

## Research Findings: Ancient & Classical Period (D<sup>c</sup>mt and Aksum)

### Kingdom of D<sup>c</sup>mt (c. 10th–5th century BCE)

- **Overview:** One of the earliest known civilizations in Ethiopia, centered in Yeha.
- **Monuments:**
  - **Temple of Yeha:** A well-preserved stone temple dedicated to the god Almouqah.
  - **Grat Be'al Gebri:** A large administrative or palace building.
- **Government:** Monarchy with strong links to South Arabia (Sabaeans).
- **Culture:** Foundations of agriculture, writing (South Arabian script), and metallurgy.

### Kingdom of Aksum (c. 1st–7th century CE)

- **Overview:** A major trading empire and one of the four great powers of the 3rd century (alongside Rome, Persia, and China).
- **Key Rulers:**
  - **Zoskales:** Mentioned in the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea.
  - **Gedara (GDRT):** First king involved in South Arabian affairs.
  - **Endybis:** First to mint coins.
  - **Ezana:** Converted to Christianity (mid-4th century), conquered Kush, and expanded the empire.
  - **Kaleb:** Invaded Himyar (Yemen) to protect Christians.
- **Monuments:**
  - **Stelae (Obelisks):** Massive monolithic granite towers (e.g., Great Stele, Ezana Stele, Rome Stele).
  - **Palaces:** Ta'akha Maryam, Dungur (Palace of the Queen of Sheba).
  - **Tombs:** Tomb of the False Door, Tombs of Kaleb and Gebre Meskel.
  - **Churches:** Church of Our Lady Mary of Zion (original foundation).
- **Government Structure:**
  - **Negusa Nagast (King of Kings):** Centralized imperial authority.
  - **Feudal System:** Subordinate kings and governors.
  - **Coinage:** Minted gold, silver, and bronze coins with Greek and Ge'ez inscriptions.
- **Economy:** Controlled Red Sea trade routes (Adulis port), exporting ivory, gold, and incense.
- **Religion:** Transitioned from polytheism (Astar, Beher, Meder, Mahrem) to Christianity.