

# How Long Were Israelites in Egypt?

Genesis 15

*13. Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years (400 years)."*

Exodus 12:40-41

*40. Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. 41. At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the LORD's divisions left Egypt.*

1 Kings 6:1

*In the four hundred and eightieth year (480 years) after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the LORD.*

Joseph was 17 years old when he arrived in Egypt. First he was sold to Potiphar and served in his household. Then he was a prisoner, probably in Saqqara where Pharaoh's prison was. Remember Potiphar was captain of the guard, so he was in the King's household. The prison would have been the one that the baker and cupbearer were in. It was in close proximity to the palace. Joseph was in that prison until he was 30 years old at which time he was cleaned up, shaved, and dressed to appear before Pharaoh to interpret his dream. From that time to his death he served as second only to Pharaoh for 80 years. Joseph died at 110 years old. His father, Jacob, called Israel, spent 17 years on Egypt with the 70 others in his family that resided in Goshen. Jacob died at 147 years of age. (Genesis 47:28)

Reading the genealogies of Genesis all the way back to Adam can give us somewhat of a sense of the time that passed from Genesis 1:1 to the Exodus. But finding EXACT timelines and dates is not so simple. Some view the Hebrew genealogies as summaries of generations not specifically naming every ancestor. The genealogy of Matthew gives for Jesus does exactly that. He skips some ancestors and gives only the significant ones. We know that by comparing Old Testament genealogies to his. He concluded 14 generations in three sets. Remember also that Jewish children had to memorize their genealogies. They needed memory tools just as Matthew did. He said Abraham to David was 14 generations, and 14 generations from David to the exile in Babylon, and 14 generations from the exile to Christ. (See Matthew 1:17) There were far more ancestors than he lists.

The Egyptians did the same, sometimes skipping, sometimes overlapping generations, kings, and pharaohs. It is not wrong. It's just the way they did it.

In 1660 Archbishop James Ussher of Ireland attempted to do a chronology of time based on the genealogies of the Bible and he concluded that Adam was born on October 23, 4004 BC. Now, how's that for exactness! The Jewish calendar dates our own time as 2019 being Year 5779. That would be approximately 3760 years that constitutes the history of the Old Testament. I will include some charts later in this document.

All of that is to say that numbers and dates can be very confusing and often misleading. For our purposes we want to try to establish a timeline of the Exodus. We have the Biblical figures which we will depend on as precise. The Jews were in Egypt 430 years. Solomon built the temple exactly 480 years after the Exodus. From Solomon to the time of Christ we know within a few years. (By the way, we date Christ birth as Zero AD, or 1 AD, in actuality it was more like 4 BC.

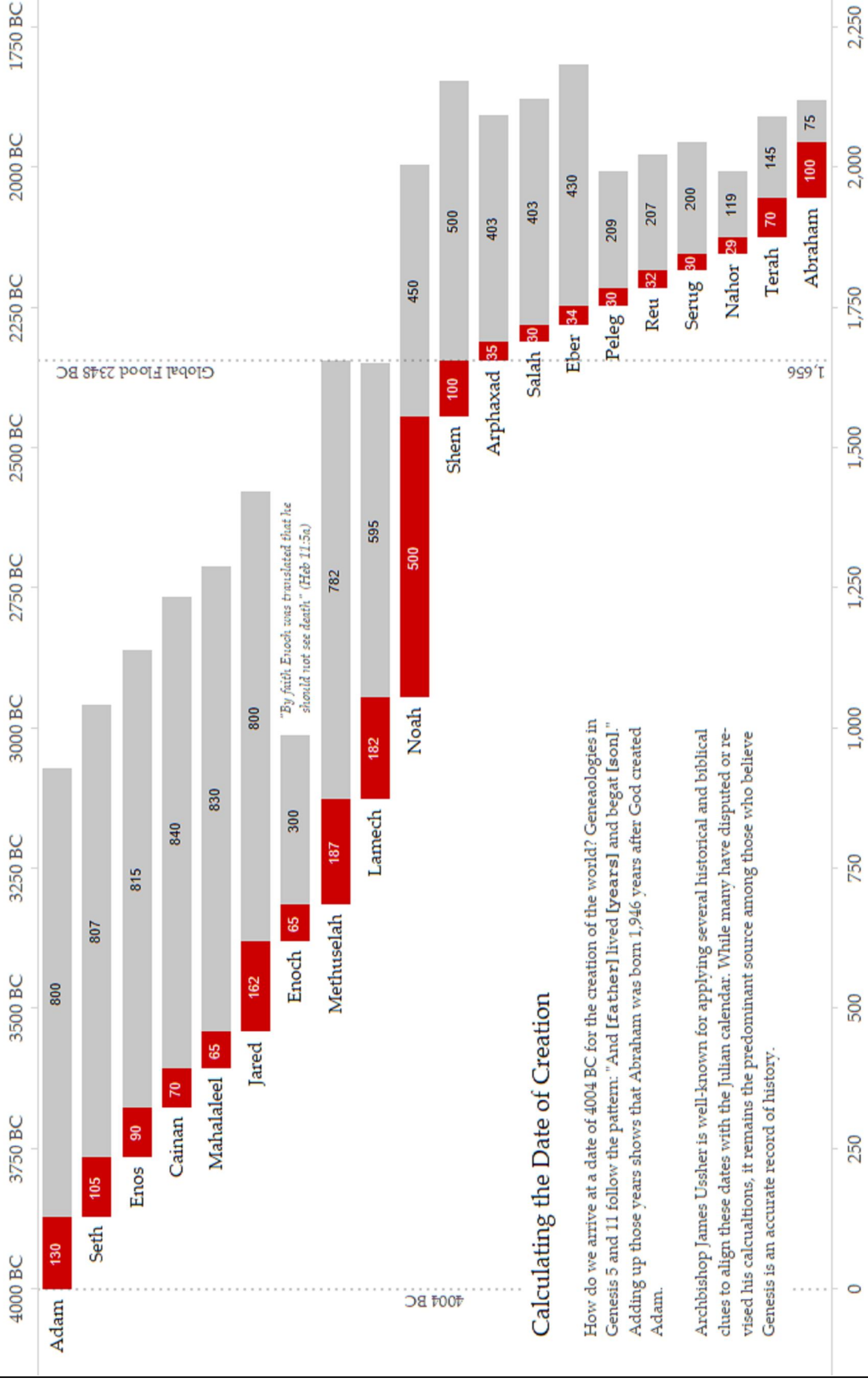
Working backwards from Solomon that gives us 480 from 996, which would give us the approximate date of the Exodus being 1476 BC. Then backward from the Exodus 430 year would make it approximately 1906 BC that the Israelites came to Egypt.

