

# SEDER OLAM RABBAH

## ~~~ Part 1 ~~~

From Adam to the Flood, 1656 years and here is the detail: Adam 130 [years to his heir], Seth 105, Enosh 90, Kenan 70, Mahalalel 65, Yared 162, Hanoch 65, Metushalach 187, Lemech 182, and (Genesis 7:6) *Noah was 600 years old and the Flood was water upon the Earth.*

	age	Year AM
Adam	130	
Seth	105	130
Enosh	90	235
Kenan	70	325
Mahalalel	65	395
Yared	162	460
Hanoch	65	622
Metushalach	187	687
Lemech	182	874
Noah	600	1056
		1656

Hanoch buried Adam [and Eve],<sup>1</sup> and lived after him for 57 years.<sup>2</sup> Metushalach had his years until the Flood.<sup>3</sup> From the Flood to the Dispersion 340 years.<sup>4</sup> Noah lived for another 10 years after the Dispersion.<sup>5</sup> Our Father Abraham was 48 at the time of the Dispersion.<sup>6</sup>

R. Yossi said: Eber was a great prophet, he called his son Peleg with the divine spirit, as it is said: (Genesis 10:25) *because in his days the Dispersion of the Earth* etc. If [you say the dispersion was] at the start of his days<sup>7</sup> and that his brother Yoktan was not younger than him and begot 13 families and they dispersed,<sup>8</sup> [or] if you say during his life,<sup>9</sup> then it would not be conclusive but interpreted. Instead it says *in his days the Dispersion*, which [word is written] at the end of *his days*.<sup>10</sup>

Our Father Abraham was, at the moment He spoke to him in the Covenant, 70 years old, as it said: (Exodus 12:41) *And it came to pass, at the end of 430 years* etc. After He spoke to him, he went down to Charan and remained there for five years as it is said: (Genesis 12:4) *And Abram was 75 years old when he left Charan* etc.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is reason to believe that Adam buried Eve himself, in the Cave of Machpelah of future Hebron, and that Shem son of Noah buried Adam, because the same pattern was followed by the three Patriarchs who first buried their wives themselves before being buried later by their son and heir, in the same cave.

<sup>2</sup> Hanoch was born in year 622 AM (see table; AM= Anno Mundi); when Adam died in year 930 AM, Hanoch was thus 308 years old, and he lived a total of 365 years; he therefore lived 57 years after Adam.

<sup>3</sup> Indeed, Metushalach died in year 1656 AM and soon after the Flood started.

<sup>4</sup> The Flood was in 1656 AM and the Dispersion (from the Tower of Babel) was in 1996 AM, thus these 340 years difference.

<sup>5</sup> Noah was born in year 1056 AM and lived 950 years, thus he died in year 2006 AM, 10 years after the Dispersion.

<sup>6</sup> Abraham was born in year 1948 AM.

<sup>7</sup> The argument here is to prove that the Dispersion occurred when Peleg died, rather than when he was born or lived; this is in fact confirmed by the next chapter (Genesis 11) which gives the count of years from Noah.

<sup>8</sup> Yoktan had 13 sons (Genesis 10:26-29); if the Dispersion had occurred at Peleg's birth, then Yoktan must have been older than Peleg because his families dispersed (as the rest of the Biblical text shows); but Yoktan means 'young' (same root יֻקָּן).

<sup>9</sup> This would be very vague.

<sup>10</sup> Thus the suggestion is that we must understand the text in chronological order, first Peleg died and then the Dispersion followed immediately.

<sup>11</sup> This calculation is objectionable because the verse Genesis 12:4 mentions that Abraham was 75 years old when he left Charan, immediately after God spoke to him; so there is no reason to believe that Abraham left

We find from the Dispersion until our Father Abraham left Charan 26 years,<sup>12</sup> which are 12 years of servitude to Kedarlaomer<sup>13</sup> and for 13 years they rebelled and on the 14<sup>th</sup> year came Kedarlaomer.<sup>14</sup> In the same year that our Father Abraham went out [came] from Charan, was the year of the famine, and he went down to Egypt and spent three months there.<sup>15</sup> And he went up and returned and he settled in Elon-Moreh<sup>16</sup> which is in Hebron.<sup>17</sup> And this was the year when the kings joined together.

