

Moses Died Two years before they crossed the Jordan

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October 13, 2013

News Letter 5849-035

6th day of the 8th month 5849 years after the creation of Adam
The 8th Month in the Fourth year of the third Sabbatical Cycle
The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle
The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences

October 12, 2013

Shabbat Shalom Family,

Just as I was leaving for Sukkot I got an email asking me another question. It is one I have midrashed about in Israel a number of times and never really had a satisfying answer to. After Sukkot this gentleman asked again the same question reminding me he was looking for an answer.

It is also an important question because by not getting the right answer, it could throw out all the chronology of the Sabbatical and Jubilee years; especially that part of the Chronology from Adam to the Entry into the Promised Land.

Here is the question from Nathan Isme.

Joseph Dumond, I've been reading in your book about the 40 years from the beginning of the wilderness punishment to the entry into Canaan. This, you say, is after the first 2 years, totaling 42 years between the exodus and the entry. But can you explain why Deuteronomy 2:14 says that from the leaving of Sinai until entering the land of Canaan was only 38 years? If you add this to the 2 years prior, it only totals 40 years, not 42. Please explain.

The answer is not always obvious, but once you see it, then it seems very obvious to you. This is a good question and has forced me to do some long overdue homework. In fact when you get the answer for this, then you will also get the answer for another equally troubling question.

Let's begin to show you how to find the answer.

We need to put the scripture in question Deut 2:14 in the proper perspective and to do that we must do it chronologically.

We begin when Moses is first called by Yehovah.

Exo 3:2 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire, out of the midst of a thorn bush. And he looked. And behold! The thorn bush burned with fire! And the thorn bush was not burned up. 3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the thorn bush is not burned up. 4 And Jehovah saw that he had turned aside to see. God called to him out of the midst of the thorn bush, and said, Moses! Moses! And he said, Here I am. 5 And He said, Do not come near here. Pull off your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground.

Exo 4:14 And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Moses. And He said, Do I not know Aaron the Levite, your brother that he can speak well? And also, behold, he comes forth to meet you. And when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 And you shall speak to him, and you shall put words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. 16 And it will be, he shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be for a mouth to you. And you shall be to him a god. 17 And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do signs. 18 And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, Please let me go and return to my brothers who are in Egypt and see if they are still alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace. 19 And Jehovah said to Moses in Midian, Go! Return to Egypt, for all the men who sought your life are dead.

Exo 5:19 And the overseers of the sons of Israel saw themselves in affliction, after it was said, You shall not take away from your bricks of your daily task. 20 And they met Moses and Aaron standing in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh. 21 And they said to them, Jehovah look upon you and judge, because you have made our smell to stink in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hands to kill us. 22 And Moses returned to Jehovah, and said, Lord, why have You treated this people ill? Why then have you sent me? 23 For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people. Neither have You delivered Your people at all.

Exo 6:9 And Moses said so to the sons of Israel. But they did not listen to Moses through anguish of spirit and through cruel bondage. 10 And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, 11 Go in, speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt, that he let the sons of Israel go out of his land. 12 And Moses spoke before Jehovah, saying, Behold, the sons of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh hear me, since I have lips that are not circumcised?

Exo 7:7 And Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron was eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh. 8 And Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying: 9 When Pharaoh shall speak to you saying, Give a miracle for yourselves, you shall say to Aaron, Take your rod, and throw it in front of Pharaoh. It shall become a snake.

We have read thus far of Yehovah calling Moses from the burning bush and then sending Moses to get the Israelite's from Egypt. He goes and talks to the Israelites and they do not believe him and in fact become angry at him for the extra work they must now do. All of this takes some time to do. Talking with Yehovah and then saying good bye to Jethro and then walking back to Egypt and then convening the elders of Israel and explaining to them what is going on and then Pharaoh stepping up the work load.

And then by the time Moses spoke to Pharaoh he was 80 and Aaron was 83. Right here is when people assume that the year this first plague begins and the year the Israelites all leave Egypt to be the same year. We have questioned this logic in previous articles.

We do so based on the fact that the cattle are smitten three times during the course of the ten plagues.

