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### 430 YEAR PERIOD REPRESENTS

The period from the Covenant of Abraham to the Covenant of Moses.
The period from the sojourn of Abraham in Canaan to the Exodus of Israel from Egypt.

### 215 YEAR PERIOD REPRESENTS

1st 215 year period is from the migration of Abraham to Canaan to the migration of Jacob to Egypt.
2nd 215 year period is from the migration of Jacob to Egypt to the Exodus from Egypt under Moses.

### BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO A 430 YEAR PERIOD

**Exodus 12:40**

Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.

The Samaritan Pentateuch and the Septuagint have a different reading of this verse than the Masoretic text:

Now the sojourning of the children of Israel and of their fathers, which they sojourned in the land of Canaan and in the land of Egypt was 430 years.

**Galatians 3:16-17**

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. 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.

**Genesis 15:16**

But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again...

Generations are often calculated as a period lasting from 20 to 80 years long depending upon the context.
- 4 generations over a 215 year period would be equal to about 54 years each
- 4 generations over a 430 year period would be equal to about 108 years each

The former period of about 54 years fits much better with the ages of those in this period.

The four-generational period was from Jacob to Levi to Kohath to Amram to Moses.

### HISTORICAL REFERENCES

Josephus wrote that: _They left Egypt…430 years after our forefather Abraham came into Canaan, but 215 years only after Jacob removed into Egypt_

Eusebius stated that the Israelites were in Egypt for 144 years after the death of Joseph for a total of 215 years from the time of Jacob descending with his family into Egypt until the exodus under Moses

### CHRONOLOGICAL and NUMERICAL EVIDENCES

According to Ussher’s chronology the time between Abraham coming to Canaan and Jacob descending to Egypt was 215 years.

**The age of Levi testifies to a 215 year long sojourn in Egypt**

The Jewish writers believed that Levi was the last to die of the sons of Jacob, living to 137 years of age, which would have made him about 45 when he came to dwell in Egypt.

The Jews believed Levi lived the longest of all the brothers, and the affliction did not begin till after his death; Jewish chronologers have taught that from Levi’s death to the time of the children of Israel’s exodus from Egypt was 116 years; and that the persecution and bondage of Israel could not have lasted more than one hundred and sixteen years.

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1 This clearly refers to the Law being 430 years after the covenant promise to Abraham, not 430 years after Jacob’s family entered Egypt.
2 **Exodus 6:16** And these are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations; Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari: and the years of the life of Levi were an hundred thirty and seven years.
Levi was the third son born during Jacob’s sojourn in Padanaram and Joseph was the eleventh. Both were believed to have been born during the second seven-year period of Jacob’s service to Laban. If Joseph was about 38 years old (or older) when the brothers migrated to Egypt, then Levi must have been 43 to 45 years old when he entered Egypt. If Levi lived to 137 years of age, then he lived a little more than 90 years in Egypt. Adding this to 116 years would give a total of 210 years which is very close to a 215 year period of bondage.

The genealogies do not allow for Israel to have been in Egypt 430 years. Kohath, the son of Levi, was born before the descent into Egypt as he is numbered among the sons that made up the 70 souls who went down into Egypt recorded in Genesis 46:11. Kohath lived 133 years according to Exodus 6:18. If Kohath was only three years old upon entering Egypt he would have lived there 130 years of the 215 year period. Moses’ mother Jochebed was a daughter of Levi and a sister of Kohath, Amram’s father. Even if Levi had conceived Jochebed on the last day of his life, she would have had to have been 256 years of age when she gave birth to Moses if Israel was in Egypt 430 years.

430 years – 80 years of age for Moses at the time of the Exodus = 350 years – the 94 years of Levi in Egypt = 256 years of age for Jochebed. Though the genealogical chronology does not fit into a 430 year period, it fits perfectly into a 215 year period. If Levi lived 94 years in Egypt and died at the age of 137, and didn’t conceive Jochebed until he was 120 years of age, Israel would have been in the seventy-seventh year in Egypt. This would mean Jochebed would have had to have been about 58 years old when she conceived Moses. 215 years total – 80 years of age for Moses = 135 – Levi’s years in Egypt (77?) = 58 years of age for Jochebed, though her husband would probably have been a bit younger.

The primary criticism for a 215 year period is the great number of Israelites at the end of the Egyptian sojourn. The census of the Levite males in Numbers 3 through Kohath’s four sons was 8,600 descendants, or about 2,150 descendants for each of Kohath’s sons, which appears to be a massive number of descendants to be produced in only a 215 year period. BUT CONSIDER:

If each family had seven sons, and Amram was born 55 years after the descent into Egypt, and each generation was about 40 years, each of Kohath’s sons could have had 2800 descendants by the Exodus.

**BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO A 400 YEAR PERIOD**

**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;

**Acts 7:6**

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.

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1 If Joseph was 30 years of age at the time of his promotion by Pharaoh, adding seven years of plenty and the period of time after the beginning of the years of famine for the brothers’ visits and the final move of Jacob’s household to Egypt would make him at least 38 years of age at this point.

2 There were seven sons born between Levi and Joseph, three by Leah and four by the handmaids. Even if the handmaids gave birth concurrently this would require at least five years between Levi and Judah and very likely longer.

3 Remember that the Israelites were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them as described in Exodus 1:7. Remember also that Jacob had 11 sons in about seven years, and the period of possible childbearing appears to have been longer than in our present day.

4 Notice that each of the scriptures refer to Abraham’s seed being a stranger or sojourner, which may be a clue that this period is calculated with the beginning of Isaac, the child of promise.