

The Year Abraham Made the Covenant and Joshua Entered the Promised Land

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Shabbat Shalom Family,

With this week's News Letter, I will explain a simple and often not understood explanation of Biblical chronology. And as we are so close to the remembrance of the actual day that Israel came out of Egypt I thought I would share this and keep it very short. Now that we are in the final stages of delevaning our homes

I have used biblical information to arrive at the time of Abraham's birth. Certain prophecies were given to him during his life time. But exactly when, is up for discussion. So I have determined that some assumptions must be made. So let me lay out my assumptions and why I have arrived at this position.

Let's start Fresh.

There are 1948 years to the birth of Abraham. Our next important clue is the 430 years. 430 years from when to when?

Moses wrote in Exodus 12:40 Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. He then goes on to be even more specific in Exodus 12:41 At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt. What day is this? The 1st Day of Unleavened Bread.

Paul gives us some more help in Galatians 3: 16 The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. 17 What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. 18 For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

We are now getting down to the point. The 430 years began with the Promise. The Covenant. When did Yahweh make that promise to Abraham. Many say this was when he was 70 and left Ur of the Chaldeans. Not so because in Chapter 12 Abram was told to leave. 1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

4 So Abram left, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

He was 75 when he left. Now for the rest of Chapter 12 , 13, and 14 Abram needed time to travel Canaan, suffer the drought, go to Egypt, return from Egypt, split with Lot because the flocks had grown, which takes time. As well as time for Lot to get captured and for Abram to rescue him.

After all this then we have the promise Yahweh made to Abraham, in Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” 2 But Abram said, “O Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.” 4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” 5 He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

7 He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.” 8 But Abram said, “O Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?” 9 So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.” 10 Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. 11 Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

17 When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

In Genesis 17: 24 Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, 25 and his son Ishmael was thirteen; 26 Abraham and his son Ishmael were both circumcised on that same day. 27 And every male in Abraham’s household, including those born in his household or bought from a foreigner, was circumcised with him.

So by doing the math we know that Abraham was 85 when Chapter 16 took place and he went into Hagar, Sara's maid servant from Egypt. What we do not know exactly is the year of the covenant. But it was after 75 and before 85. This is very important.

We also have two other clues to deal with.

In Genesis 15: 13 Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. 15 You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. 16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

Let's look at the four generations first. We now go to 1 Chronicles 6: 1 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. 2 The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel. 3 The children of Amram: Aaron, Moses and Miriam.

We also have in Exodus 6: 20 Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, who bore him Aaron and Moses.

We have Jacob, Levi, Kohath, Amram, and Moses, who all went down into and out of Egypt. We can also look at Jacob Levi Jochebed and Moses who went down and back out of Egypt. Moses died just as they were going back into the promise land.

Now when we look at the 400 years we must read the scripture carefully. , "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.

These are Abraham's descendants. This includes Isaac. He lived in a land not his, as Canaan was not yet given to Abraham or his descendants.

We have the covenant given when Abraham was between 75 and 85 and then 430 years later leaving Egypt. We have Abraham's descendants mistreated for 400 years also and then leaving Egypt. Isaac was not born until Abraham was 100, so the 400 years must start after this time. But when?

Isaac was born when Abraham was 100. This would be 2048. We read in Genesis 21: 8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. 9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, 10 and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

How old is a child when it is weaned? It is after this time and again we are not told exactly when, but after this time that Ishmael is sent away. After Isaac has been weaned.