Exo 9:1 And Jehovah said to Moses, Go in to Pharaoh and tell him, Thus says Jehovah, the God of the Hebrews: Let My people go so that they may serve Me. 2 For if you refuse to let them go, and will hold them still, 3 behold, the hand of Jehovah is upon your cattle in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep, a very grievous plague. 4 And Jehovah shall separate between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt. And there shall nothing die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel. 5 And Jehovah appointed a set time, saying, Tomorrow Jehovah shall do this thing in the land. 6 And Jehovah did that thing on the next day, and all the cattle of Egypt died. But of the cattle of the sons of Israel, not one died.

In this curse we read “ALL the cattle of Egypt died”. Not some, not half, but ALL. So where did they get the cattle for the next curse we read about again in Exodus 9.

Exo 9:17 Do you still exalt yourself against My people, that you will not let them go? 18 Behold! Tomorrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as has not been in Egypt since the foundation of it even until now! 19 And now send out, gather your cattle, and all that you have in the field. Upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die. 20 He that feared the Word of Jehovah among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his cattle to flee into the houses. 21 And he that did not regard the Word of Jehovah left his servants and his cattle in the field. 22 And Jehovah said to Moses, Stretch forth your hand toward heaven, so that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. 23 And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heavens. And Jehovah sent thunder and hail, and the fire came down to the ground. And Jehovah rained hail upon the land of Egypt. 24 And there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. 25 And the hail struck throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast. And the hail struck every herb of the field, and broke every tree of the field.

Considering the fact that “ALL” the cattle were killed in the previous curse it would take time for them to go and purchase new cattle and then bring them back to Egypt. How much time can be debated, so we will avoid that, but it takes some time for everyone to get new cattle, which they would have to have in order to have them killed in this next curse in chapter 9.

We read of the last and final curse of the first born of Egypt being killed. But in order to have cattle that are first born will mean they had to replace those that had been killed from the two previous curses and then once replaced to have time to breed them and for the cattle to have

time to mature and give birth to new born or first-born cattle. All of these things take time. The gestation period for a cow is just over 9 months.

Exo 12:29 And it happened at midnight Jehovah struck all the first-born in the land of Egypt, from the first-born of Pharaoh that sat on his throne to the first-born of the captive that was in the prison; also all the first-born of cattle.

We have also mentioned in a previous article on this same subject that Moses and Aaron were anti-types of the Two Witnesses as were Elijah and Elisha. Both Elijah and the Two witnesses do a work for 3 ½ years. We can then conclude that Moses and Aaron also worked for 3 ½ years.

The reason I have gone through all of this again is show you that it all takes place before they leave Egypt. It all took place before the Exodus. And it was before the Exodus that we are told that Moses was 80. Moses was 80 when he went to see Pharaoh, at least two years before the Exodus.

The question posed was based on the scripture in Deut 2:14 which states that when Moses was writing this it was the 38th year since the curse of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

Deu 2:13 Now rise up and cross over the brook Zered. And we went over the brook Zered. 14 And the days in which we came from Kadesh-barnea, until we had come over the brook Zered were thirty-eight years; until the end of all the generation. The men of war were destroyed from the midst of the camp, as Jehovah swore to them. 15 And the hand of Jehovah was against them, to destroy them from among the camp, until they were consumed.

The question alone supposes that the 2 years at Mount Sinai are part of the 40 years total based on this statement of Moses. Indeed one can jump to this wrong conclusion by misapplying the information given to you in verse 7 before we even get to verse 14.

Deu 2:7 For Jehovah your God has blessed you in all the works of your hand. He knows your walking through this great wilderness. Jehovah your God has been with you these forty years. You have lacked nothing.

But in truth you have been given two pieces of information. Both of which total to this time when Moses is writing Deut. It has been 40 years since the Exodus. And it has also been 38 years since the curse of 40 years in the wilderness. Two different ways of arriving at this present time of which Moses is writing.

The two years at Mount Sinai are told to us in Numbers 10.

Num. 10:11 And on the twentieth of the second month, in the second year, the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle of the testimony. 12 And the sons of Israel pulled up stakes in their journeying out of the wilderness of Sinai. And the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran. 13 And at the mouth of Jehovah they first pulled up stakes, by the hand of Moses.

Israel was at Mount Sinai after the Exodus for two years working on the Tabernacle and duties before they left from there to go up to the land. It was in the 2nd month they left Sinai. Now in the 5th month of Av they now receive the 40 years of wandering curse.

