

Numbers 27

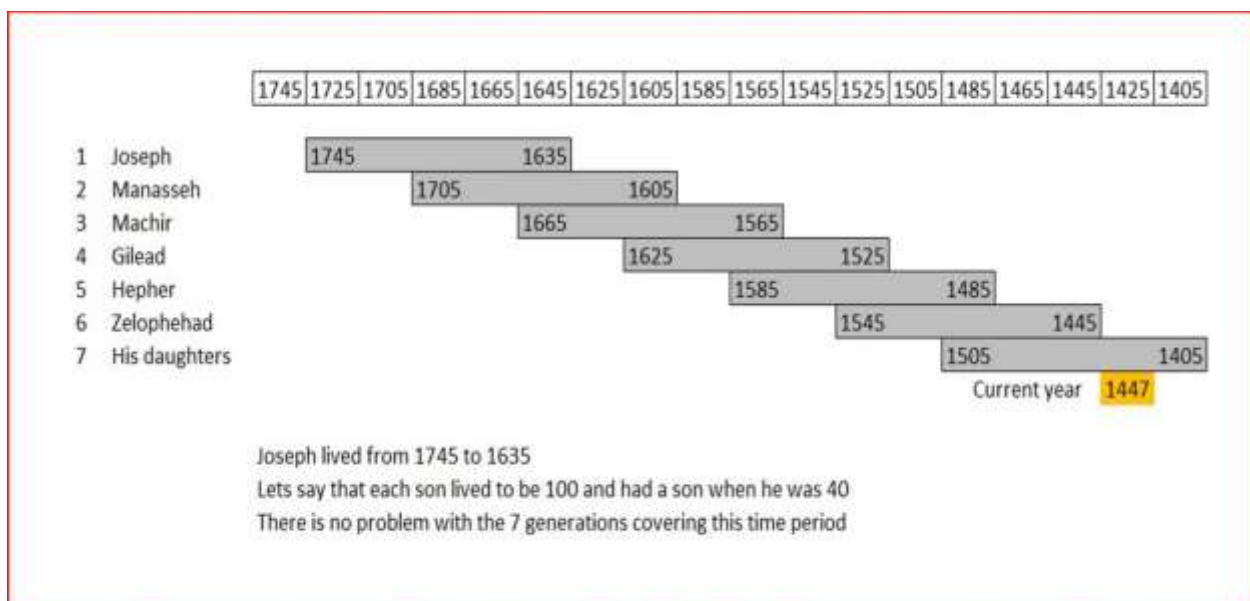
Verses 1 – 5

Then the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph, came forward; and these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. ² They stood before Moses, before Eleazar the priest, before the leaders, and all the congregation at the entrance of the tent of meeting, saying, ³ “Our father died in the wilderness, yet he was not among the group of those who gathered together against the Lord, in the group of Korah; but he died in his own sin, and he had no sons. ⁴ Why should the name of our father be withdrawn from among his family *simply* because he had no son? Give us property among our father’s brothers.” ⁵ So Moses brought their case before the Lord.

Then the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph, came forward

Some people say that this list of ancestors must be abbreviated because it would have taken many more generations to cover this period of time. But that is not true.

See chart 2705



This mistaken idea comes from a misunderstanding of how long the Jews were in Egypt

The Jews were not in Egypt for 430 years

They were in Egypt and Canaan for 430 years

We covered this In Genesis 15 but a quick review could be helpful.

See chart 2710

Explaining Genesis 15:13

In Exodus 12:40-41 we learn that the exact period of time was 430 years. God simply rounded it off to "four hundred" when he spoke to Abraham. Stephen did the same thing in Acts 7:6 when he spoke before the council. Rounding off dates that cover long periods of time is not uncommon.

There is one other issue that is important to understand.

The text in Genesis 15:13 should read in Canaan and Egypt.

Some versions leave Canaan out but mention it in a footnote.

Knowing this explains the other so called contradiction in the text.

