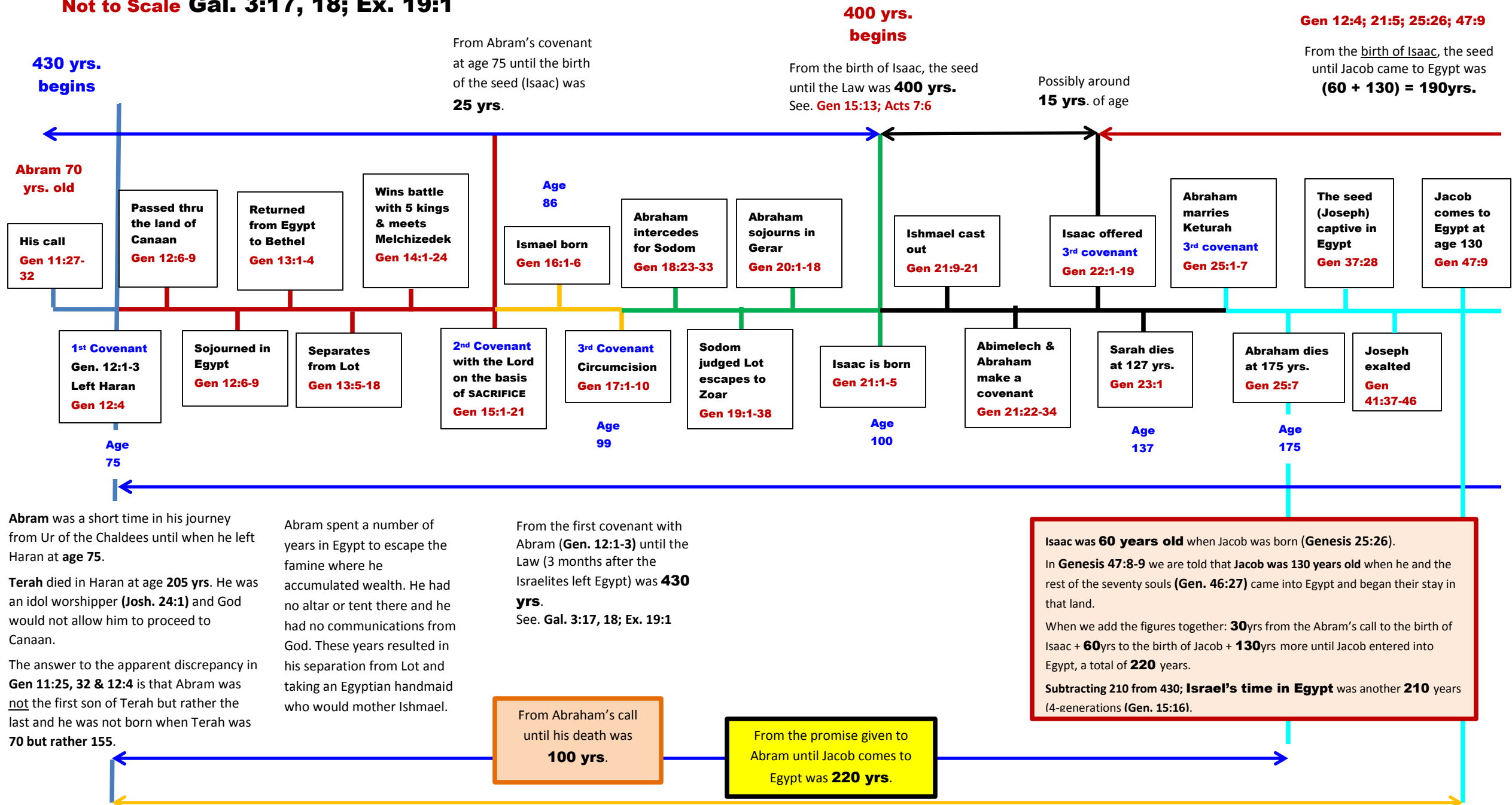


TIMELINE FOR ABRAM (ABRAHAM) from the promise given at age 70 (Gen. 12:1-4) until JACOB ARRIVES IN EGYPT - 220 YEARS

Not to Scale Gal. 3:17, 18; Ex. 19:1



Abram was a short time in his journey from Ur of the Chaldees until when he left Haran at age 75.

Terah died in Haran at age 205 yrs. He was an idol worshipper (Josh. 24:1) and God would not allow him to proceed to Canaan.

The answer to the apparent discrepancy in Gen 11:25, 32 & 12:4 is that Abram was not the first son of Terah but rather the last and he was not born when Terah was 70 but rather 155.

Abram spent a number of years in Egypt to escape the famine where he accumulated wealth. He had no altar or tent there and he had no communications from God. These years resulted in his separation from Lot and taking an Egyptian handmaid who would mother Ishmael.