To suppose the two previous years are included in this new curse is ludicrous. They had not yet sinned, so why would Jehovah include time at Mount Sinai as part of their penalty that has now been given out. The truth is He has not. That 40 years wandering began on the 9th of Av and ended 40 years later. It was only after those 40 years expired that Israel crossed the Jordan at Passover time.

Num. 14:26 And Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 27 How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmurs against Me? I have heard the murmurings of the sons of Israel which they murmur against Me. 28 Say to them, As I live, says Jehovah, as you have spoken in My ears, so I will do to you. 29 Your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, who have murmured against Me, 30 you shall certainly not come into the land which I swore to make you live in, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. 31 But your little ones, which you said should be a prey, I will bring them in and they shall know the land which you have despised. 32 But as for you, your bodies shall fall in this wilderness. 33 And your sons shall feed in the wilderness forty years and bear your fornications, until your dead bodies have wasted in the wilderness. 34 According to the number of the days in which you searched the land, forty days, each day for a year you shall bear your iniquities, forty years; and you shall know My alienation. 35 I Jehovah have spoken; I will surely do it to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. They shall be destroyed in this wilderness, and there they shall die. 36 And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up an evil report upon the land, 37 even those men that brought up the evil report upon the land died by the plague before Jehovah. 38 But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of the men that went to spy out the land, lived. 39 And Moses told these sayings to all the sons of Israel. And the people mourned greatly.

So again back to Deut. 2:7 and 2:14. Read it again in Context. Context Context. Always read in context.

Moses, in Deuteronomy is summing everything up from the past 40 years starting at the Exodus up to this date in time. This is the 40th year since the Exodus and it is the 38th year of the curse.

Deu 2:1 Then we turned and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea, as Jehovah spoke to me. And we went around Mount Seir many days. 2 And Jehovah spoke to me, saying, 3 You have gone around this mountain long enough. Turn northward. 4 And command the people saying, You are to pass through the border of your brothers, the sons of Esau, who dwell in Seir. And they shall be afraid of you. Therefore be careful. 5 Do not meddle with them, for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau for a possession. 6 You shall buy food from them for silver, so

that you may eat. And you shall also buy water from them for silver, so that you may drink. 7 For Jehovah your God has blessed you in all the works of your hand. He knows your walking through this great wilderness. Jehovah your God has been with you these forty years. You have lacked nothing. 8 And when we left our brothers the sons of Esau who lived in Seir, through the way of the Arabah from Elath, and from Ezion-geber, we turned and passed by the way of the wilderness of Moab.

Now Moses continues in the 40th year since the Exodus and the crossing of the Red Sea to tell about them crossing into Moab and taking of Sihon the Amorite king. This is still the 38th year since the curse was given to them. It is the same year.

Deu 2:17 Jehovah spoke to me, saying, 18 today you are passing over the border of Moab, even Ar. 24 Rise up, set out and cross over the river Arnon. Behold! I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to possess, and fight with him in battle. 34 And we took all his cities at that time and completely destroyed the men and the women and the little ones of every city. We left none to remain. 35 Only we plundered the cattle for ourselves, and we took the spoil of the cities. 36 From Aroer, by the brink of the river of Arnon, and the city by the river, even unto Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us. Jehovah our God delivered all to us. 37 Only to the land of the sons of Ammon you did not come, to any place of the river Jabbok, nor to the cities in the mountains, nor to whatever Jehovah our God denied us.

Then in the very same year, that is the 40th one since the Exodus and the 38th one since the curse, they then went up against Og and defeated him.

Deu 3:1 And we turned and went up the way to Bashan. And Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

It is after this that we read of Moses now beginning to pass the baton or the mantel on to Joshua. All of this is taking place in that same year. The 40th one since the Exodus and 38th one since the curse of wandering 40 years, of which they still had two more years to go.

