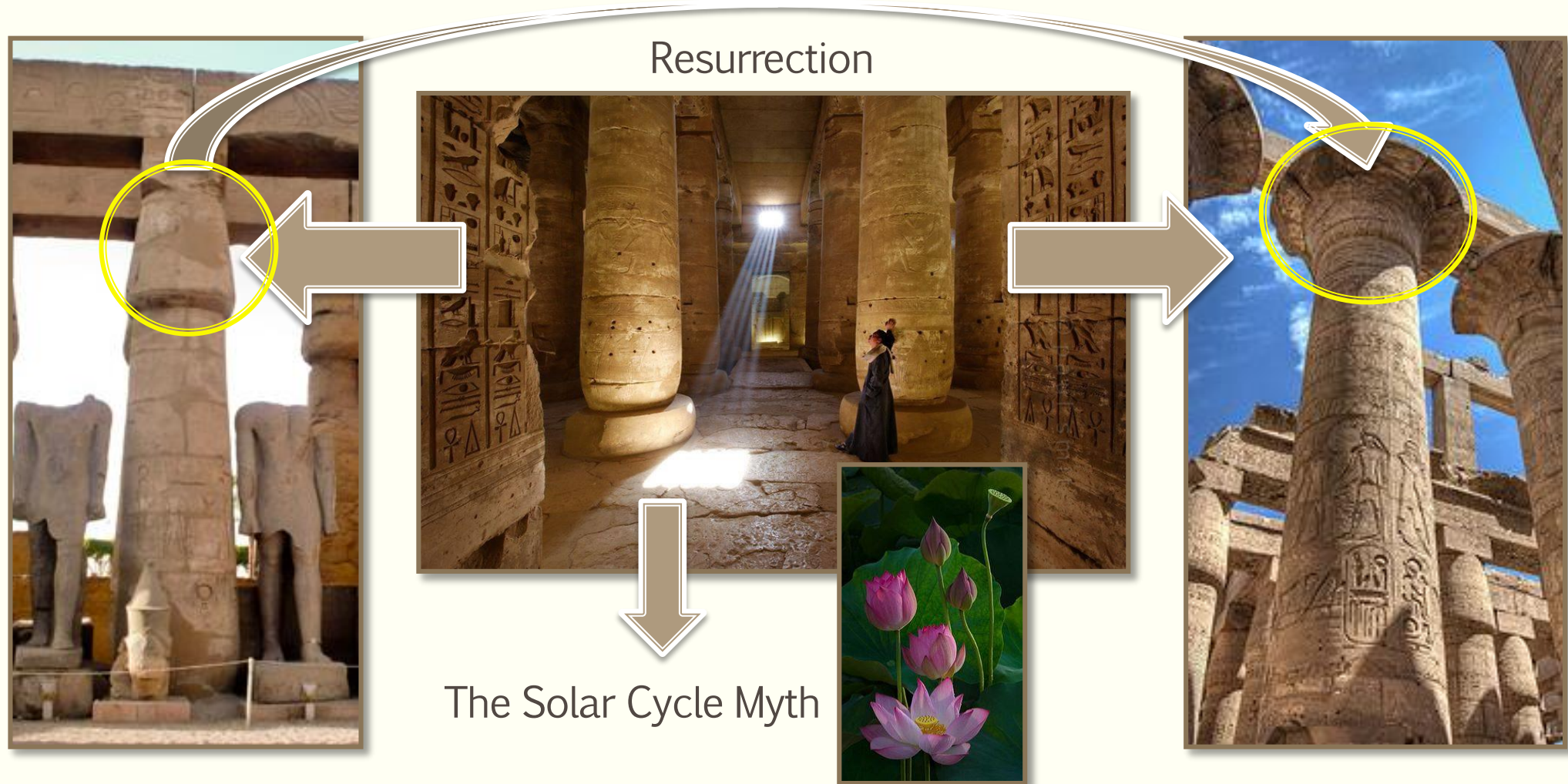
3. Hypostyle Hall:

- The capital of the massive column often in the shape of the open or close Lotus bud.