Scripture	Event	Person	year
Genesis 22	Abraham offers Isaac	Abraham is 120	1876
Genesis 47:9	70 go to Egypt	Jacob is 130	1706
Exodus 1:6-11	Joseph dies	Joseph is 110	1635
Exodus 1:6-11	slavery begins	30 years later	1606
Exodus 12	The Exodus	Moses is 80	1446

Using the dates above we can determine the following

Years in Canaan	1876-1706	170
Years in Egypt	1706-1446	260
Total	1876-1446	430
Years in slavery	1606-1446	160

Our father died in the wilderness and he had no sons. ⁴ Why should the name of our father be withdrawn from among his family *simply* because he had no son? Give us property among our father's brothers.” ⁵ So Moses brought their case before the Lord.

The daughters of Zelophehad came forward because the leaders of Israel were making plans concerning the land in Canaan.

If their case was not heard the land would be divided up among the families of each tribe and they knew their father's house would be left out.

Verses 6 – 11

⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, ⁷ “The daughters of Zelophehad are right *about their* statements. You shall certainly give them hereditary property among their father's brothers, and you shall transfer the inheritance of their father to them. ⁸ Further, you shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘If a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter. ⁹ And if he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. ¹⁰ If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers. ¹¹ And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his nearest relative in his own family, and he shall take possession of it; and it shall be a statutory ordinance to the sons of Israel, just as the Lord has commanded Moses.’”

‘If a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter.

The line of inheritance in Israel was a son, a daughter, a brother, a father's brother, the nearest relative.

How about the wife?

Let's look at the story of Naomi in the Book of Ruth to answer this question.

Land could not be sold in Israel. It could only be leased or rented for a period of time because it always reverted back to the original owner at the Jubilee.

This way, all land remained in the tribe it was given to by God.

When King Ahab took the vineyard of Naboth it was a violation of the law.

The wife could not inherit land. However, if a widow had no son or daughter her husband's property remained in her possession as long as she lived. And she had the right to rent or lease the property in case of need.

Unfortunately, this was not the case with Naomi because the land had already been rented before they left Israel.

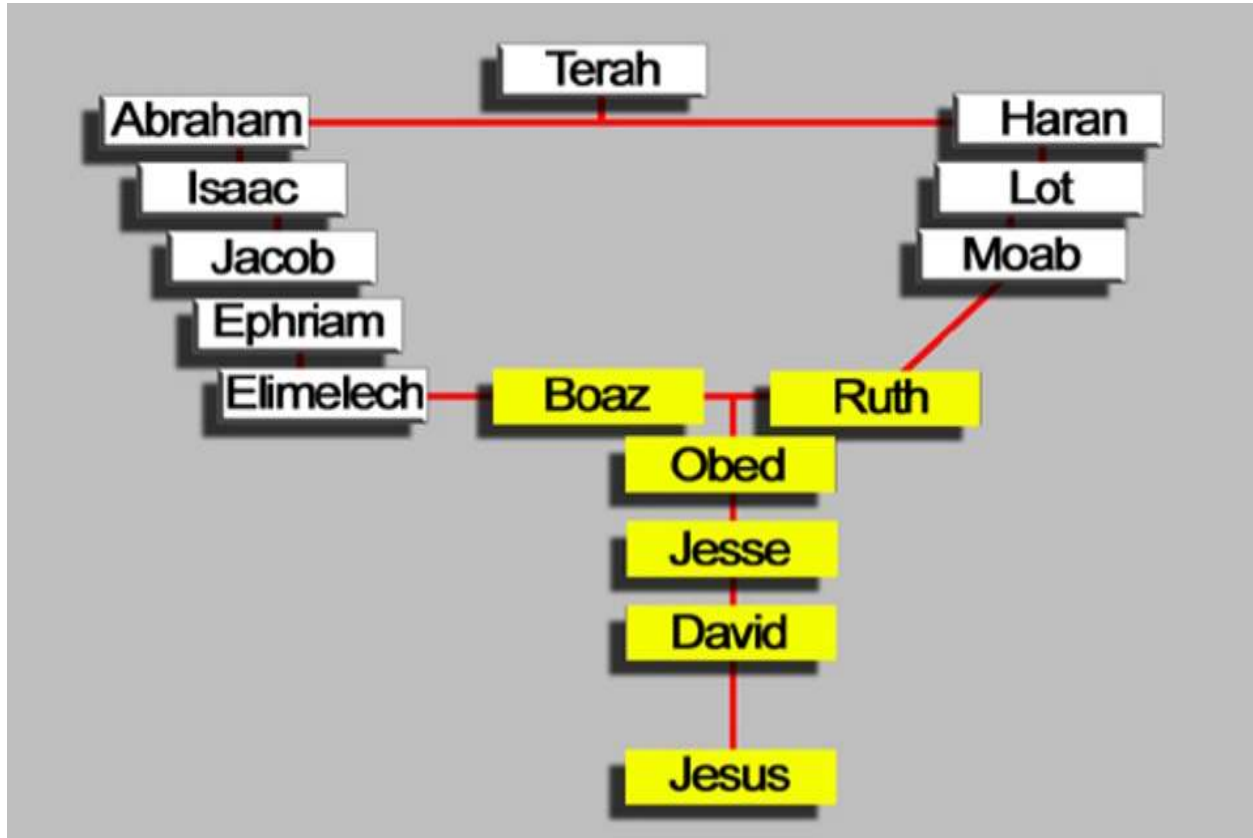
Boaz could not buy the land but he could redeem it. So he paid the current occupant the balance of the lease.

