

# Chronology of the 430 years of Exodus 12:40

David Austin

There has been considerable debate for many years as to whether:

1. The children of Israel actually lived in Egypt for a total period of 430 years, i.e. from the arrival of Jacob, and 'the souls that came with Jacob' (Genesis 46:26) to Egypt, until the Exodus;<sup>1-4</sup> or
2. (i) 'The sojourning of the children of Israel' (Exodus 12:40) was spread over two separate periods; 215 years in Canaan and 215 years in Egypt totalling 430 years, (ii) And the phrase, 'who dwelt in Egypt' (Exodus 12:40), means 'who dwelt at that time in Egypt'.<sup>5-9</sup>

The chronology presented here provides a timeline for the sojourn of the children of Israel in Canaan for 215 years, followed by a 215-year sojourn in Egypt.

The NIV translation of Exodus 12:40 reads, 'Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years.' However, the translation from the LXX, 'And the sojourning of the children of Israel, while they sojourned in the land of Egypt and the land of Chanaan, was four hundred and thirty years', also referred to by Downs with conviction,<sup>6</sup> gives a better understanding of the meaning of this verse, and does no harm to the translation of the Masoretic Text.

## References

1. Williams, P., Reply to Letter, Sojourn of the Jews, *Journal of Creation* 15(1):60-61, 2001.
2. Bryant Wood, the Associates for Biblical Research; referred to in p. 54 of Down, D., Searching for Moses, *Journal of Creation* 15(1):53-57, 2001.

### 215 Years in Canaan

1. Abram's entrance into Canaan from Haran at 75 years of age (Genesis 12:1-4). <sup>10-13</sup>	2083 AM <sup>21</sup>										
2. Abram's marriage to Hagar 10 years after he had dwelt in Canaan (Genesis 16:3).	2093 AM										
3. Isaac born when Abram was 100 years old (Genesis 21:5). Abram born in 2008 AM, <sup>12,14</sup> 75 years before leaving Haran.	2108 AM										
4. Isaac 'weaned' and Ishmael cast out 5 years after Isaac's birth, <sup>12,15</sup> and 30 years after Abram's 'sojourn' commenced in Canaan. The period of 400 years of affliction (Genesis 15:13) begins with the acknowledgement of Abram's seed and his heir by the casting out of Hagar and Ishmael. This took place at the time of 'the great feast' for Isaac (cf. Genesis 21:8-10; Galatians 4:22-31; Genesis 15:13, 14).	2113 AM										
5. Isaac marries Rebekah when he was 40 years old (Genesis 25:20).	2148 AM										
6. Birth of Esau and Jacob when Isaac was 60 years old (Genesis 25:26).	2168 AM										
7. Abram dies at 175 years (Genesis 25:7).	2183 AM										
8. Esau's marriage (aged 40; Genesis 26:34).	2208 AM										
9. Jacob goes to Padan Aram at the age of 77. <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>a. Jacob's age when he went to Egypt (Genesis 47:1-9)</td> <td>= 130 years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Less 2 years of famine (Genesis 45:6)</td> <td>= -2 years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. Less 7 years of plenty (Genesis 41:47)</td> <td>= -7 years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d. Less Joseph's age before 7 years of plenty. He was 30 years at that time (Genesis 41:46)</td> <td>= -30 years</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e. Less 14 years of service for Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29:20-28)</td> <td>= -14 years</td> </tr> </table> Therefore, Jacob's age at Padan Aram = 77 years	a. Jacob's age when he went to Egypt (Genesis 47:1-9)	= 130 years	b. Less 2 years of famine (Genesis 45:6)	= -2 years	c. Less 7 years of plenty (Genesis 41:47)	= -7 years	d. Less Joseph's age before 7 years of plenty. He was 30 years at that time (Genesis 41:46)	= -30 years	e. Less 14 years of service for Leah and Rachel (Genesis 29:20-28)	= -14 years	2245 AM
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10. Jacob serves for 7 years and marries Leah.	2252 AM										
11. Jacob marries Rachel, serves 7 years for her and then Joseph is born. (Jacob was 130 years when he went to Egypt in 2298 AM, Jacob was 77 years when he went to Padan Aram in 2245 AM and Joseph was born 14 years after service to Laban in 2259 AM <sup>16,17</sup> ).	2259 AM										
12. Joseph stands before Pharaoh (aged 30) and before the '7 years' of plenty (see 9d above).	2289 AM										
13. Add '7 years of plenty' according to (Genesis 41:47).	2296 AM										
14. After 2 years of famine (5 years still remained according to Genesis 45:6), Jacob was 130 years old (Genesis 47:9) when he went to Egypt (at that time Joseph was 39).	2298 AM										
If we do a simple calculation, 2298 AM (Jacob goes to Egypt) less 2083 AM (Abram's entrance to Canaan as a sojourner) = 215 years exactly!											

