

The background features a light pink color with a large, stylized silhouette of a hand reaching out from the left side. The hand is rendered in a darker shade of pink, with fingers slightly spread. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

Old Testament Sojourn in Egypt

GOD IN HISTORY

The importance of God in History

- If God did not act in history then he does not act today.
- "...the Old Testament, including its historical narratives, flow toward their inexorable goal ... That goal is the incarnation and redemptive work of Christ in the first century."
- "God is determined to act in time and space to redeem his people."

- Steinmann, Andrew. From Abraham to Paul: A Biblical Chronology: A Biblical Chronology (p. 2). Concordia Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

The importance of God in History

- The authors ... the Old and New Testaments firmly rooted their texts in history ... that enable us to locate these events in past time. ...[That] serve as anchors in time for the narratives of God's work, but they also invite us to investigate the chronology of biblical events, thereby reassuring us of **God's intimate involvement with our own lives.**
- Steinmann, Andrew. From Abraham to Paul: A Biblical Chronology: A Biblical Chronology (p. 4). Concordia Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

Not always easy to place events in history

- Exodus 12:40 "The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years." (Hebrew Qumran & Masoretic texts)
 - "Obviously" from Jacob to Moses, Israelites in Egypt for 430 years
- Is the extant Masoretic text "perfect" and inerrant?
- 1 Sam 13:1 "Saul lived for one year and then became king, and when he had reigned for two years over Israel..."
- "Corrupted" text – what is missing?
- Saul lived for (some # "and") one year and then became king, and when he had reigned for two years over Israel...

Israel's Sojourn in Egypt

- If Israel had been in Egypt 430 years since Jacob entered:
 - Israelites slaves for 2 to 3 centuries after death of Levi (Ex. 6:16)
 - This was a particularly brutal slavery involving infanticide
 - If true: duration, scope and brutality of slavery unusual in history
 - This type & duration of slavery would **break the spirit of a people**
- What was God's purpose in enslaving Israel?
 - To discipline his people.
 - To manifestly demonstrate his power and glory to them & others.
 - To encourage his people to **trust Him in all circumstances**.
- How can a long and brutal slavery be reconciled with God's purpose for his people and his glory?

Israel's Sojourn in Egypt

- Ex 1:8 ... a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.
- Ex 1:15 ... they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.
- Ex 1:22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."
- Ex 2:10 ... She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."
- There is a sense of "immediacy" in these actions occurring "quickly" rather than over centuries or even decades.

Assume Israel's Sojourn was ~215 years

- ~85 years prior to Exodus (i.e. c 1530 BC) Sobekhotep III, 26th ruler of the 13th dynasty, was a usurper to the throne.
- This occurred ~130 years after Jacob entered Egypt.
- In 130 years the Israelites could have numbered ~15K
 - About 4% growth rate/year (very high for a sustained period)
- Moses adopted son of Pharaoh: 2nd century BC Jewish historian, Artapanus: Moses battled a Kushite invasion and married a Kushite princess to seal the peace treaty.
 - Num 12:1 "Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married..."

Sojourn – four generations

- Gen. 15:13-16; God is speaking to Abraham "...your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there,... 16And they shall come back here in the fourth generation,..."
- Gen. 46:8; "...these are the names of the descendants of Israel, who came into Egypt,... The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari." (Kohath is 2nd generation)
- Num. 26:58-59; "...Kohath was the father of Amram... she bore to Amram Aaron and Moses..." **Moses is 4th gen**
- If Kohath and Amram fathered at age ~65 then Moses would have been born ~130 years after the start of sojourn in Egypt
- **If sojourn was 430 years then Kohath and Amram would not have fathered children until age ~175** ($430-80=350/2=175$)
 - Ex. 6:18&20; Kohath lived 133 yrs. and Amram lived 137 yrs.

Theologians who hold to ~215 yr sojourn

Demetrius of Alexandria (210 BC), the early Church Fathers (Tertullian), plus Bishop Eusebius, Saint Augustine, Saint Anselm, Thomas Aquinas, Henry Ainsworth (early 1600s), Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Gill, John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, Matthew Henry, Matthew Poole, Sir Isaac Newton (who wrote more on the Bible than physics), Floyd Nolen Jones, Archbishop James Ussher, William Whiston, Adam Clarke, David Wright (Answers in Genesis 2010), and Glen Fritz (2016).

430 years starting(?) ending w/Exodus

- Is it possible the Masoretic text of Ex 12:40 was corrupted?
- There are three other records that indicate the 430 years started with Abraham's arrival in Canaan and Egypt.
- 1. They (the Israelites) left Egypt in the month of Zanthicus, on the fifteenth day of the lunar month; four hundred and thirty years after our forefather Abraham came into Canaan, but two hundred and fifteen years only after Jacob entered Egypt. [Josephus: Antiquities of the Jews, Chapter XV:2]
- Rohl, David. Exodus – Myth or History? (p. 113). Thinking Man Media. Kindle Edition.

430 years starting(?) ending w/Exodus

- 2. And the sojourning of the children of Israel – that is which they sojourned in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan – was four hundred and thirty years. [Exodus 12:40, Septuagint version]
- 3. Now the sojourning of the children of Israel and of their fathers when they had dwelt in the land of Canaan and in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. [Exodus 12:40, Samaritan (Aramaic) Pentateuch]
- Rohl, David. Exodus – Myth or History? (p. 113). Thinking Man Media. Kindle Edition.

430 years starting(?) ending w/Exodus

- Galatians 3:16-17 ...the promises were made to Abraham... the law, which came 430 years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God...
 - Moses received the law 430 yrs after Abraham's covenant w/God
- However Gen 15:13 (Stephen cited in Acts) Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for **four hundred years**."
 - Can this be reconciled with 215 year sojourn in Egypt?
 - Only if the affliction included more than slavery, i.e. "conflict."
 - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob: troubled, unsettled even in Canaan...
- 430 yrs. in Egypt is incompatible with majority of scripture

What is history?

- Scripture is both theological and historical – both require study, thought and interpretation, and each supports the other.
- "The past is what happened, while **history is just our best guess as to what happened**. Our ancient history books are constantly changing as new evidence comes to light to affect the details of our understanding of the past. In the case of the Old Testament narratives [interpretation] it is not just the details but the whole historical landscape that is in need of reappraisal. The pattern of evidence clearly indicates that the Middle Bronze Age date for the Sojourn and Exodus is far more consistent with the biblical narratives than any Late Bronze Age setting. And precisely the same applies to the Conquest."

Patriarch ages in scripture

- Gen 37:2; Joseph 17 when sold into slavery
- Gen 41:46; Joseph 30 when made suzerain of Egypt
- Gen 41:47; seven years of plenty
- Gen 47:9; Jacob, at 130, enters Egypt after few yrs famine
 - That would make Joseph about 40 when at start of sojourn
- Gen 50:22; Joseph dies at age 110 (70 years into sojourn)
- Ex 6:16; Levi dies age 137 (Levi ~4 yrs older than Joseph)
 - Levi dies ~93 yrs into sojourn; slavery started after Levi's death
 - If 430 years does that imply 300 years or more of slavery?
 - If ~215 year sojourn then time of slavery was ~120 yrs. or less