

SEDER OLAM RABBAH

~~~ Part 2 ~~~

Our Father Jacob was 63 years old at the time when he was blessed.³³ Here in the [same] chapter when Ishmael died, as it is said: (Genesis 28:6) *Esau saw that Isaac blessed Jacob* etc. and (Genesis 28:7) *that Jacob listened to his father* etc. and (Genesis 28:8) *Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father* etc. and (Genesis 28:9) *Esau went to Ishmael* etc. that it is not to teach about the sisters of Nebaioth and what the sisters of Nebaioth are meant to teach us, but we learn that Ishmael was sanctified, and he died, and that a sister of Nebaioth was married to Esau.

Our Father Jacob spent 14 years in Eretz Israel [after the blessing from this father]³⁴ and he served Ever.³⁵ Then Ever died two years after our Father Jacob left for Aram Naharayim.³⁶ He [Jacob] left from there and went to Aram Naharayim. When he stood at the well,³⁷ he was 77 years old.

And he did 20 years in the house of Laban, 7 years until he could marry the Matriarchs, and 7 years when he was married with the Matriarchs, then 6 years after 11 Tribes and Dinah were born.³⁸

We find that all the [11] Tribes, except Benjamin, [and Dinah] were born within 7 years, one after the other every 7 months.³⁹

He [Jacob] left Aram-Naharayim and he came to Succoth and he did there 18 months as it is said (Genesis 33:17) *And Jacob journeyed to Succoth* etc. He left Succoth and went to Beth-El and did there 6 months and did sacrifices in the place. He left the place and Benjamin was

Events in Jacob's life	His age	Year AM	Years from Dispersion
Birth of Jacob		2108	112
Esau sells his birth right	15	2123	127
Isaac blesses Jacob	63	2171	175
Jacob goes to Laban	77	2185	189
Jacob marries Leah/Rachel	84	2192	196
Birth of Joseph	91	2199	203
Jacob returns to Canaan	97	2205	209
Massacre of Sichem	99	2207	211
Birth of Benjamin	100	2208	212
Death of Isaac	120	2228	232

³³ He received the blessing from his father Isaac, instead of Esau, with the help of his mother Rebekah; the year was 2171 AM, when Isaac was 137 years old and Jacob was 63 years old.

³⁴ It is interesting to note that the two main events that guarantee the mark the transmission of tradition to Jacob were when he received the birth right from his brother Esau (year 2123 AM) and when he received the blessing from his father Isaac (year 2171 AM); these two events are 127 and 175 years from the Dispersion, respectively; the 127 and 175 years are also the number of years of the life of Sarah and Abraham; this stresses that the transmission of the tradition, and the heritage of Abraham and Sarah, have passed to Jacob.

³⁵ After leaving his father Isaac, Jacob did not immediately go to Charan but waited 14 years; this is known according to the count of years in the life of Joseph, as seen later; it is assumed that Jacob spent these 14 years learning about God and the Torah, with Ever who was the keeper of the tradition after the death of Shem.

³⁶ According to the chronology of Joseph's life, he was born in year 2199 AM, the last child to be born in Charan (and after Dinah).

³⁷ And when he saw Rachel for the first time.

³⁸ Benjamin was born in the land of Canaan.

³⁹ There are 12 children, each born 7 months apart thus making a total of 12×7 months = 84 months, which also corresponds to 7 years, the number of years of the second 'contract' for Jacob to remain with Laban; also each child was born in a different month, thus making all 12 months; this is because, if we assume the first child was born on month 1, then the 12 successive births took place in months 1, 8, 3, 10, 5, 12, 7, 2, 9, 4, 11 and 6.

born to him,⁴⁰ and Rachel died. There in the chapter, Rebekah died and Deborah.⁴¹

Rachel died when she was 37 years old and Leah did not live over 45 years. Rachel and Leah did not marry until the age of 22 (they were twins).⁴²

He [Jacob] went to our Father Isaac in Canaan and they served each other for 22 years,⁴³ and Joseph served him [Isaac] for 9 years,⁴⁴ as it is said (Genesis 37:2) *These are the generations of Jacob; Joseph was 17 years old*, etc. and there in the chapter Leah dies.⁴⁵

Joseph went down to Egypt and did 12 months in the House of Potiphar as it is said: (Genesis 39:5) *And it came to pass, from the time he appointed him etc. in the house and in the field, 'in the house' from the sun and 'in the field' from the chill.*⁴⁶ And he did 12 years in prison. (Psalms 105:18-19) *They hurt his feet with fetters etc. until the time when his word came to pass* etc. In his 30th year he came out of prison as it is said (Genesis 41:46) *And Joseph was 30 years old when he stood* etc. In this chapter Isaac died.⁴⁷

Events in Joseph's life	His age	Year AM
Birth of Joseph		2199
Death of his mother Rachel	9	2208
Joseph is sold	17	2216
Joseph in jail	18	2217
Death of Isaac		2228
Joseph is viceroy of Egypt	30	2229
Jacob comes down to Egypt	39	2238
Death of Jacob	56	2255

Then the seven years of plenty and two years the famine. So Joseph was 39 years old when our ancestors came to Egypt.⁴⁸ And Levi was 44 years old.⁴⁹ Joseph has been separated from our patriarch Jacob (and did not serve him) for 22 years. During these years,⁵⁰ Judah married Bath-Shua as it is said: (Genesis 38:1) *And it came to pass at that time, that Judah came down*, etc. and it is said (Genesis 38:2) *Judah saw there* etc. one year from the conception of Er, and Er grew until 7 years

⁴⁰ Benjamin was born at the end of the two years since Jacob returned to Canaan; some time before his birth, his brothers massacred the people of Sichem because of the alleged rape of their sister Dinah; these events in Jacob's life are to be paralleled with similar circumstances in Abraham's life, with the destruction of Sodom followed by the birth of Isaac, because both Abraham and Jacob were 99 and 100 years old when the two respective events happened to them.