### 215 years in Egypt

1. Death of Jacob 17 years later at the age of 147 (Genesis 47:28 cf. 47:9).	2315 AM			
2. Death of Joseph at 110 years. (Genesis 50:26). Born 2259 AM, died 2369 AM.	2369 AM			
3. Birth of Moses; <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>a. Exodus at 2513 am<sup>18-20</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Plus 40 years in the wilderness before entering Canaan = 2513 + 40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c. Less 120 years, i.e. age at his death (Deuteronomy 34:7)</td> </tr> </table> Therefore, Moses' birth = 2553 - 120 = 2433 AM (birth).	a. Exodus at 2513 am <sup>18-20</sup>	b. Plus 40 years in the wilderness before entering Canaan = 2513 + 40	c. Less 120 years, i.e. age at his death (Deuteronomy 34:7)	2433 AM
a. Exodus at 2513 am <sup>18-20</sup>				
b. Plus 40 years in the wilderness before entering Canaan = 2513 + 40				
c. Less 120 years, i.e. age at his death (Deuteronomy 34:7)				
4. Exodus.	2513 AM			
Note that 2513 AM (Exodus) less 2298 AM (entrance of Jacob into Egypt) = 215 years exactly!				

3. New International Version (NIV), Zondervan Bible Publishers. In Exodus 12:40, the NIV states, 'Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years.'
4. Revised Standard Version (RSV). In Exodus 12:40, the RSV states, 'The time that the people of Israel dwelt in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.'
5. Ussher, J., *The Annals of the World*, Master Books, Green Forest, AR, 2003; Compare No. 139, p. 31, with No. 192, p. 39, and also with No. 72, p. 25.
6. Down, D., Reply to Letter, *Biblical Chronology, Journal of Creation* 18(1):58, 2001.
7. Viccary, W.M., Biblical chronology—our times are in his hands, *Journal of Creation* 21(1):62–67, 2007.
8. Mauro, P., *The Wonders of Bible Chronology*, Grace Abounding Ministries, Sterling, VA, pp. 1–5, 1987.
9. Septuagint (LXX) (<[www.ecmarsh.com/lxx/Exodus/index.htm](http://www.ecmarsh.com/lxx/Exodus/index.htm)>). In Exodus 12:40, the LXX states, 'And the sojourning of the children of Israel, while they sojourned in the land of Egypt and the land of Chanaan, was four hundred and thirty years.'
10. Ussher, ref. 5, No. 72, p. 25.
11. Anstey, M., *The Romance of Bible Chronology*, Marshall Brothers, London, 1913, <[www.preteristarchive.com/Books/1913\\_anstey\\_romance.html](http://www.preteristarchive.com/Books/1913_anstey_romance.html)>.
12. Mauro, ref. 8, p. 28.
13. Beechick, R., Chronology for everybody, *Journal of Creation* 15(3):67–73, 2001.
14. Ussher, ref. 5, No. 86, p. 26, and No. 64, p. 22.
15. Ussher, ref. 5, No. 87, p. 26.
16. Ussher, ref. 5, No. 122, p. 29.
17. Mauro, ref. 8, p. 29.
18. Mauro, ref. 8, p. 36.
19. Anstey, ref. 11; 'From the going down into Egypt, AN.HOM. 2298, to the Exodus, AN. HOM. 2513, is 215 years.'
20. Ussher, ref. 5, No. 192, p. 39.
21. AM = Anno Mundi, year of the world (since Creation).

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## Errata

### *Journal of Creation* 20(3)

- Line, P., review of Fazale Rana's and Hugh Ross' book *Who was Adam*. A statement published was incorrect and should have read:

'Here they characterize the approach taken by creationists as largely attacking human evolutionary models, but seldom offering "a viable theory of their own" (p.12). They also portray creationists as often attacking the integrity of evolutionary biologists and anthropologists "with accusations of deception and conspiracy theories" (p. 12).'

The misstatement was caused by a misunderstanding between the author of the article and editors of the journal. The author Peter Line and the Editorial Team of the *Journal of Creation* sincerely apologize to Fazale Rana and Hugh Ross for this mistake.

- Lightner, J., Identification of species within the sheep-goat kind (Tsoan monobaramin). On page 61, the letters in the Hebrew words are back to front and should read as follows:

צאן (*šō'n*), שה (*śeh*), יעלה/יעל (*yā'ēl/ya'ālā*),  
אילה/איל (*'ayyāl/'ayyālā*).

- Lovett, T., Which cubit for Noah's Ark? On page 77, reference 12 should say "... 35,000 individual vertebrate animals...", not "invertebrate".
- Bergman, J., Kinsey, Darwin and the sexual revolution. On page 114, bottom of left column, Kinsey was aged 62, not 69, at his death.

### *Journal of Creation* 20(2)

- Murdock, M., These apes were made for walking: the pelvis of *Australopithecus afarensis* and *Australopithecus africanus*. In figure 1 on page 105, the caption should also have said: 'the pelvis on the right is that of a male chimpanzee'.