So, our conclusion would be that the Exodus took place somewhere around the mid 1400 BC, say 1450 BC. From there we can start looking in secular history and archeology for evidence of the Exodus. In your readings on this many have come up with the date of 1446 BC as the date of the Exodus.

In other lessons we will give you more exact charts for dating the Exodus. But for now let's call it 1446 BC.

DATE	EVENT	SCRIPTURE	AGE OF EARTH
4004 BC	Creation	Gen. 1:1-31	0
3874 BC	Seth born when Adam was 130	Gen. 5:3	130 yrs.
3769 BC	Enos born when Seth was 105	Gen. 5:6	235 yrs.
3679 BC	Cainan born when Enos was 90	Gen. 5:9	325 yrs.
3609 BC	Mahalaleel born when Cainan was 70	Gen. 5:12	395 yrs.
3544 BC	Jared born when Mahalaleel was 65	Gen. 5:15	460 yrs.
3382 BC	Enoch born when Jared was 162	Gen. 5:18	622 yrs.
3317 BC	Methuselah born when Enoch was 65	Gen. 5:21	687 yrs.
3130 BC	Lamech born when Methuselah was 187	Gen. 5:25	874 yrs.
2948 BC	Noah born when Lamech was 182	Gen. 5:28	1,056 yrs.
2446 BC	Shem born when Noah was 502	Gen. 11:10	1,558 yrs.
2348 BC	Flood when Noah was 600	Gen. 7:6	1,656 yrs.
2346 BC	Arphaxad born when Shem was 100	Gen. 11:10	1,658 yrs.
2311 BC	Salah born when Arphad was 35	Gen. 11:12	1,693 yrs.
2281 BC	Eber born when Salah was 30	Gen. 11:14	1,723 yrs.
2246 BC	Peleg born when Eber was 34	Gen. 11:16	1,758 yrs.
2217 BC	Reu born when Peleg was 30	Gen. 11:18	1,787 yrs.
2185 BC	Serug born when Reu was 32	Gen. 11:20	1,819 yrs.
2155 BC	Nahor born when Serug was 30	Gen. 11:22	1,849 yrs.
2126 BC	Terah born when Nahor was 29	Gen. 11:24	1,878 yrs.
1996 BC	Abraham born when Terah was 130	Gen. 11:32; 12:4	2,008 yrs.
1921 BC	Abraham enters Canaan at 75	Gen. 12:4	2,083 yrs.

# Genesis Timeline from Adam to Abraham



## Calculating the Date of Creation

How do we arrive at a date of 4004 BC for the creation of the world? Genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 follow the pattern, "And [father] lived [years] and begat [son]." Adding up those years shows that Abraham was born 1,946 years after God created Adam.

Archbishop James Ussher is well-known for applying several historical and biblical clues to align these dates with the Julian calendar. While many have disputed or revised his calculations, it remains the predominant source among those who believe Genesis is an accurate record of history.