

Dead Sea Scroll Corrected Dates

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Dates from the Book of Jubilees

There is a debate based on the Ethiopic Book of Jubilees to whether a Jubilee cycle is 49 years long or 50 years long. The Dead Sea Scrolls indicate 50 years but the Ethiopic seems to indicate a 49-year cycle.

The Dead Sea Scroll version of the Book of Jubilees consists of scrolls 1Q17-18, 2Q19-20, 3Q5, 11Q12, 4Q216-28, and 4Q482-3. Most of these are small and fragmented. 4Q228 gives the Book of Jubilees the title of “the Book of the divisions of the times”

1Q17-18 has Jubilees 22:1, which has Jacob visiting the Well of the Oath in the year Abraham died. From Scripture and other sources, we have Abraham dying in the 2123 AM, which is 2,123 years after the Creation of the world. This would be written as the second year of the fourth week of forty-third Jubilee. The Ethiopic version of Jubilees 22:1 has the second year of the first week of the forty-fourth Jubilee. This would be 2202 AM if you use fifty-year Jubilees 2158 AM if you use forty-nine-year jubilees. Both dates are long past the time of Abraham’s death.

1Q17-18 does not have the entire date but mentions that Abraham’s death was in the forty-third Jubilee not the forty-fourth. This would fit with Scripture.

It should also be noted that if we use the forty-nine-year jubilee cycle, Abraham’s death would be between 2058 and 2107 AM which falls short of the death date of 2123. But if we use the fifty-year Jubilee cycle it falls between 2100 and 2150 which fits perfectly with the death date of 2123 AM.

4Q225-6 Fr 2 has Abraham spending 20 years in Haran. The Ethiopic version states Abraham spent 14 years in Haran.

If you look closely at the dates in the Book of Jubilees starting with Creation, they grow increasingly off until at one point there is a 300-year difference in Chronology. But then it starts growing closer to the Biblical dates until you reach the birth of Jacob when there is only one-year difference. For the dating system to grow and then shrink shows that the Ethiopic text was corrupted.

I believe this proves a Biblical Jubilee is a fifty-year period not a forty-nine-year period and that the Ethiopic version of the Book of Jubilees was corrupted when translated from Hebrew into Geez. But the original Book of Jubilees as found in the Dead Sea Scrolls agrees with the Hebrew Masoretic text we have today in our English Old Testament.

Old Testament Dates

Genesis 5:13, Cainan lived after fathering Mahalalel (840 years - DSS and Masoretic), (740 LXX).

Genesis 12:4, Abraham was 75 (DSS, Masoretic, LXX)

Genesis 35:28, Isaac died at 180 (DSS, Masoretic, LXX)

Genesis 37:2, Joseph was 17 (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Genesis 41:1 Pharaoh dreamed after 2 years (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Genesis 50:26, Joseph died at 110 years (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Exodus 6:16 Levi died at 137 years (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Exodus 6:18, Kohath died at 133 years (DSS, Masoretic), (130 LXX)

Exodus 6:20 Amram died at 137 years ((DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Exodus 7:6 Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Exodus 12:40 430 years in Canaan (LXX) and Egypt 430 years (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Deuteronomy 31:2 Moses died at 120 years (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

1 Samuel 2:22 Eli was 98 (DSS), (not given in Masoretic, LXX).

2 Chronicles 29:1, Hezekiah began to reign *when he was* five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Ezra 6:1 first year of Cyrus (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Isaiah 36:1 14th year of Hezekiah (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Daniel 7:1 first year of Belshazzar (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Haggai 1:1 2nd year of Darius (DSS, Masoretic, LXX).

Tobit texts

4Q196-200,

Calendar Texts

6Q17?

4Q230-31a

4Q319-4Q330, 4Q337, 4Q394

4Q494?

Enoch Texts

4Q201-6 many fragments are slightly different from the Ethiopic.

1:1-6; 1:9-5:6; 5:9-9:4; 9:6-8; 10:3-4; 10:8-11:1; 12:3; 13:6-14:16; 18:8-12; 22:3-7; 22:13-24:1; 25:7-27:1; 28:3-29:2; 30:1-32:6; 33:3-34:1; 36:1-4; 84:3-6; 86:1-3; 88:3-89:16; 89:27-36; 89:43-44; 104:13-106:2; 106:13-107:2;

Book of Giants

1Q23; 1Q24; 2Q26; 4Q203; 4Q206; 4Q530-33; 6Q8

Astrological Enoch 72-82

4Q207-12 – 76:3-77:4; 78:6-12; 78:17-79:5; 82:9-13.

Enoch Apocalypse of weeks?

4Q247 –

Testaments

4Q484 – Judah

4Q534-536 – Noah

4Q536, 4Q573 – Jacob

4Q538 – Judah

4Q539 – Joseph

4Q540-41 – Levi

4Q542 – Kohath

4Q543-49 – Amram

New Jerusalem

1Q32

2Q24

5Q15

11Q18

4Q554-55