

Terah became a father at the age of 70 (Genesis 11:26) and died when he was 205 (32). One of his sons, Abram, was 75 when he departed Haran (Genesis 12:4) the year of his father's death (Acts 7:4), meaning Terah was 130 when Abram was born.

Abram, also known as Abraham (Genesis 17:5), was 75 when he received God's promises (12:1-4), and 430 years later his descendants emerged from Egypt (Exodus 12:40-41) and received the law of Moses (Galatians 3:17).

The calculation is straightforward. From the flood until the exodus was $2+35+30+34+30+32+30+29+130+75+430=857$ years. That is the maximum amount of time that could be considered for Egypt's age when Israel departed her borders.

However, it can be narrowed down further. Egypt is called *"the land of Ham"* (Psalm 105:23, 27; 106:22; cf. 78:51) because Ham was the father of Mizraim (Genesis 10:6, 13; 1st Chronicles 1:8, 11). Although ages are not included in the Hamitic branch of the family tree, it is known that Ham was contemporary with Shem, so some overlap can be expected between Ham's son Mizraim and Shem's son Arphaxad. One generation removed from the flood amounts to very little impact on the timeline, though, so further figuring is helpful.

When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, God renewed the command He issued when Adam and Eve were created: *"Be fruitful and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth and multiply in it"* (Genesis 9:7). As originally issued, the command included: *"Fill the earth"* (1:28). Not long after the flood, just four generations later, mankind was, once again, resisting the will of the Lord. They decided, *"Let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth"* (11:4). Responding to this defiance, *"Jehovah confused the language of all the earth; and from there Jehovah scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth"* (11:9).

Babel is an event with a relatively narrow timeframe. One of Abraham's forebears in the Semitic line was Peleg whose name literally means "division". *"To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided"* (Genesis 10:25). As can be calculated simply enough, Peleg was born 101 years after the flood (11:10, 12, 14, 16). Either Babel occurred the year he was born and his parents named him thusly, in which case the timing is

precise, or it occurred later and he was renamed to mark the event, in which case the timing may be less specific. If it happened the year of his birth, that was 101 years fewer than the 857 years from the flood until the exodus, a difference of 756 years, which is the oldest Egypt may have been in the year of Israel's departure.

Peleg lived 239 years (Genesis 11:18-19), and the earth was divided *"in his days"* (10:25), so it is possible he was an adult when Babel occurred. Born 101 years after the flood and dying 239 years later, it is, arguably, possible that Babel happened 340 years removed from the flood. Even at such a late date, Peleg's father Eber (11:16-17), his grandfather Salah (11:14-15), great-grandfather Arphaxad (11:12-13), great-great-grandfather Shem (11:10-11), and great-great-great-grandfather Noah (9:28) were all still living. Thus, it is reasonably possible that Peleg's great-great-great-uncle Ham and first cousin three times removed Mizraim were also still living. Therefore, Egypt could not have been much younger than 517 years old at the exodus.

Although a range exists, the earlier date is preferred. Mizraim probably lived contemporaneously with his first cousin Arphaxad, who was 99 when Peleg was born, and who died aged 438. The earlier date simply allows Mizraim more time to have departed Babel and to have established the nation bearing his name.

Abram, who was born 352 years after the flood, visited Egypt (Genesis 12:10-20) when he was a little over 75 (12:4) and well under 85 (16:3), so his sojourn there probably began approximately 428 years after the flood. If Babel transpired at the 101-year mark, then Egypt could have been as much as 327 years old during this visit. However, if Babel is marked at the very end of Peleg's life, then Egypt would have been closer to 88 years old when Abram arrived. This is less likely since Egypt was already ruled by a Pharaoh then (12:15-20), and pharaonic rule is an institution that may well have required some time to develop.

At the earliest, Babel happened 101 years after the flood. Mizraim would have established Egypt soon thereafter. The exodus certainly happened 857 years after the flood. Thus, at most, Egypt may have been 756 years old at the exodus and nearly that during the seventh plague. At the lower end of the spectrum of possibility, the nation was 517 years old, and, even allowing 50 years between a late Babel and Mizraim establishing his nation – 467 years old. In all those centuries, the Egyptians had never witnessed a hailstorm so fiery and destructive as the one Jehovah brought down on them to subdue their idolatry and to secure the release of Israel. And that plague was just 1 of 10.

***"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"***

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

***"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"***

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

Men's & Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

***"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"***

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

***"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"***

PROVERBS 25:11

"If you have not chosen the kingdom of God first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead."

– William Law

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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SINCE EGYPT BECAME A NATION

Bryan Matthew Dockens

As Moses warned Pharaoh of the devastation his people would suffer in the seventh plague, the man of God foretold, *"Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now"* (Exodus 9:18). What befell them is subsequently described: *"So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation"* (24).

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew name Mizraim occurs 614 times, usually translated *"Egypt"* or *"Egyptians"*. It also appears in English as the personal name *"Mizraim"* (Genesis 10:6, 13; 1st Chronicles 1:8, 11) because the Egyptians are the descendants of a man by that name whose father was Ham, the son of Noah. The nation of Egypt could not have been founded earlier than the flood because that catastrophe destroyed the world that then existed (2nd Peter 3:5-6) except for eight souls saved (2nd Peter 2:5).

Two years following the flood, one of its few survivors, Noah's son Shem, fathered a son named Arphaxad (Genesis 11:10). When he was 35 years old, he had a son named Salah (12). Salah became father to Eber at the age of 30 (14), Eber fathered Peleg at 34 (16), Peleg fathered Reu at 30 (18), Reu fathered Serug at 32 (20), Serug fathered Nahor at 30 (22), and Nahor fathered Terah at 29 (24).

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