



3. The X-Group Period (ca. A.D. 320-550)

Religion

Though the worship of Isis at Philae continued, there are no temples from X-Group times; the only representations of deities come from objects found in the royal tombs. The Horus, Isis, and Amon figures on the crowns perhaps represent deities still worshipped. Other deities, including Graeco-Roman gods, may have been used on objects solely for decorative purposes.

Some scholars believe that the lack of temples during the X-Group Period was a deliberate attempt by the Ballana rulers to reject any link with the Meroitic priesthood. Some Christian symbols began to appear on X-Group pottery and on household objects such as lamps; these may have been only symbols as yet, though Christianity began to take hold in Nubia in the mid-sixth century A.D.