And he spent 10 years there until Hagar bore [Ishmael], as it is said: (Genesis 16:3) *And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her*

*handmaid after Abram had dwelt 10 years in the land of Canaan etc.* And it is written: (Genesis 16:16) *And Abram was 86 years old when Hagar bore Ishmael.* We find that Ishmael was older than Isaac by 14 years. We find that, from the Dispersion until the birth of (our Father) Isaac, there were 52 years.<sup>18</sup> And the meeting of Sodom 51 years.<sup>19</sup> From then, peace and quiet was on her [Sarah] and on her sons for 23 years.

Events in Abraham's life	His age	Year AM	Years from Dispersion
Birth of Abraham	0	1948	-48
Birth of Sarah	10	1958	-38
The Dispersion	48	1996	0
God speaks to Abraham	74	2022	26
Abraham leaves Charan	75	2023	27
Abraham leaves Egypt	76	2024	28
Birth of Ishmael	86	2034	38
Destruction of Sodom	99	2047	51
Birth of Isaac	100	2048	52

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his father in Charan (Genesis 12:1) to go to Canaan when God spoke to him, presumably when he was 70 years old, then returned to Charan for 5 years, and then left Charan again when he was 75 years old (according to Genesis 12:4); this calculation is only to fit the date of the Exodus at a certain date, 430 years after the Covenant; however the Biblical text of Genesis 12:1-4 speaks about one event: God saying to Abraham to live his family in Charan and go to Canaan, and Abraham being 75 years old when it happened.

<sup>12</sup> The calculation is: Dispersion in year 1996 AM, Abraham born in 1948 AM, Abraham living Charan when he was 75 years old thus in year 2023 AM; Abraham's departure from Charan was at the start of the 27<sup>th</sup> year from the Dispersion (2023-1996= 27 years, as Abraham left on a 1<sup>st</sup> Tishri, thus a New Year); so there are indeed 26 complete years between the two events.

<sup>13</sup> This king is identified as Kudur-Lagamar who ruled over Elam, vassal of Babylon.

<sup>14</sup> The Seder Olam attempts to match the 26 years of Abraham to 26 years of relation with Babylon; but the Biblical text in Genesis 14:4-5 mentions that Canaan served Kedarlaomer for 12 years, then rebelled on the 13<sup>th</sup> and then a powerful army of Kedarlaomer and allied kings came to wage war in Canaan on the 14<sup>th</sup> year; this war took place after Abraham returned from Egypt and after his nephew Lot split from him.

<sup>15</sup> Abraham left Charan on 1 Tishri 2023 AM and left Egypt on a 15 Nisan (because there is a parallel between this event and the future Exodus) either in year 2023 AM or in year 2024 AM, so he sojourned in Egypt either no more than 5 months, or one year and 5 months at the maximum.

<sup>16</sup> The oak-tree of Moreh, which is known as the "Oak of Abraham" in Hebron.

<sup>17</sup> Rashi believed that because Elon-Moreh means the Valley of Teaching, it was thus Sichem, as it is there that the Israelites promised in front of Joshua to follow God's commandments, although Genesis 13:18 seems to confirm it was Hebron instead; Elon-Moreh must have been so-called because it was under his oak (Elon) that Abraham was teaching (Moreh) his spiritual followers, or was himself learning from Shem son of Noah who was then known as Mechizedek (Genesis 14:18)

<sup>18</sup> There is an interesting pattern in the years from the Dispersion: God spoke to Abraham after 26 years, and God enabled the birth of Isaac after 52 years, thus twice 26 years. The number 26 is the number for God's name, as we know, thus it links these two fundamental events of Jewish history to God's own 'signature'.

