

	February	Adar							
	March		ELI	480 years		PHILISTINES		TIGLATH-PILESER I	
		Abib	40	375		40		7	
	April	Ziv	While the south-western oppression by the Philistines was continuing, the people of central Israel attempted to overthrow them but were defeated because of the "iniquity of Eli's house" (1 Samuel 3:11-14; 4:1,10f.).						
	May	Sivan							
	June	Tammuz			SAMUEL				
	July	Ab			32				
	August	Elul					SAMSON		
	September	Ethanim	"Now Eli was ninety and eight years old....and he died" having "judged Israel forty years" (1 Samuel 4:15,18).						
	October	Bul							
	November	Chislev							
	December	Tebeth	With Eli being the last of the "judges until Samuel the prophet" (Acts 13:20), the next chronological event occurs some 40 years later when the Israelites "desired a king" so as to join in with the surrounding pagan nations (verse 21).						
1107	January	Shebat	For 20 years after "the men of Kirjath-jearim came, and fetched up the ark" from the Philistines, the Israelites continued to serve "strange gods" (1 Samuel 7:1-3).						
	February	Adar							
	March			480 years		20 years of 1 Samuel 7:2		TIGLATH-PILESER I	
		Abib	1	376		1		8	
	April	Ziv	40 years of Acts 13:21						
	May	Sivan							
	June	Tammuz			SAMUEL				
	July	Ab			33				
	August	Elul					SAMSON		
	September	Ethanim					10		
	October	Bul	Devastation of 3 Philistine cities After (western) Israel had been under "the hand of the Philistines forty years" (Judges 13:1), "the Philistines took the ark of God", at which time the cities of Ashdod, Gath and Ekron, were plagued "with a very great destruction" (1 Samuel 5:1-12), after which their hostility toward Israel and Yahweh lessened (cf. 6:5,6f.).						
	November	Chislev							
	December	Tebeth							
1106	January	Shebat							
	February	Adar							
	March		40 years	480 years		20 years		TIGLATH-PILESER I	
		Abib	2	377		2		9	
	April								

The "forty years" of Acts 13:21

Acts 13:21 mentions a 40 year period associated with king Saul which prima facie indicates the length of his reign. Such period is mentioned in an address as one of several relative to the Israelite nation's establishment in their new land. However although this verse clearly associates Saul with a 40 year reign, such association could not have been intended by the original writer who was then conversant with the history of the time, since an immediate 20 year dislocation of events becomes discernible, that is, not only is a precise timeline from the year of the Exodus until the 4th year of Solomon made to appear some 20 years too short, but in addition, Saul's young daughter Michal who Saul gave David for a wife would be some 20 years older than him rather than of a compatible age in keeping with a favoured prospective son-in-law. Further, such association requires the considerations that the type of friendship between David and Saul's son Jonathan was one of a generation apart, rather than that within a peer group, and also compels Saul's age when he went to battle to be about an implausible 81 years old.

Since adopting a 40 year reign for Saul causes an implausibility and dislocated timing of events, where a reign of some 20 years less presents none, another period relative to Saul must be intended, one which can only have immediately preceded him. By equating the 40 years of Acts 13:21 with the period when Samuel was the nation's seniormost authority, a length of Saul's reign which causes no conflicts is some 20 years. Consistent with this figure, the historian Josephus records that "Saul... reigned eighteen years while Samuel was alive, and after his death two" (Antiquities VI,xiv,9), not the 40 years of Acts 13:21.

Further, any enlargement on Josephus' figure for Saul's reign is therefore incompatible with both the Biblical and Josephus' account of Saul's death which occurred not 20 years after Samuel's, but far closer to it [that is, about 2 years after Samuel's death Saul sought to contact him through a 'medium' and was shortly after that killed in battle].

However a period of 40 years is connected with Saul in that such ended when he took over the nation's seniormost position, that is, on the occasion he was made king by Samuel who was then "old and gray-headed" after having "judged Israel...from year to year" for some time (1 Samuel 7:15,16; 12:2).

Therefore with a 20 year reign of Saul being in accord with the structure and sequence of events of that era, the account in Acts 13:21 which mentions a "space of forty years" must be linked not to following Saul's accession but immediately prior to it, where the original writer of that passage in referring to the (chronologically determined) period of Samuel's administration, intended such to mean, 'And after the space of forty years, they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul..'.