In Jewish tradition The modern method of celebrating one's becoming an adult is called a Bar Mitzvah and did not exist in the time of the Bible, Mishnah or Talmud. In passages in the books

of Exodus and Numbers, the age of majority for army service is noted to be twenty. The term “Bar Mitzvah” appears first in the Talmud, the codification of the Jewish oral Torah compiled in the early 1st millennium of the common era, to connote “an [agent] who is subject to scriptural commands,” and the age of thirteen is also mentioned in the Mishnah as the time one is obligated to observe the Torah’s commandments: “At five years old a person should study the Scriptures, at ten years for the Mishnah, at thirteen for the commandments...” The Talmud gives thirteen as the age at which a boy’s vows are legally binding, and states that this is a result of his being a “man,” as required in Numbers 6:2 Taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_mitzvah

As there is no Biblical prove to these two ages, I am going to say that the Covenant with Abraham was made when he was 80 years old and 430 years later they left Egypt. And the time of Isaac being mistreated would start when he was 10, so 400 years later would be the time they left Egypt..

My reasoning will become apparent shortly. Let’s first do some addition.

1948 for the birth of Abraham.

80 when the covenant made

430 years later is the Exodus.

2458 Total from the Creation of Adam to this time

2048 for the birth of Isaac

10 When the mistreatment by Ishmael began

400 years to the Exodus

2458 Total

So far things seem to be correct. We have more scriptures to consider, which must fit this line of thinking.

We now turn to Joshua 5: 10 Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. 11 And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. 12 Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

The importance of this verse is, that when the Israelites entered the land of Canaan on the very day of the wave sheaf offering the Manna stopped, and they had to now eat off the land the produce which they had not planted.

This brings us back to the law as told in Lev 25:

Lev 25:1 And the Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. 3 Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune

your vineyard, and gather its fruit; 4 but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. 5 What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land. 6 And the Sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you, 7 for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land—all its produce shall be for food. 8 'And you shall count seven Sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years.

Yahweh has told the Israelites that when they entered the land that they were to start to count out the years. When they entered the land they were to Count to 6 and the seventh year was to be a Sabbath year for the land. This was to start when they crossed over the Jordan.

When you put this all together you realize that this year, that they entered the land of Canaan, was a Jubilee year. It was also the first year in the count to the next Sabbatical year.

Again let's do some addition.

We have already shown that the Exodus is 2458 after the creation of Adam. This we had to do with two assumptions. One that Abraham was given the covenant at 80 and that the persecution of Isaac started when he was 10.

To confirm if all this is right and our assumptions too are correct we have to see if the year they entered the promised land was a Jubilee year. 2458 plus 40 years in the wilderness adds up to 2498. We are off by two years.

Once again this is where many make a mistake. They do not fully read the bible. Numbers 10: 11 Now it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle of the Testimony. 12 And the children of Israel set out from the Wilderness of Sinai on their journeys; then the cloud settled down in the Wilderness of Paran. 13 So they started out for the first time according to the command of the Lord by the hand of Moses.

Numbers 14:32 But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness. 33 And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. 34 According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection. 35 I the Lord have spoken this; I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.' ”

What day did this happen on. Tisha B'ab – 9th of Ab (the fifth month). The Mishnah relates that on this date the destruction of both the first and second Temples occurred, and three other national calamities befell the Jewish People: Hashem's decree denying entry to the Land of

Israel to the generation that exited Egypt, because of the transgression associated with the spies, that the people were fearful of proceeding to the land, capture of the great city of Bethar (by the Romans in 135 C. E., crushing the Bar Kokhba revolution) and the plowing of Jerusalem (see Jer. 26:18).

So now we have two years after the Exodus in the wilderness of Paran the penalty being given. 40 years.

Again we go back and add things up.

2458 up to the date of the Exodus

2 years at Mount Sinai

40 years wondering in the wilderness

2500 Total. And this is the year they entered the promised land. This is also a Jubilee year and it is also the first year in the count to the next Sabbatical year.

All of our calculations and assumptions all agree and support each other.

This year on the First day of Unleavened Bread, remember our ancestors who came out of Egypt on this very same day. On this very same day Yahweh made the covenant with Abraham. And on this very same day Joshua ate the produce of the land of Canaan. That year was a 50th Jubilee Year.

This first day of Unleavened Bread is an important day

Shalom

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