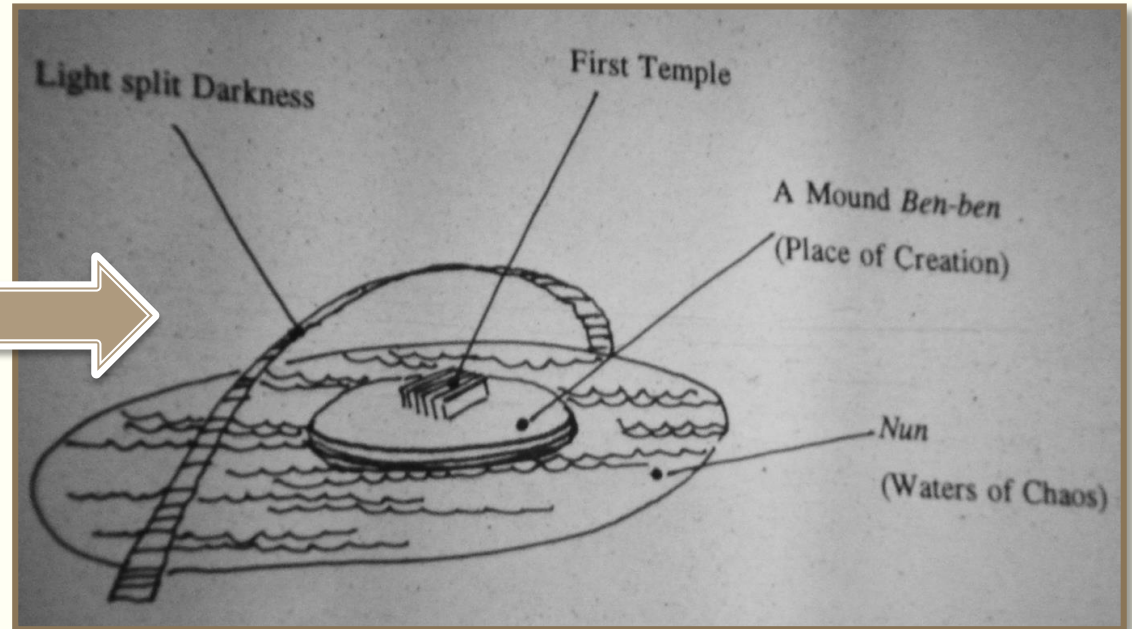
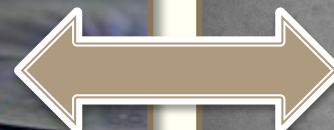
The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

3. Hypostyle Hall: **Why open or close Lotus bud??**



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

3. Hypostyle Hall:



The Creation Myth

The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

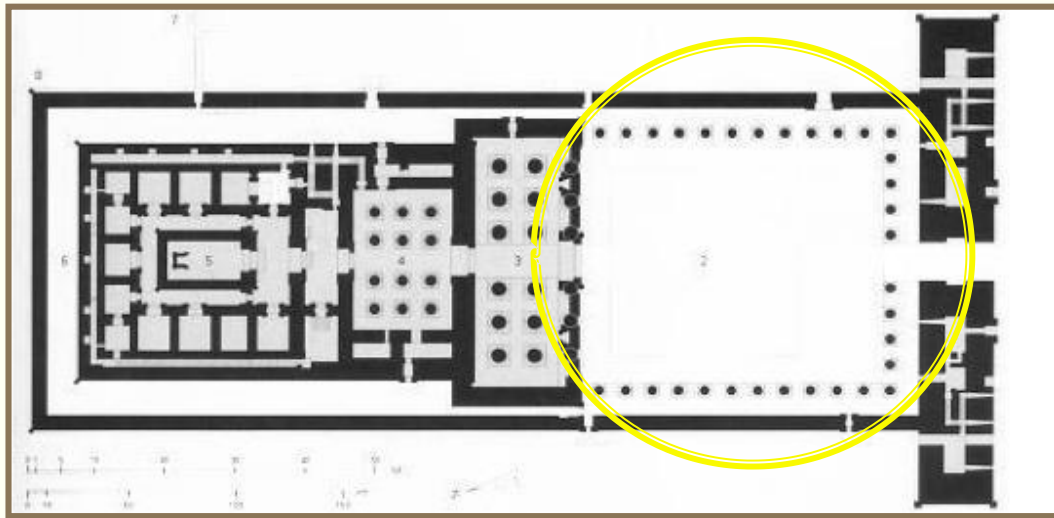
3. Hypostyle Hall:



The Osiris Myth

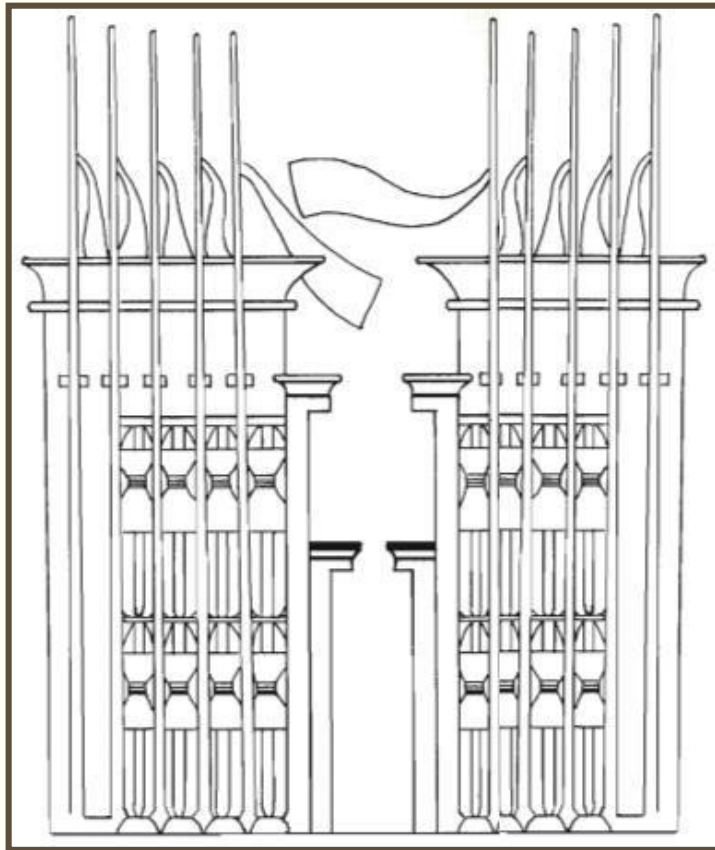
The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

4. **Great court:** - Large open hall, decorated walls.
 - It was for transitional purpose, serving as an interface between the outside world and the sanctified regions deeper within the temple.



