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number even close to 430? My great-grandmother was born in 1898 and I came along in 1981, a difference of 83 years. My grandparents were born in 1926 and I was blessed with my first child Katrina in 2004, a mere 78 years. In many families, four generations are reached in much less time; for instance, my adopted daughter Debra and her biological great-grandmother are only 61 years apart. My fourth child Serena was born in 2009 and her 16x-great-grandfather Robert Taylor was born in 1480; that amounts to an inclusive total of 19 generations in 429 years.

The idea that Israel spent 430 years inside Egypt, but only four generations elapsed is not sensible. Levi was 137 years old when he died (Exodus 6:16), his son Kohath lived to 133 (18), his son Amram made it to 137 (20), and Moses was 80 at the exodus (7:7). Kohath was already born when Levi entered Egypt (Genesis 46:11, 26). Even if the generations were tabulated consecutively without overlap, Kohath's and Amram's total ages and Moses' first 80 years would total 350 years, 80 shy of 430. Truly, though, their lives necessarily overlapped, making the actual interval considerably shorter.

Those 430 years must mean something, though. Paul taught, *"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed,' who is Christ. And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect"* (Galatians 3:16-17). According to the apostle, there was a 430-year span from the promises made to Abraham until the Law was given to Israel via Moses. *"In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai"* (Exodus 19:1), which is where Moses received the Law from God. The exodus and the receiving of the Law happened just a few months apart. Whereas it is an established fact that the exodus occurred exactly 430 years to the day after Israel's sojourn began (Exodus 12:40-41), Paul was only precise in the number of years, but included no specifics concerning months, weeks, or days.

Abraham was 75 when he received God's promises and departed for Canaan (Genesis 12:1-5). He was 100 when his son was born (21:5) 25 years later. Isaac was 60 when Jacob was born (25:26). Jacob was 130 when he entered Egypt (47:9). 25+60+130=215. Half of the sojourn transpired before Israel entered Egypt!

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Israel's pilgrimage began with their forefather Abraham, as Stephen declared, *"The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell. And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him"* (Acts 7:2-5). Whereas his descendants knew where they were headed, Abraham did not. More than anyone else, he was a pilgrim! *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God"* (Hebrews 11:8-10). Notice that Isaac and Jacob were sojourners with Abraham. Notice, too, that Canaan was, definitively, the land of pilgrimage (Genesis 17:8; 28:4; 36:7; 37:1; Exodus 6:4).

The only remaining challenge is to understand what God meant when he foretold to Abraham 400 years of oppression: *"Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years"* (Genesis 15:13). If, as has been demonstrated, the 430-year sojourn began when Abraham came to Canaan at age 75, then 400 years of affliction got underway when he was 105. The closest event to that time to be marked by his age was the birth of the son of promise when Abraham was 100 (21:5). A few years later, the family celebrated a milestone in the life of young Isaac. *"So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned. And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing"* (21:8-9). Isaac's half-brother Ishmael, who was half-Egyptian, held the weaning-day feast in scorn, which may seem a slight offense, but it so infuriated his stepmother Sarah that she ordered him and his mother Hagar to be dismissed from Abraham's household: *"Cast out this bondwoman and her son"* (21:10)! If this event marked the beginning of Egyptian oppression against the house of Israel, even though Israel was still in the loins of father Abraham at the time (cf. Hebrews 7:10), then Isaac was 5 years old and his taunting

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***"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

Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

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**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

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half-brother Ishmael was 19 (Genesis 16:16). He was a young man when he ridiculed his little brother, old enough to know better and to exercise better manners. Furthermore, he was ridiculing the heir of the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 17:18-19). This qualifies as the start of Egyptian oppression against Israel, and inspiration verifies that it was, indeed, persecution (Galatians 4:29).

Conclusively, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Levi, and Kohath sojourned in Canaan and Levi, Kohath, Amram, and Moses sojourned in Egypt. All told, it was 430 years.

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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ISRAEL'S 430-YEAR SOJOURN

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Calculating the biblical timeline, it is easy to get mixed up about the duration of Israel's sojourn in Egypt. At first, it seems straightforward. *"Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years — on that very same day — it came to pass that all the armies of Jehovah went out from the land of Egypt"* (Exodus 12:40-41). A passing glance suggests the time that elapsed from Israel's arrival in Egypt until the exodus was 430 years. However, a closer look at this passage provides an alternative. The text does not say the sojourn in Egypt lasted 430 years, but that the sojourn of Israel, who was then living in Egypt, lasted that long. It is a subtle distinction, but one which this translation (NKJV) allows, as does one other (KJV). Most versions (ASV, NAS, ESV, NIV, LSB) assert that the Israelites lived in Egypt for the full duration, a notion in conflict with other Scripture.

The numbers simply do not compute for a 430-year sojourn within Egyptian borders. Moses and Aaron were the sons of Amram, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi (Numbers 26:57-59; 1st Chronicles 6:1-3), which is only four generations inclusive of the generation who arrived in Egypt and of the one who departed. When you think about four generations of your family, either your great-grandparents to yourself or your grandparents to your children, does that add up to any

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