

1914			129		38
1913	ISRAEL IN EGYPT		130	430 years	39
1912			1	(Abib 15)	40
1911	"Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years" (Genesis 47:28).		2	2	41
1910			3	3	42
1909			4	4	43
1908			5	5	44
1907			6	6	45
1906			7	7	46
1905			8	8	47
1904			9	9	48
1903			10	10	49
1902			11	11	50
1901			12	12	51
1900			13	13	52
1899			14	14	53
1898			15	15	54
1897			16	16	55
1896			17	17	56
1895	1	1		18	57
1894	2	2		19	58
1893	3	3		20	59
1892	4	4		21	60
1891	5	5		22	61
1890	6	6		23	62
1889	7	7		24	63
1888	8	8		25	64
1887	9	9		26	65
1886	10	10		27	66
1885	11	11		28	67
1884	12	12		29	68
1883	13	13		30	69
1882	14	14		31	70
1881	15	15		32	71
1880	16	16		33	72
1879	17	17		34	73
1878	18	18		35	74
1877	19	19		36	75
1876	20	20		37	76
1875	21	21		38	77
1874	22	22		39	78
1873	23	23		40	79
1872	24	24		41	80
1871	25	25		42	81
1870	26	26		43	82
1869	27	27		44	83
1868	28	28		45	84
1867	29	29		46	85
1866	30	30		47	86
1865	31	31		48	87
1864	32	32		49	88
1863	33	33		50	89

"Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years" (Genesis 47:28).

"about... 450 (= 458) years" of Acts 13:20.

"400 (= 413) years" of servitude of Genesis 15:13 and Acts 7:6.

Jacob dies at the age of 147 years.

430 years 'to the day' of the Exodus

Both the day Jacob and his family entered into Egypt and the day of the Israelites' Exodus out of Egypt occurred exactly 430 years apart, such period starting and ending on "even the self same day" (Exodus 12:41). Although such phrase may appear to present only a simple emphasis, such cannot be the case since there is no previously mentioned subject to make sense of such an emphasis. However when the emphasis is taken grammatically as being related to something earlier, the meaning ceases to be a simple emphasis but stands as an emphatic comparison. And with the compared events being exactly 430 years apart, the dates of such events would obviously be the same. Thus with the second of the dates being well known as the first day of the Exodus on the 15th of Abib (Numbers 33:3), then the earlier event likewise occurred on the same date, which reveals that the date Jacob and his family entered Egypt was the 15th of Abib.

430 years of the Abrahamic covenant

430 years before the law was given at Sinai by Moses (Galatians 3:17), "the covenant" God had made with Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation (Genesis 17:1-7), was 'confirmed' to Jacob on his way to Egypt (35:9-12), where his seed would remain for a period of 430 years until the Exodus and subsequent giving of the law (Genesis 15:13; 46:1-3; Exodus 12:40,41;19:1ff.).

The "about four hundred and fifty years" before Canaan

Relative to the establishing of the Israelite nation in Canaan, Acts 13:17-20 records "The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers...in the land of Egypt" and later "divided their land to them by lot"; and "gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until (the start of administration of) Samuel the prophet".

While this standard reading of the English KJV translation necessarily implies that 'about 450 years' denoted all the judges up until Samuel, nowhere near 450 years can fit such period. Further, on an examination of the Greek texts it is apparent that the translated order of the English words in the KJV are inverted from the primary order of the Greek text, that is, the verbal order of the Greek text indicates the judges began at a time after the 450 years, not before.

Accordingly the opening phrase in Acts 13:20, "And after that he gave unto them judges", must by default apply to a prior occasion than the period of judges, that is, to the event related in verse 17, when "our fathers" were "chosen" in Egypt as "the twelve tribes of Israel"- at the time of Jacob's death (Genesis 49:1,25,28), which unlike the KJV's rendering, accommodates the 450 years harmoniously. Thus with the time from Jacob's death to the allotment of the land being "about...450 years", such given round figure can be measured on the modern calendar as having spanned from 1895 B.C. to 1437 B.C., that is, as occupying a period of 458 years.

3 concurrent perspectives of the '400 years without a homeland'

Genesis 15:13 states that Abraham's "seed (would) be...stranger(s) in a land that is not theirs, and...serve them; and (be) afflict(ed)...four hundred years". However, there are 3 distinct elements in this figure of 400 years: 1) being 'strangers', 2) being 'servants' and 3) being 'afflicted'. That is, there are 3 concurrent periods associated with the 400 years, each ending at the Exodus.

The first was the full period in Egypt as 'strangers', starting from Jacob's arrival there down to the Exodus. The second period of 'servitude' started from the time of Jacob's death and proceeded also to the Exodus. The third of 'affliction' started some years after the death of Joseph when a new pharaoh began to reign. Hence the figure of 400 years must be seen not as an exact figure but as generalised for that span of history.

Consequently, the 3 elements in the 400 years may be seen as denoting that:

Firstly, the total period as strangers in Egypt was "four hundred and thirty years (to the day)" (Exodus 12:40,41),

Secondly, the period of servitude began 17 years after Jacob's arrival in Egypt when he died, such servitude applying to the plural "seed" or "children of (Jacob, called) Israel" (Exodus 1:1-7), where at this time they became wholly subject to Egyptian rule and were well treated as Joseph's "servants" (Genesis 47:28; 49:(28), 33; 50:(12-)15,18), such period of servitude being (430-17 =) 413 years,

Thirdly, the period of affliction (Exodus 1:11) began over 70 years after Jacob entered Egypt, that is, since Joseph was some 40 years old when Jacob entered Egypt (Genesis 41:46,47,53,54; 42:1f.; 45:6) and he lived a further 70 years (to the age of 110 - cf.50:22), then Israel's affliction which began after his death (Exodus 1:6-8f.), could not have been longer than (430-70 =) 360 years.

Thus the 400 years of Genesis 15:13 (and Acts 7:6) is taken as a general figure for 1) 430 years, 2) 413 years, and 3) 360 (maximum) years.