

Comfortably numb

I have been enjoying the details of the Book of Jasher, and have been thrilled to discover many revelations of people and situations which are only lightly described in the Bible. Yesterday I came across the following in Jasher and it made me concerned, as I had remembered it differently in Genesis and Exodus. I felt numb.

The children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot besides the little ones and their wives. Also a mixed multitude went up with them, flocks and herds, even much cattle. The temporary time of the children of Israel who lived in the land of Egypt in hard labor was two hundred and ten years. And at the end of two hundred and ten years, the Lord brought forth the children of Israel from Egypt with a strong hand. (Jasher 81:1-4)

Yes, there it is 210 years!

Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions." (Gen 15:13-14)

Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years - on that very same day - it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. (Exo 12:40-41)

Okay, now I was beginning to panic, I've read 80 chapters of Jasher and now I find a mistake! I went back to Genesis and started to investigate calmly.

Now these were the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben was Jacob's firstborn. The sons of Reuben were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul. The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron. The sons of Zebulun were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel. These were the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Padan Aram, with his daughter Dinah. All the persons, his sons and his daughters, were thirty-three. (Gen 46:8-15)

And the sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. And the years of the life of Kohath were one hundred and thirty-three. The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of Levi according to their generations. Now Amram took for himself Jochebed, his father's sister, as wife; and she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of the life of Amram were one hundred and thirty-seven. (Exo 6:18-20)

Then Moses and Aaron did so; just as the Lord commanded them, so they did. And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh. (Exo 7:6-7)

According to these verses :-

- 1) Jacob, Levi and Kohath entered Egypt. Amram and Jochebed, Kohath's sister were born later.
- 2) Kohath, the father of Amram, lived a total of one hundred and thirty-three years.
- 3) Amram, the father of Moses and Aaron, lived a total of one hundred and thirty-seven years.

If you add up the lives of Kohath, Amram and Moses, $133 + 137 + 80 = 350$ years!!!

This is very short of 430 and 400 years, and far too much for 210 years!!!

Okay that approach doesn't work!!! So I went back to the Book of Jasher.

It was the fifteenth year of Abram's dwelling in the land of Canaan, which is the seventieth year of the life of Abram, the Lord appeared to Abram in that year and said to him, I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur Casdim to give you this land for an inheritance. Now therefore walk before me and be perfect and keep my commands, for to you and to your descendants I will give this land for an inheritance, from the river Mitzraim to the great river Euphrates. (Jasher 13:17-18)

Abraham called the name of the son which Sarah gave birth to him, Isaac. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac at eight days old, as God had commanded Abraham to do to his descendants after him; Abraham was one hundred and Sarah was ninety years old when Isaac was born to them. (Jasher 21:2-3)

It was about that time that Abraham died, in the fifteenth year of the life of Jacob and Esau, the sons of Isaac, and all the days of Abraham were one hundred and seventy-five years. He died and was gathered to his people in good old age, old and satisfied with days, and Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him. (Jasher 26:29)

Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years, and the days of Jacob, and the years of his life were a hundred and forty seven years. (Jasher 56:1)

And the children of Levi were Gershon, Kehath and Merari, and their sister Jochebed, who was born to them in their going down to Egypt. (Jasher 59:9)

There was a man in the land of Egypt of the children of Levi, whose name was Amram, the son of Kehath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel. And this man went and took a wife, namely Jochebed the daughter of Levi his father's sister, and she was one hundred and twenty-six years old, and he came to her. And the woman conceived and gave birth to a daughter, and she called her name Miriam, because in those days the Egyptians had embittered the lives of the children of Israel. She conceived again and gave birth to a son and she called his name Aaron, for in the days of her conception, Pharaoh began to spill the blood of the male children of Israel. (Jasher 67:2-4)

In the fifty-fifth year of the reign of Pharaoh king of Egypt, that is in the hundred and fifty-seventh year of the Israelites going down into Egypt, Moses reigned in Cush. Moses was twenty-seven years old when he began to reign over Cush, and forty years he did reign. (Jasher 73:1-2)

According to these verses :-

- 1) Abram was seventy years old when the Lord blesses, and tells him of the inheritance of his descendants.
- 2) Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born.
- 3) When Abraham dies at one hundred and seventy-five years old Jacob is 15 years old.
- 4) Jacob was one hundred and thirty years old when he goes down to Egypt.
- 5) Moses was born one hundred and thirty years after the Israelites entered Egypt.
- 6) Moses was eighty years old when he led the Israelites out of Egypt.

When Abraham first receives the promise, he is 70 years old. One hundred and five years later, he dies, Jacob is fifteen. One hundred and fifteen years later, Jacob goes down to Egypt. One hundred and thirty years later, Moses is born. Eighty years later Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt.

Therefore : 105 + 115 + 130 + 80 = 430 years. Bingo!

Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions." (Gen 15:13-14)

Remember Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and sons were all strangers in the land. And from when Isaac was born till the Israelites left Egypt, was 400 years, so this agrees.

Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years - on that very same day - it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. (Exo 12:40-41)

From the first promise to Abram at 70 years of age till the Israelites left Egypt, was 430 years, so this also agrees.

The temporary time of the children of Israel who lived in the land of Egypt in hard labor was two hundred and ten years. (Jasher 81:3)

So the Israelites were in Egypt for 210 years, not exactly what I would call temporary!!!

Quotes from :

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Available from Amazon.com. You can buy two books for 430 years. Oops sorry, R430!!!

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