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

5. **Pylons:** Large gates of the temple, carved and painted with scenes of the Pharaoh, gods and goddesses.



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

6. Obelisk:

- The obelisk is an element unique to Egyptian architecture
- It was carved as a monolithic piece of stone and erected in front of temples
- They were usually dedicated to a particular God, pharaoh or nobleman



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

5. Pylons:



Light split
Darkness
(Creation Myth)

The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**

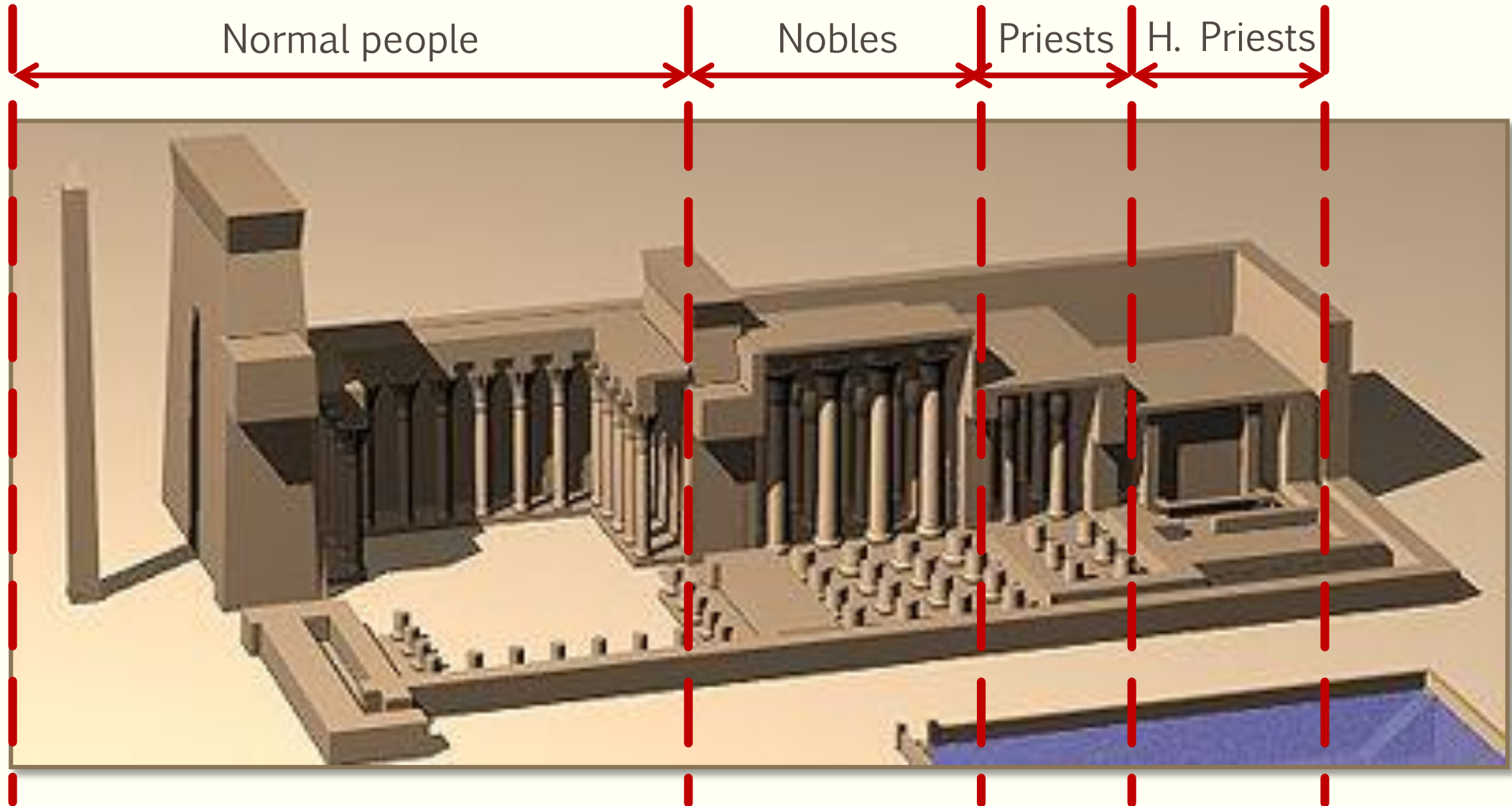
8. Avenue of Sphinxes :

- Sphinxes are statues with the body of a lion and the head of the God Horus
- They are used to line avenues leading to temples



Myth of the Creation of Man

The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**



The Middle & New Kingdom Temples: **Parts**



Thank you