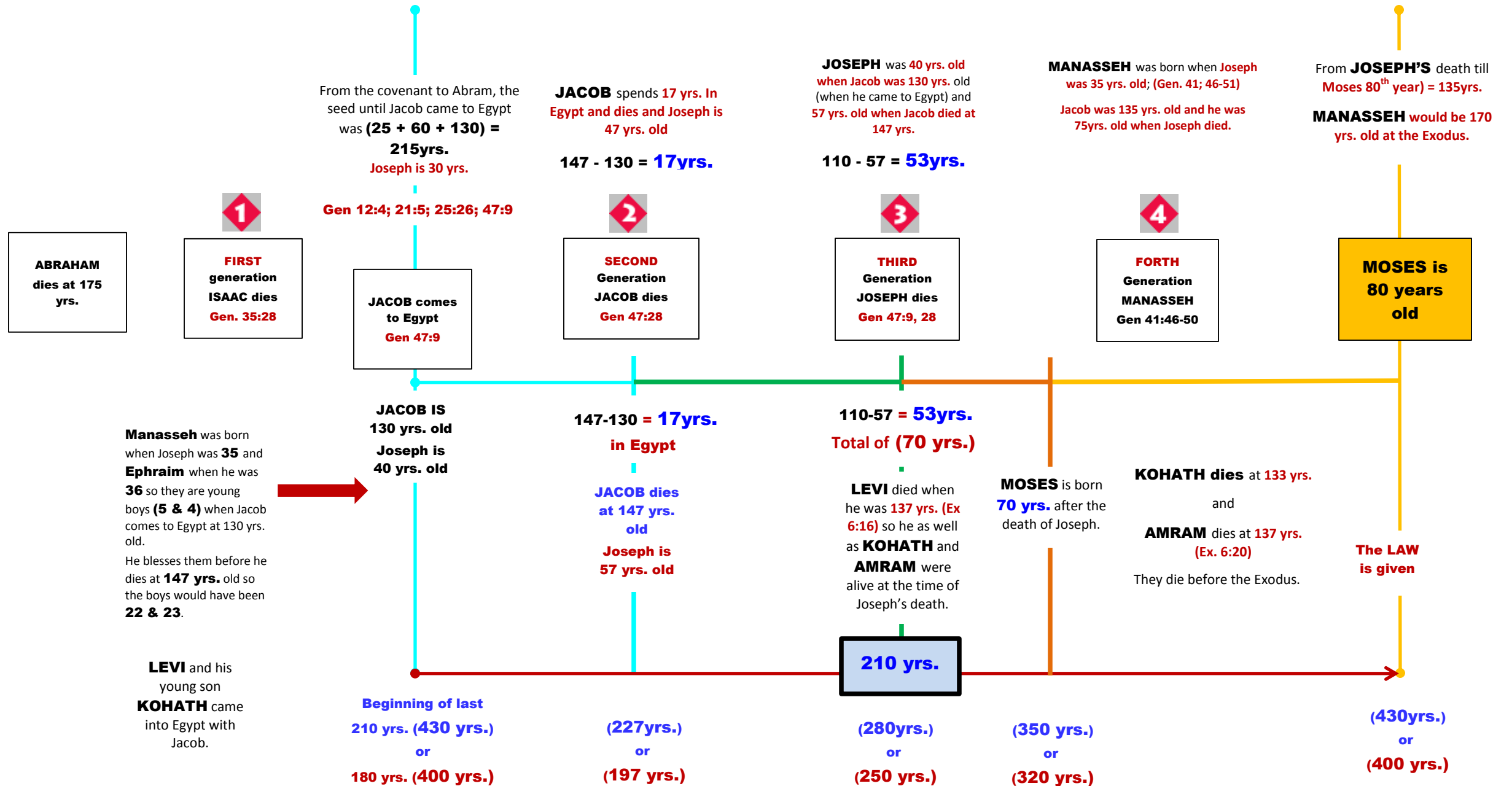
From the first covenant with Abram (Gen. 12:1-3) until the Law (3 months after the Israelites left Egypt) was **430 yrs.** See. Gal. 3:17, 18; Ex. 19:1

From Abraham's call until his death was **100 yrs.**

From the promise given to Abram until Jacob comes to Egypt was **220 yrs.**

Isaac was **60 years old** when Jacob was born (Genesis 25:26). In Genesis 47:8-9 we are told that Jacob was 130 years old when he and the rest of the seventy souls (Gen. 46:27) came into Egypt and began their stay in that land. When we add the figures together: 30yrs from the Abram's call to the birth of Isaac + 60yrs to the birth of Jacob + 130yrs more until Jacob entered into Egypt, a total of 220 years. Subtracting 210 from 430; Israel's time in Egypt was another 210 years (4-generations (Gen. 15:16)).

TIMELINE FROM WHEN JACOB ARRIVES IN EGYPT UNTIL THE LAW - 2 YEARS – 4 – GENERATIONS (Genesis 15:16)



How Long Were the Israelites in Egypt?