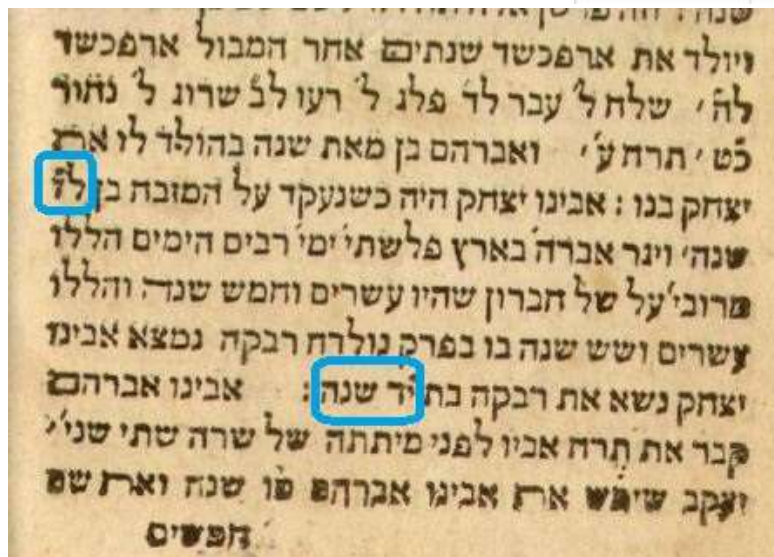
<sup>19</sup> Both events, the destruction of Sodom and the birth of Isaac, happened a few months apart, in a different Hebrew year, on the 15<sup>th</sup> Nisan for Sodom and on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tishri for the birth of Isaac.

And from the Flood until Isaac was born, 392 years,<sup>20</sup> and this is the detailing: (Genesis 11:10) *And these are the generations of Shem; Shem was 100 years old and he begot Arpachshad 2 years after the Flood. Arpachshad 35 [years to his heir]. Shelah 30. Ever 34. Peleg 30. Reu 32. Serug 30. Nachor 29. Terach 70. (Genesis 21:5) And Abraham was 100 years old at the birth of his son Isaac.*

	age	Year AM	from Flood
Shem	100	1558	-98
The Flood		1656	0
Arpachshad	2	1658	2
Shelah	35	1693	37
Ever	30	1723	67
Peleg	34	1757	101
Reu	30	1787	131
Serug	32	1819	163
Nachor	30	1849	193
Terach	29	1878	222
Abraham	70	1948	292
The Dispersion		1996	340
Isaac	100	2048	392

Our Father Isaac was 37 years old at the sacrifice on the altar [the Akedah].<sup>21</sup>

(Genesis 21:34) *And Abraham sojourned in the land of the Philistines many days. These days were more numerous than the ones of Hebron which were 25 years,<sup>22</sup> so these ones were 26 years.<sup>23</sup> In this chapter Rebekah was born.<sup>24</sup> We find that our Father Isaac married Rebekah when she was 14 years old.<sup>25</sup>*



Isaac being 37 years old at the Akedah and marrying Rebekah when she was 14 years old

<sup>20</sup> The Flood was in 1656 AM and the birth of Isaac in 2048 AM, thus 392 years difference.

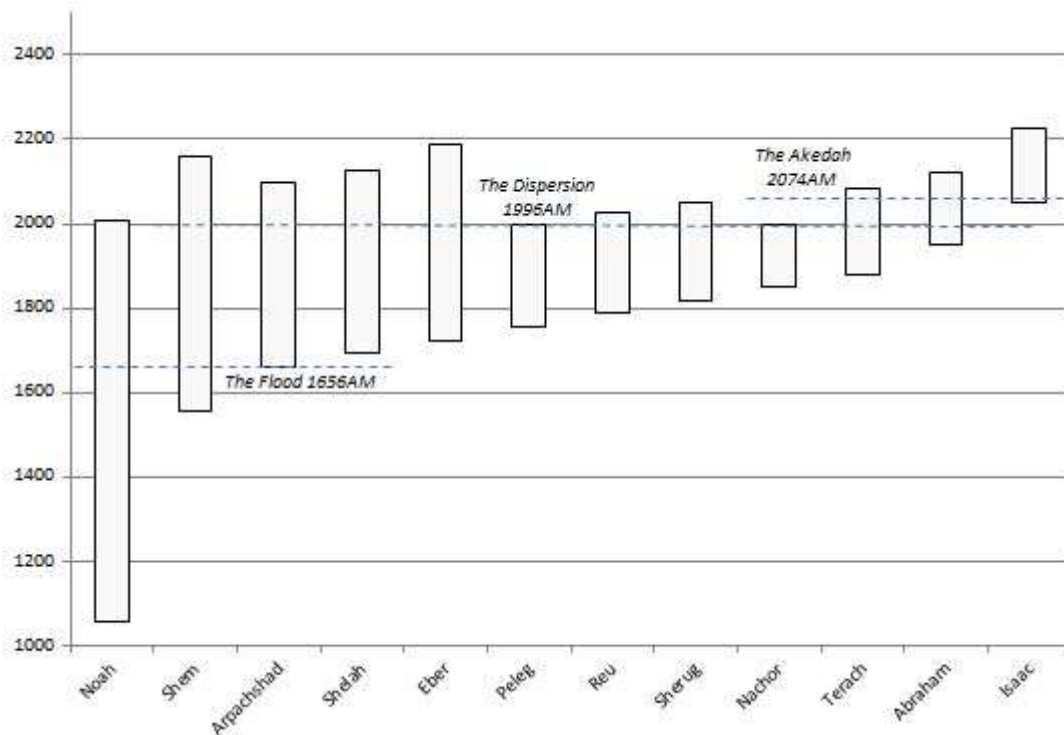
<sup>21</sup> This assertion cannot be proven for certain, and is also contradictory with the calculation that follows.

