

HOW LONG WAS THE SOJOURNING OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL?

- a) In **Gen. 15:13-16** it says that Abraham’s seed shall be strangers and afflicted for _____ yrs.
 - b) In **Acts 7:6** it again says that they would sojourn, be in bondage and evil entreated for _____ yrs.
 - c) In **Exod. 12:40-41** we find out that it was _____ yrs.
 - Does the Bible contradict itself? Was someone wrong in their figuring? How can we determine the truth?
 - This particular example will show us why we need to rightly divide the word of God as written in 2 Tim. 2:15. It will also show us that we need to be familiar with all the scriptures and it will bring out some other hidden truths as we look for the answer.
 - The best way to determine the time involved is to follow the chronology from Abraham to the time of the deliverance.
- Gen. 21:5** Abraham was _____ yrs. old when Isaac was born.
Gen. 25:26 Isaac was _____ yrs. old when Jacob and Esau were born.
- So far we have _____ yrs.
 - In order to find Jacobs age, we have to jump around in scripture so hang on!

Gen. 41:46 Joseph was _____ yrs. old when he stood before Pharaoh.

Gen. 41:47-48 There were _____ yrs. of _____.

Gen. 45:3-6 When he revealed himself to his brothers, they were _____ yrs. into the _____.

- _____ yrs. of _____ plus _____ yrs. into the _____ equals _____ yrs. more.
 - This makes Joseph _____ yrs. old when his family was going to move into Egypt.
- Gen. 47:9** Jacob tells Pharaoh that he is _____ yrs. old at this time.
- Subtract Joseph’s age from Jacob’s: _____ - _____ = _____ yrs old. Jacob was _____ yrs. old at Joseph’s birth.

Abraham has Isaac-_____

Isaac lives til Jacob born-_____

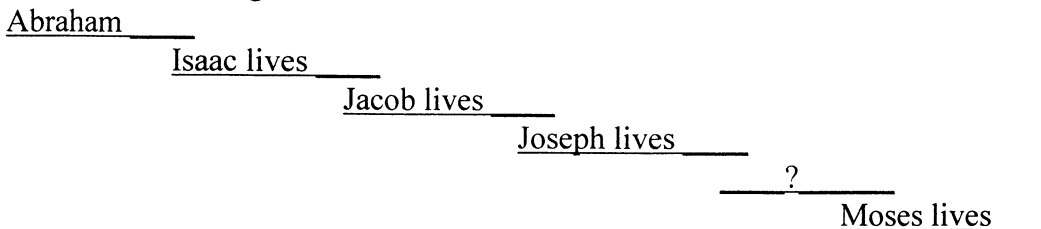
Jacob lives until Joseph born-_____

Gen. 50:26 We find that : ----- Joseph lives to be-_____

- Now we have ___ + ___ + ___ = _____ yrs.

Exod. 7:7 Moses was _____ yrs. old when he led Israel out of Egypt

- So now our diagram looks like this:



Deliverance!

- If we add Moses' ___ to the ___ we have, we end up with _____ yrs. and an unknown amount from the death of Joseph to the birth of Moses.
- How can we find the unknown factor and also resolve if it is 400 yrs. or 430 yrs. for the total time?
- If you look back at the portions of scripture in Gen. 15:13-16 and Acts 7:6, you will see that the key words are '**your seed**'. The seed of Abraham was Isaac. If the sojourning of the seed started with him and was to be 400 yrs., then we need to subtract our 341 yrs. from the 400 total yrs. and we find then that our unknown number between Joseph's death and the birth of Moses is _____ yrs. The question is "Is this correct?" Could we be wrong with the numbers?"
- Finding the answer to the 430 yrs. will confirm the numbers found above.

In the Samaritan Pentateuch, as well as the Alexandrian copy of the Septuagint, the passage in **Exod. 12:40** reads as follows: "Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, and of their fathers, which they sojourned in the land of Canaan and in the land of Egypt, was 430 years." This shows that the 430 yrs. was a combined total of the fathers and the children of Israel.

- This actually gives the clearest meaning. Scripture itself will verify that.

Gal. 3:14-18 says that the law was 430 yrs. *after the promise* was given to Abraham.

Gen.12:1-4 God spoke to Abraham and made his promise, v. 4 then says Abraham left Haran when he was 75 yrs. old. Was this when promise was given? No!

Acts 7:2-4 God spoke to Abraham *in Mesopotamia, before* he dwelt in Haran. The length of time that he dwelt at Haran is an unknown, but we will fill in the blank shortly.

Promise given in Mesopotamia

Dwelt in Haran-?

75 when left Haran

100 when Isaac born

- **Gal. 3:14-18** makes it clear that there were 430 yrs. *from* the promise *to* the giving of the law.
- If we have 400 yrs. from Isaac to the deliverance, then we are missing 30 yrs. Twenty five of those years are found from the time Abraham left Haran (75 yrs. old) until the birth of Isaac (100 yrs. old).

Abraham must have dwelt in Haran for approx. **5 years**. This gives us 430 yrs. total from the time of the promise to the time of the deliverance. It also gives us the 400 yrs. of the seed. **No other numbers could fit in those slots!**

- **Exod. 12:41** says that at the end of the 430 yrs., *even the selfsame day*, they went out of Egypt! Does God keep his word or what?

OTHER INTERESTING TRUTHS IN THIS STUDY

A. Jacob's age

Gen. 30:25-32 Jacob had worked for his wives and now Joseph was born and he wanted to leave. Laban talked him into staying and he was going to work for the flocks.

Gen. 31:41 Jacob worked 14 yrs. for his wives and six years for the cattle.

- As we already determined that Jacob was 91 yrs. old when Joseph was born, subtract the 14 yrs. that he worked for the cattle and you will see that Jacob was **77 yrs. old** when he left home because he had cheated Esau out of the blessing.
- If he was 77 yrs. old when he got there and worked 20 yrs. before he left Laban, that means that he was **97 yrs. old** when he wrestled with the angel. One tough old dude!

B. The surety of God's word.

Gen. 15:16 in the fourth generation they will come out. The following verses verify that!

Gen. 46:8,12 these came into Egypt, Hezron is named

Matt. 1:3-4 this lists four generations from Hezron to Nahshon

Num. 1:7 Nahshon was the head of the house of Judah coming out of Egypt

- God again kept his word, in the fourth generation they came out.

QUESTIONS

1. Do you think God has other truths that are 'hidden' in the scriptures?
2. How will seeing 'buried' truths like the ones we looked at change your outlook on bible study?
3. What do you think it takes in order to find hidden truths? (Are there certain principles or practices that need to be applied?)
4. How important is it to have a good overall understanding of the scriptures?
5. What can you do to improve your study habits?