He also married Ruth and the family line continued. This part of the arrangement was a little unusual because Ruth was not a daughter of Naomi and she was a Moabite by birth.

Nevertheless, Boaz and Ruth had a son who became the rightful heir to the land.

Plus, they became a link in the genealogy of the Messiah

See Pic 2715



Verse 12 – 14

¹² Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go up to this mountain of Abarim, and see the land which I have given to the sons of Israel. ¹³ When you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother was; ¹⁴ for in the wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to treat Me as holy before their eyes at the water.” (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.)

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go up to this mountain of Abarim, and see the land which I have given to the sons of Israel. ¹³ When you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people

Go up to this mountain of Abarim

Abarim is a mountain range in Jordan and Mount Nebo is its highest point at 2,330 feet

See pic 2720



This is a pic from google earth. There is a Memorial Church of Moses to commemorate the place where Moses stood to see the land of Canaan.

For in the wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to treat Me as holy before their eyes at the water.” (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.)

Both Aaron and Moses sinned at Kadesh so both of them died without entering Canaan.

This event is recorded in Numbers 20:2-13

Moses disobeyed God in three ways:

1. He rebuked the people?

Listen now, you rebels

2. He took credit for the miracle

Shall we bring water for you out of this rock?

3. He struck the rock twice

Speak to the rock before their eyes

Verses 15 - 20

¹⁵ Then Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, ¹⁶ “May the Lord, the God of the spirits of humanity, appoint a man over the congregation, ¹⁷ who will go out and come in before them, and lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the Lord will not be like sheep that have no shepherd.” ¹⁸ So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; ¹⁹ and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. ²⁰ And you shall put some of your authority on him, so that all the congregation of the sons of Israel will obey *him*. ²¹ Moreover, he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord. At his command they shall go out, and at his command they shall come in, *both* he and all the sons of Israel with him, all the congregation.” ²² Then Moses did just as the Lord commanded him; he took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. ²³ Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, just as the Lord had spoken through Moses.

May the Lord, appoint a man, ¹⁷ who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the Lord will not be like sheep that have no shepherd

Moses offered no complaint when God told him of his impending death. He did not protest, or plead for any change or delay in the sentence.

He was concerned with the safety, the leadership, and the progress of Israel. He wanted a good shepherd to lead the flock

He had a noble attitude.

Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit

Joshua already had the spirit of God in him. He was one of the two faithful spies and he was a faithful helper to Moses.

Commission him in their sight. And you shall put some of your authority on him, so that all the congregation of the sons of Israel will obey *him*.

Joshua needed to be seen as the new leader of Israel so God told Moses to make this a public ceremony.

We are not told how Moses put some of his authority on Joshua.

Moreover, he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the Lord.

God spoke directly with Moses, face to face. Joshua had to seek the will of God through the high priest who consulted the Urim and the Thummin.