⁴¹ Deborah was Rebekah's nurse (Genesis 35:8); they died in Beth-El where all Jacob's family had gathered after the massacre of Sichem.

⁴² Strange assumption, because Laban wanted to marry Leah first on the reason she was the oldest of the two.

⁴³ Before Isaac died in 2228 AM.

⁴⁴ Before he was sold by his brothers and arrived to Egypt: Joseph was born in 2199 AM, arrived to Isaac with his family after the death of Rachel in 2207 AM, and was sold by his brothers when he was 17 years old, thus in year 2216 AM; so Joseph Isaac for 9 years.

⁴⁵ Because (Genesis 37:35) *And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him [Jacob]*; so Leah had died as she was not among the comforters.

⁴⁶ It is meant to say that Joseph worked for a whole cycle of year, summer and winter times.

⁴⁷ Isaac died in year 2228 AM, before Joseph stood in front of Pharaoh in 2229 AM at 30 years of age.

⁴⁸ Jacob and his family came down to Egypt after two years of famine (Genesis 45:6). Jacob was already 130 years old and expected to die soon (his father Isaac lived until the age of 120), so he declared he wanted to see his son Joseph again before he would die (Genesis 45:28).

⁴⁹ Levi was the third child born to Jacob, so he was born 3x7= 21 months after Jacob married Leah and Rachel in year 2192 AM; so it can be assumed he was born in year 2194 AM, thus he was 44 years old in 2238 AM when he came down to Egypt with Jacob.

⁵⁰ What follows is an explanation of how to fit 3 generations (Judah > Perez > Hezron and Hamul) within the 22 years from the moment when Joseph was sold by his brothers until the moment they were all reunited in Egypt.

and married a woman on 8th year. One year for Er, one year for Onan, and (Genesis 38:11) *Remain a widow in your father's house, one year,*⁵¹ and (Genesis 38:12) *And in many days the daughter of Shua died, one year, then one year for the conception of Perez, and Perez grew 7 years and he married a woman after 18 years,*⁵² then one year for Hezron and one year for Hamul, and Hezron and Hamul went down to Egypt with him (Genesis 46:12).

Event	Add	Count	Year AM
Joseph is sold	0	0	2216
Judah & Bath-Shua	0	0	2216
Er born	1	1	2217
Onan born	1	2	2218
Shelah born	1	3	2219
Er marries Tamar	7	8	2224
Onan marries Tamar	7	9	2225
Bath-Shua dies	1	10	2226
Judah & Tamar	1	11	2227
Perez born	1	12	2228
Perez marries	8	20	2236
Hezron born	1	21	2237
Hamul born	1	22	2238
Jacob in Egypt	0	22	2238

Similarly you say (Genesis 11:27) *And Haran begot Lot*, how older was Abraham compared to Sarah, ten years as it is said (Genesis 17:17) *And he said in his heart: 'Shall a child be born unto him who is a hundred years old? And shall Sarah who is ninety years old bear?'* How older was Abraham compared to Nachor? One year. How older was Nachor compared to Haran? One year. Haran grew 6 years and married a woman after 8 years, then one year to Lot. One year for Iscah who is Sarah, and why was she called Iscah? Because all is knife with her, as it is said (Genesis 12:15) *And the princes of Pharaoh praised her to Pharaoh.* And another thing, Iscah was Sukkan in her prophecy as it is said: (Genesis 21:12) *All what Sarah says to you, etc.* Our father Abraham, who was 99 years old when he circumcised his son [Ishmael] as it is said (Genesis 17:24) *And Abraham was 99 years when he circumcised etc.* And he died when he was 175 years old, and Sarah died when she was 127 years old as it is said (Genesis 23:1) *And the life of Sarah was etc.*⁵³ Isaac died when he was 180 years old (Genesis 35:28) and Jacob died when he was 147 years old (Genesis 47:28) *And the days of Jacob, the years of his life, etc.*

⁵¹ As this other year passed, Judah's last son, Shelah, should have been married to Tamar. But he wasn't and this caused the death of Judah's wife, Bath-Shua.

⁵² From the year when Joseph was sold by his brethren.

⁵³ It is worth noting that the Bible does not explicitly mention the death of Abraham nor the age when he died, but it does mention the death of Sarah and her age.