<sup>22</sup> It was rather about 24 years because Abram left Charan when 75 years old, and Isaac was born at 100 years old; these 25 years need to take into account the time spent in Egypt (either a few months or just over one year) and the early time in the land of the Philistines before Isaac's birth.

<sup>23</sup> The 25 years of Abraham in Hebron are counted from the time he returned from Egypt (15 Nisan 2023 AM) until the year when Isaac was born in Philistia (1 Tishri 2048 AM). Then the Seder Olam simply assumes one extra year, above the 25 years, to make 26 years.

<sup>24</sup> The mention of Rebekah is in Genesis 22, same chapter than the Akedah which leads to believe that she was just born at that time; the death of Sarah is narrated in the following chapter, Genesis 23.

<sup>25</sup> The contradiction is as follows: the Bible mentions that Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah, so he could not have been 37 years old at the time of the Akedah, as asserted by the Seder Olam, because it would mean that Rebekah, who was born in the year of the Akedah, would have been 3 years old when marrying Isaac ! So the Seder Olam contradicts itself when it states that Rebekah married Isaac when she was 14 years old; our assumption is simply that Isaac was not 37 years old at the time of the Akedah but 26 years old. Thus when he married Rebekah at 40 years old, she was 14 years old which matches the second assertion of the Seder Olam. Note that, in other versions of the Seder Olam, it is mentioned that Rebekah married Isaac when she was 3 years old, which would then fit the former assertion of the Akedah when he was 37 years old.



Events in Isaac's life	His age	Year AM	Years from Dispersion
Birth of Isaac		2048	52
Assumed year of Akedah	26	2074	78
Death of Terach	35	2083	87
Death of Sarah	37	2085	89
Isaac marries Rebekah	40	2088	92
Birth of Jacob and Esau	60	2108	112
Death of Abraham	75	2123	127
Death of Shem	110	2158	162

Our Father Abraham buried his father Terach two years before the death of Sarah.<sup>26</sup>

Jacob attended our Father Abraham 15 years,<sup>27</sup> and Shem 50 years.<sup>28</sup> It means that our Father Jacob served Shem 50 years, and Shem served Metushalch 98 years, and Metushalch served Adam Harishon 243 years.

It means 4 [people] in 22 generations, and 7 people to double the whole world,<sup>29</sup> and these were Adam Harishon, Metushalch, Shem, Jacob, Amram,<sup>30</sup> Ahijah the Shilonite,<sup>31</sup> and Elijah who still lives.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>26</sup> This is calculated because of the number of years of Terach, showing that he died in 2083 AM, and the 127 years of Sarah's life, who was 10 years younger than Abraham and died in year 2085 AM.

<sup>27</sup> Jacob and Esau were born when Isaac was 60 years old (Genesis 25:26), and Abraham died when Esau sold his birth-right to Jacob (both were 15 years old at the time).

<sup>28</sup> Shem survived Abraham for 35 years, as per the calculation of his own lifetime (Shem died in 2158 AM).