Have you, like me, assumed the Israelites were in Egypt for 430 years? After all, the Scripture seems to clearly say that. Notice **Exodus 12 verses 40 and 41**.

*“Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, [was] four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the **four hundred and thirty years**, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.”*

So at first reading it sure seems to say they were there for 430 years. But, to make the situation seem even more confusing, notice what Abram was told in **Genesis 15:13**.

*“And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land [that is] not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them **four hundred years**;”*

How long were the Israelites actually in Egypt? Was it 400 years, 430 years or possibly a different number of years?

There are a few other verses that contain vital information that will enable us to understand. One of those is **Galatians 3:17**.

This verse states, *“And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was **four hundred and thirty years** after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.”*

This verse tells us the law, the 10 Commandments that were given at Mt. Sinai just 3 months after the departure from Egypt (**Exodus 19:1**), was *“four hundred and thirty years after”* after the making of the promise to Abram. That promise, as shown in **verse 18**, was the one made first with Abraham at age 70 before he left Ur of the Chaldees, and reconfirmed with him his son and his grandson. *“For if the inheritance [be] of the law, [it is] no more of promise: but God gave [it] to Abraham by promise”, Galatians 3:18*

We find that promise that God made with Abraham was confirmed to him in **Genesis 12: 1-3; 22:16-19**; to Isaac in **Genesis 26:3**; and to Jacob in **Genesis 28:13-15; Ps. 105:10**. Abram (later changed to Abraham) was **75 years old** when this covenant was confirmed at Haran. Twenty-five years later, when Abraham was 100 years old, Isaac was born (**Genesis 21:5**).

Isaac was 60 years old when Jacob was born (**Genesis 25:26**).

In **Genesis 47:8-9** we are told that Jacob was 130 years old when he and the rest of the seventy souls (**Gen. 46:27**) came into Egypt and began their stay in that land.

- **30 yrs.** from the Abram’s call to the birth of Isaac (100-70)
- **60 yrs.** to the birth of Jacob
- **130 yrs.** more until Jacob entered into Egypt

TOTAL 220 yrs. (See chart 1)

Subtracting 220 from 430 we find that the time in Egypt was another 210 years. (See chart 2)

But, what about the verse we read in **Genesis 15** mentioning 400 years? How is that reckoned? Notice that verse again. *“And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them **four hundred years.**”*

We find another account from Stephen, **Acts 7:6**. It states, *“And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them **evil four hundred years.**”*

Both verses very specifically indicate the four hundred years is to be regarding **“thy seed”** or **“his seed”**.

As we just read in Genesis 21 Isaac was born when **Abraham was 100 years old**.

Before we go through this let us go back to **Exodus 12:41**. It is stated in this verse that the event took place *“even the selfsame day.”*

The covenant with Abraham occurred on the very same day, **the 14th day of the first month at even**.

And, as we will see, **the sacrifice of Isaac** also was at the time of the later to be commanded Passover sacrifice.

It also appears that it was in the springtime when Jacob and his family entered Egypt to live there. Undoubtedly this event occurred on “the same day.” (**See Gen. 45:6**)

The day Isaac was “selected” to be the sacrifice I believe was the 10th day of the first month. That was the day the Passover lamb was to be selected (**Ex. 12:3**) and the same day Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem and was “selected” by the Father (**see John 12:28**).

God does things on schedule at His appointed times. He had promised to take the descendants of Abraham from the land in which they would be **enslaved 430 years** after His promise to Abraham. And, we have seen that He was doing it EXACTLY to the very day. God had been very definitely watching and vigilantly working all events out so that it happened on His timetable.

God spoke to Moses from the *“burning bush.”* He said that He had seen the affliction of His people and *“I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians...”* (**Ex. 3:8**)

He had not forgotten them and everything was on schedule per the time God had prophesied. He had prepared Moses. He had worked it out so that Moses would have the necessary training for the Exodus; acquired in the palace of Egypt and backside of the desert (40 + 40 yrs.)

Exodus 3:1 tells us that Moses kept the flocks of his father in law, Jethro, in *“the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.”* Horeb and Sinai are used almost interchangeably, although there is some discussion as to whether Horeb may have been the name of the mountain range and Sinai the specific mount. Nevertheless, it was in this very area that Moses had spent time with the flocks and had become very familiar with the territory.

In addition to *“bringing Israel out of Egypt”* God also was committed to fulfill His promise to Abraham to judge *“that nation, whom they shall serve,”* (**Gen. 15:14**).

Also, He had promised that after He had done that, the people would *“come out with great substance.”* When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush He repeated this promise, that the people would be given favor in the sight of the Egyptians and they would *“not go empty.”* (**Ex. 3:21**)

It all came down to *“the selfsame day.”* (**Ex. 12:41**) What a marvelous and wonderful God who was continually vigilant and observing His people, who was working out ALL the many events that took place **over 430 years**. A magnificent God who had everything culminate on the exact day the 430 years, the 400 years and the last 210 years were up. It is the same for you and I beloved!