



GREAT KINGS & QUEENS OF AFRICA

KING TAHARQA



The Nubian Empire was established in 4800 BC. The Nubian Empire was located in north-eastern Africa in the area which is today known as modern-day Sudan. Later, the capitals of the Nubian Empire would be Kerma, Napata and Meroe. King Taharqa (also known as Pharaoh Taharqa) was the son of the Nubian King Piye and came to power in 690 BC and ruled until 664 BC. During this time the Nubian Empire had conquered the African kingdom of Ancient Egypt and ruled from their capital city of Napata which was located on the west bank of the Nile River in modern-day Sudan. The Nubians established themselves as the 25th Dynasty of Egypt and King Taharqa was the 4th king of this new power structure. At the early age of 20, King Taharqa led a Kushite and Egyptian army against the Assyrians (a kingdom located in modern-day Iraq) who were at the time advancing against Jerusalem. Pharaoh Taharqa defeated the Assyrians and drove them back and peace between the two powers was established for a while.

King Taharqa is also mentioned in the Christian holy book named The Bible in 2 Kings Chapter 19 Verse 9 where it states:

“NOW SENNACHERIB RECEIVED A REPORT THAT TIRHAKAH (TAHARQA), THE KING OF KUSH, WAS MARCHING OUT TO FIGHT AGAINST HIM. SO, HE AGAIN SENT MESSENGERS TO HEZEKIAH WITH THIS WORD”.

King Taharqa was instrumental in overseeing a rise in prosperity for both Nubia and Egypt at the time and engaged in a number of construction projects building new temples and restoring older houses of worship. He also constructed new monuments in Karnak, Thebes, and Tanis in Lower Egypt (modern-day northern Egypt). Within Nubia at a site named 'Nuri' located south-east of the Nile River the king constructed the largest pyramid in the area. King Taharqa died in the city of Thebes in Egypt and was eventually buried in Nuri, Nubia.