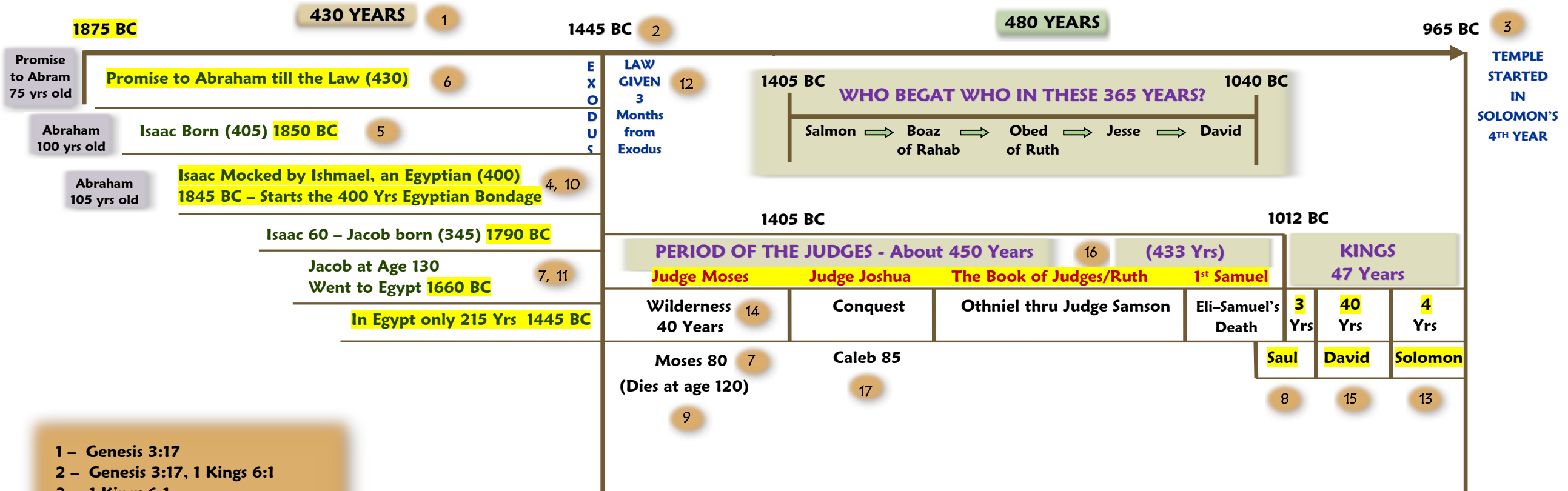


# FROM THE CALL OF ABRAHAM TO THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE



- 1 - Genesis 3:17
- 2 - Genesis 3:17, 1 Kings 6:1
- 3 - 1 Kings 6:1
- 4 - Genesis 15:13-14
- 5 - Genesis 21:5
- 6 - Genesis 12:1-4, Galatians 3:17
- 7 - Genesis 46:26-27
- 8 - Exodus 7:7
- 9 - Deuteronomy 34:7
- 10 - Exodus 12:14
- 11 - Genesis 47:9
- 12 - Exodus 19:1
- 13 - 1 Kings 6:1
- 14 - Deuteronomy 29:5 - Josh. 5:6
- 15 - 2 Samuel 5:4
- 16 - Acts 13:20
- 17 - Joshua 14:10-11

There are 3 Chronological problem passages that have perplexed Bible Scholars for years. The questions are these:

How do you fit 430 years from the promise to Abraham to the giving of the Law and yet fit in the life of Abraham from the time he was 75 years old, the life of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, and 80 years of Moses' life before the giving of the Law? This is the test of **Galatians 3:17**.

How do you have during this same above time, the persecution of Abraham's seed for 400 years when the children of Israel came out of Egypt with great substance when you must have Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his sons lives, plus the 80 years of Moses life, before the Exodus? That is the test of **Genesis 15:13-14**.

How can you have 480 years from the Exodus to Solomon's 4<sup>th</sup> year when he began to build the temple and yet have judges for 450 years? Does that not mean that it would leave only 30 years for the wilderness journey, the conquest of Joshua, the Book of Judges and the lives of King Saul, David, and Solomon? How can this be? That is the test of **Acts 13:20** compared to **1 Kings 6:1**.

Ironically, it is these very problems, when understood, that harmonizes the Chronology of the time between the call of Abraham and the beginning of Solomon's temple. Study the chart carefully and you will see the 3 problems themselves and harmonize together by translating correctly the word "*after*" in **Acts 13:20** as "during this time", or "amidst this time" he gave them judges of about 450 years!!! The problem is solved. We hope the chart will encourage you not to let difficult texts be stumbling blocks but rather stepping stones.

What is the answer? The answer seems to be that Paul is including in those 450 years of judges more judges than mentioned in the Book of Judges. If we take the 1445 Exodus date adding the ministry of Judge Moses in the 450 years of the Judges till 1405 at which time the wilderness journey ended and Judge Joshua led the conquest, and add the overlapping time of the Judges mentioned in the Book of Judges and add Judge Eli and Judge Samuel until he died, we have the period of Judges a total of 433 years. This easily fits the "about 450 years" Paul mentions in his sermon. Of course, Samuel's Judgeship lasted well into King Saul's reign. In fact, King Saul only reigned about 3 years after Judge Samuel died.

This means if Saul only reigned 3 years after Samuel died, and David reigned 40 years, and Solomon reigned 4 years until he began the temple, we have 47 years beyond the 433 years which 480 years.

Moses was a judge – **Exodus 18:13-26**.

Joshua, his successor, was a judge – **Numbers 27:15-23, Deuteronomy 31:14-23**.

The 13 overlapping Judges mentioned in the Book of Judges – **Judges 2:18** – Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, Samson.

Eli was a judge – **1 Samuel 4:18**.

Samuel was a judge – **1 Samuel 7:15-16**.

To further complicate the problem is the timeline of Salmon to David's birth. Salmon in 1405, went as a spy into Jericho. There, he met Rahab the harlot, whom he later married. We do not know Salmon's age but was no doubt born of Nashom, a prince of Judah, in the wilderness. We do not know his age when he fathered Boaz, the husband of Ruth, the Moabitess. Nor do we know Boaz's age when he fathered Obed by Ruth, but he complimented Ruth for not following the young men; inferring he was older. Obed then, was the father of Jesse. Again we do not know Obed's age when he fathered Jesse, nor the age of Jesse when he fathered David. We are told that Jesse was a very old man and David was his 8<sup>th</sup> son. One thing we do know that from 1405 to David's birth would require an average generation of 91 years. That, of course, is not impossible in that day of people living longer. Abraham was 100 when Isaac was born and Abraham had several children by Keturah after Isaac was born.

However, if the 450 years was from the beginning of the Book of Judges to Samuel, the 4 fathers mentioned above would have to be much longer generations than if we include Joshua and Moses in the period of judges.

It should also be noted what the words in Paul's sermon in **Acts 13:20** actually state "*...within this time or amidst this time he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years*" rather than "*after that he gave them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years.*" This is a helpful key to understanding that Moses and Joshua are to be included among the judges.