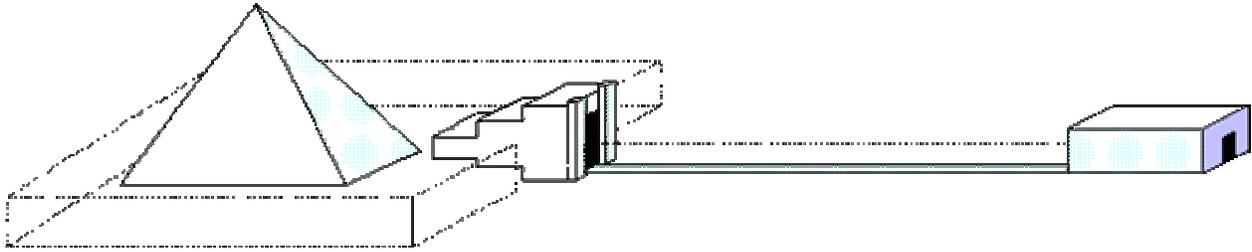


EGYPTIAN TEMPLES

Roald Peterson, Jr.



Much has been discovered in recent years concerning the Egyptian pyramids and temple worship. The following is a summary of notes I have taken after going to several lectures by archaeologists and other scholars. The primary source is Dr. Wilfred Griggs, a professor at Brigham Young University, and someone I think of as Mormondom's Indiana Jones. He used to speak at the Know Your Religion on something to do with his latest digs in Egypt. I attended his lectures wherever I could over dozen years. If you're interested in this sort of thing, go hear him.

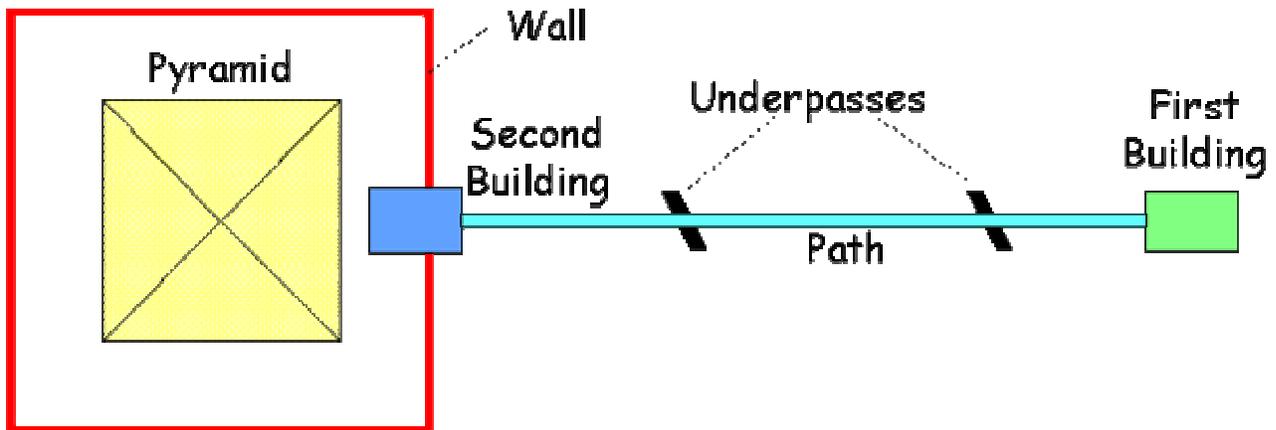
Pyramids were not used as burial chambers or sepulchers. The idea that pyramids contained the dead was a false idea started long ago and continued through popular media. According to Dr. Griggs, many of the pyramids are associated with temples which were centered around rites allowing initiates to become gods in the afterlife. Whether they were authorized ordinances performed by proper authority or perversions of real ordinances hasn't been determined yet. In fact, there may have been both.

The pyramid is at the center of this ceremony but it is not the place where everything happened. There were two other buildings and a long path involved in the rites. The first building was located some distance from the pyramid and contained facilities for ceremonial washings of an initiate, as well as anointing the person with oil. (It should be remembered that Israel's kings were anointed with oil.) This building was connected by a path to another building located much nearer the pyramid.

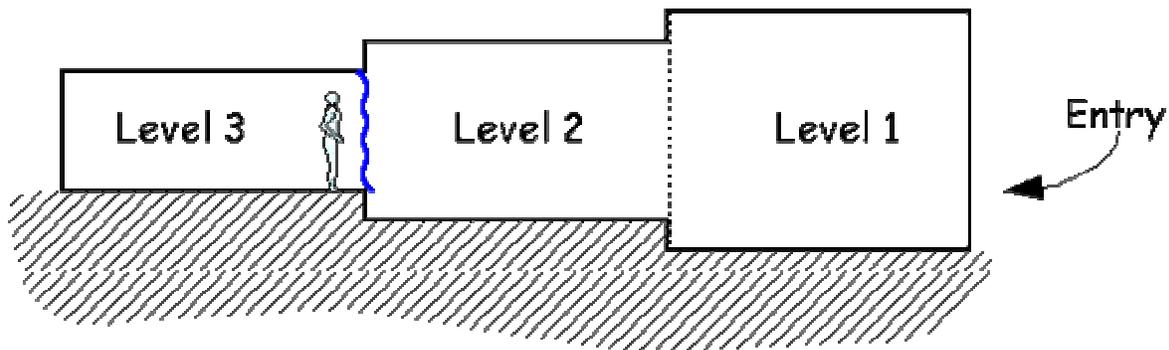
The connecting path was long and straight. It is assumed that it was walled off by fabric from the rest of the world. The reason for this is that buried underpasses have been found which originally went underneath the path, and people generally don't use an underpass unless they are trying to cross a barrier. This path would most likely have represented some sort of journey or progress that the initiate had to make.

The pyramid was also surrounded by some type of wall. Most of these walls have been torn down or buried, but digs have uncovered their remains. The pyramid was a special place separate from the world. It represented a mountain, where one could commune with deity. Anciently, mountains were used to converse with God when temples were not available. In fact, the code name for temples is "mountain of the Lord's house [Isaiah 2:2]. In Egypt people lived down by the waters of the Nile river so they could have water. Because there were no mountains there they built their own.

The second building mentioned earlier actually spanned the wall surrounding the pyramid and provided the entrance into the area immediately surrounding the pyramid. The layout of the two buildings, the wall, the path, and the pyramid are shown in the drawing below.



The second building had three main levels. They were not stacked upon each other, but rather led from one to another, in staircase fashion. The floors stepped up and the ceiling stepped down to form a sort of vanishing point effect when viewed from the front. This may have been done to provide a representation of eternity. The front of the building was massive and fortress-like, guarding the sacred things of God from the world. This can be seen in the drawing at the beginning of this article. A side view representation of this second building is shown below.



The initiate would enter the building from the path, after first having passed through the ceremonies of the first building. In the drawing above it would be from the right. On each of the first two levels the initiate would be taught and given secret words or names which he would need to continue his journey into the eternal world. After the teachings of these two levels, he would be questioned or tested by a priest standing behind a curtain. If he answered correctly he could pass through the curtain, into the third level. From there he could enter within the wall, into the pyramid compound.

This structure of buildings, walls, and a path have not been found at all the pyramids but their remains have been found at several. This is relatively new information (from the last 20 years or so) and not all the pyramids have been investigated for this. However there are more interesting things which can be looked at inside the pyramids, as well as looking at pyramids in general. Those will be the subject of other articles.

Please note that these drawings are not to scale.