

Putting things in **PERSPECTIVE**

A closer look at how we count the 400 years that we were “strangers in a land that was not [our] own” and the timeline of events surrounding the Exodus from Egypt | BY ROBERT SUSSMAN

2018

15 NISAN – Bris Bein HaBesarim (the covenant between the parts) – Hashem told Avraham that for 400 years his children would be strangers in a land that was not their own.

2047

15 NISAN – Just three days after his bris milah (circumcision), Avraham entertained three guests, one of whom informed him that the next year his wife, Sarah, would give birth

2048

15 NISAN – Yitzchak was born to Avraham and Sarah, and the 400-year exile began

2238

At the age of 130 years old, Yaakov and his family went down to Egypt; Yocheved, the 70th member of the family, was born to Levi in transit, and the children of Israel began their time in Egypt

2332

Levi, the last of Yaakov’s twelve sons, died and the Egyptian enslavement began

2368

7 ADAR – Moshe was born to Yocheved and Amram (3 months later he was floated down the Nile, while his seven-year-old sister Miriam watched to see what would happen)

2408

At the age of 40 (some say he was 20 years old), Moshe fled to Midian after killing an Egyptian officer who was striking a Jew

2447

15 NISAN – While living in Midian, Moshe sees the burning bush and has his first encounter with Hashem.

1 AV¹ – 1st plague (Blood) – With certain notable exceptions (eg. darkness and the death of the first born) each plague lasted one week and was preceded by three weeks of warnings

1 ELUL – 2nd plague (Frogs) **III**

2448

1 TISHREI – 3rd plague (Lice)

1 CHESHVAN – 4th plague (Wild animals)

1 KISLEV – 5th plague (Sickness of the animals)

1 TEVET – 6th plague (Boils)

1 SHEVAT – 7th plague (Hail)

1 ADAR – 8th plague (Locusts)

1 NISAN – 9th plague (Darkness)

10 NISAN – Shabbos HaGadol (aka the Great Shabbos) – Hashem commanded that we take lambs (sheep or goat) on this day, which we would later use for the Korban Pesach (the Passover offering), and tie them to our bedposts

15 NISAN – 10th plague (death of the first born) took place at the stroke of midnight – by night, the first Pesach seder; by day, Hashem redeemed the Jewish people from Egypt and the exodus took place

18 NISAN – Pharaoh was informed that the children of Israel were not returning to Egypt. Pharaoh changed his mind and decided to chase after them to bring them back.

19-20 NISAN – Pharaoh and his army chased after the children of Israel

21 NISAN – Pharaoh and his army caught up to the children of Israel at the Sea of Reeds. Towards the end of the night (ie. close to morning), the miracle of the sea splitting took place with the children of Israel walking safely through on dry land – and the Egyptians following after and drowning.



PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS: BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM; WIKIMEDIA.COM

400 YEARS IN EXILE – FROM THE BIRTH OF YITZCHAK UNTIL THE REDEMPTION FROM EGYPT

210 YEARS IN EGYPT – FROM THE ARRIVAL OF YAAKOV IN EGYPT UNTIL THE REDEMPTION FROM EGYPT

116 YEARS OF BONDAGE – FROM THE DEATH OF LEVI UNTIL THE REDEMPTION FROM EGYPT