Deu. 3:21 And I commanded Joshua at that time saying, Your eyes have seen all that Jehovah your God has done to these two kings. So Jehovah shall do to all the kingdoms where you pass. 22 You shall not fear them. For Jehovah your God shall fight for you. 23 And I begged Jehovah at that time saying, 24 O, Jehovah God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness, and Your mighty hand. For what God is there in heaven or in earth who can do according to Your works, and according to Your might? 25 I pray you, let me go over and see the good land beyond Jordan, this good hill-country and Lebanon. 26 But Jehovah was angry with me because of you and would not hear me. And Jehovah said to me, Let it be enough for you. Speak no more to Me of this matter. 27 Go up into the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes westward and northward and southward and eastward, and behold it with your eyes. For you shall not go over this Jordan. 28 But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him. For he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you shall see. 29 So we stayed in the valley over against Beth-peor.

Moses then restates all the law to the people in the chapter from chapter 3 up until now in chapter 29. All of this again was done in that 40th year since the Exodus. We know this because of what Moses then says in Chapter 29 that he has led them these past 40 years. He only led them from that Passover of the Exodus. Those presumed 3 ½ years prior to this he was not leading them.

Deu 29:5 And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not become old on you, and your shoe has not become old on your foot. 6 You have not eaten bread, neither have you drunk wine or strong drink, so that you might know that I am Jehovah your God. 7 And when you came to this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, came out against us to battle, and we struck them. 8 And we took their land and gave it for an inheritance to the Reubenites and to the Gadites and to the half tribe of Manasseh.

Everything we have read in Deuteronomy was read and summarized to the people of Israel by Moses in that 40th year since they crossed the Red Sea. Which was also the 38th year since the curse by Jehovah. But as we shared with you earlier Moses stated he was 80 when he first went to Pharaoh which we also showed you was approximately 3 ½ years before the Exodus.

We do not have all the answers as you can see. But Moses was reading this or saying this to the People of Israel and then once he had completed saying this to them in that 40th year since they crossed the Red Sea which was also the 38th year since the curse was given two years after they crossed the Red Sea; then in this same year Moses was charging Joshua and then again in this same 40th year since the Red Sea crossing Moses was to go up Mount Nebo and die in a valley near there at the age of 120 years.

Deu 31:1 And Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. 2 And he said to them, I am a hundred twenty years old today. I can no more go out and come in. Also Jehovah has said to me, You shall not go over this Jordan. 14 And Jehovah said to Moses, Behold, your days are coming near to die. Call Joshua and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, and I shall charge him. And Moses and Joshua went. And they presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation. 15 And Jehovah appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud. And the pillar of the cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle.

Deu 32:45 And Moses made an end of speaking all these words to all Israel. 46 And he said to them, Set your hearts to all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your sons to observe and to do, all the words of this Law. 47 For it is not a vain thing for you, because it is your life. And by this Word you shall prolong your days in the land where you go over Jordan, there to possess it. 48 And Jehovah spoke to Moses that same day, saying, 49 Go up into Mount Abarim, to Mount Nebo in the land of Moab, which is opposite Jericho; and behold the land of Canaan which I am giving to the sons of Israel for a possession. 50 And die in the mountain where you go up, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died in Mount Hor and was gathered to his people, 51 because you sinned against Me among the sons of Israel at the Waters of Strife in Kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not sanctify Me in the midst of the sons of Israel. 52 Yet you shall see the

land before you, but you shall not go there to the land which I am giving to the sons of Israel. 1 And Moses went up from the plains of Moab to the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah that is opposite Jericho. And Jehovah showed him all the land of Gilead, to Dan, 2 and all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, to the furthest sea, 3 and the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, to Zoar. 4 And Jehovah said to him, This is the land which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, I will give it to your seed. I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there. 5 And Moses the servant of Jehovah died there in the land of Moab, according to the Word of Jehovah. 6 And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor. But no man knows of his grave to this day. 7 And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eye was not dim, nor had he lost any of his natural strength.

From all of this we can state that Moses died in his 120th year, which was two years before the children of Israel crossed the Jordan to go into the Promised Land. That year that Moses died was the 38th year since Yehovah placed the curse on them on the 9th of Av. That same year that Moses died was the 40th year since they crossed the Red Sea.

Joshua and the children of Israel would have stayed where they were for another two years before crossing the Jordan. This would have been at the end of the 40th year of the curse from Yehovah, which began 2 years after they crossed the Red Sea. The year Israel went into the Promised Land was around Passover 2500 years after the Creation of Adam, which was a Jubilee year. The Year they entered the Promised Land was the year 1337 B.C.