

# Counting the years 'to & from' the Exodus

Source sheet for shiur by Menachem Leibtag -

## I. Until the Exodus

### A. Shmot 12:40-42 - 430 years of 'settlement' in Egypt

Possible starting points:

Arrival of the Yaakov's family - see Br. 45:10 & 46:1-5

Yosef's age = 39 / Yaakov = 130

[possibly Yosef's arrival in Egypt as a slave /age 17

The birth of Yitzchak / based on Brit Bein ha'Btarim -

The day that Hashem spoke to Avraham re: that brit

### B. Taking into consideration Shmot chapter 6

Levi - 137 / Kehat 133/ Amram 137 / Moshe - 80

But we don't know the overlap / i.e. how old at birth

## II. Years since we left Egypt

### A. Used by Chumash

- Sefer Bamidbar 1:1 / 9:1-2 / 33:38 & Devarim 1:3

Melachim Aleph 6:1 - when Temple is built in year 4 of Shlomo

### B. Other dating systems in Tanach:

The Flood - to the life of Noach

Nothing in Yehoshua/ Shoftim/ or Shmuel

To the Kings of Israel in Melachim

To the Persian kings in the time period of Shivat Tzion

### C. Other dating systems in Rabbinic tradition

Minyan shtarot, the Greek year [or Selucid year]

During time period of Mishna / Talmud

Counting to Creation late Geonim, Rishonim - in Europe

Relates to being under Christian dominion in Europe

## III. Connection between Counting to Creation & Exodus

Based on Seder Olam, attributed to R' Yossi of Zipori

A Midrashic commentary, making timeline of Biblical History

### Clarifying concepts

#### A. The calendar, a 'tool' or a 'truth'

The need for 'convention' for Contracts - Purchases etc.

#### B. Tanach - 'chronicle' or 'composition'

When and why years are important

e.g. Shmuel Aleph 13:1 - years in Sefer Shoftim

## C. Midrash - 'omniscient' or 'exegesis'

### Calculating years from the Exodus till the end of Tanach:

From /Till	Years	Sum	Source
Yetziat Mitzraim = The Exodus	1	1	Bamidbar 1:1
Building First Temple	480	480	I Kings 6:1 - explicit
Destruction First Temple	410	890	Calculated -from 19 kings
Start 2nd Temple Darius Year 2	70	960	Zecharya 1:12 - explicit
Last event in Tanach / 34 Artexeres	33	993	Nech 13:6, if Darius=Artexerxes
Next year Alexander conquers Elam	1	994	Seder Olam (assumption)
Alexander conquers all of Persia "minyán shtarot" begins	6	1000	Chazal / tradition Avoda Zara 10a

Therefore: Jewish Year from Exodus = Greek Year + 1000

The Greek Year began in 312 BCE/

Therefore: Greek year today = 2021 +312 or 2333

If Exodus was 1000 years before, then this year is 3333 [since the Exodus]

Assuming Exodus took place in 2448

To calculate how many years since creation,- add 2448 to Yetziat Mitzraim

From /Till	Years	Sum	Source
Creation	1	1	Breishit 1:1
Birth of Avraham	1948	1948	Br. Chaps. 5 & 11
Birth of Yitzchak	100	2048	Breishit 21:5
Exodus	400	<b>2448</b>	Breishit 15:13

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2448 \quad \text{Creation till the Exodus} \\
 + 3333 \quad \text{From Exodus till today [2021]} \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

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**5781**

**This calculation is based on the following assumptions:**

1. Yetziat Mitzraim took place 400 years after the birth of Yitzchak  
[based on Breishit 15:13, but not according to Shmot 12:40 in pshat]
2. No GAP between Ezra chapter 6 & 7/ i.e. Daryevesh = Artachshashte
3. The year after Tanach ends Alexander the Great begins conquest of Elam....  
& hence only three Persian Kings: Koresh/ Achashverosh/ Darius=Artachshasta

In pshat, none of the above assumption matches classical (accepted) History

## Review of the time line - [using classic history]

605 BCE - Rise of the Babylonian Empire - First year of King Nebuchadnetzer

= 4<sup>th</sup> year of Yehoyakim (Yirmiyahu 25:1)

597 - First wave of Exile - Galut Yehoyachin

586 - Second wave of Exile - **Temple Destroyed** - Galut Tzidkiyahu

[center of the Jewish people, now in Babylonia]

537 Persia takes over Babylonia - King Cyrus & his Decree **כּוֹרֶשׁ**

530 Cambyses **אַרְתַּחְשַׁשְׁתָּא** [?]

522 Darius I **דָּרְיוֹשׁ**

486 Xerxes ...

465 Artaxerxes

.....

332 - Alexander the Great begins his conquest of Elam and then Persia & Mede

Dates in the book of Ezra & Zecharya

Year 1 Koresh [Ezra 1:1-7] - the return of the Exile ("shivat tzion")

Year 2 Koresh- building stops, soon after it begins, due to 'local population'

**GAP 'one'** [Cambyses - according to classic history] >

Based on Ezra 4:4-5

**Year 2 Daryavesh** - construction begins on 24 Kislev [Chagai 2:10-20]

**Year 4 Daryavesh** - a letter sent from the Exile re: the fast days! Zecharya - chapters 7->8

**Year 6 Daryavesh** [Ezra 6:14-15] - construction of Second Temple - completed 3 Adar

**GAP 'two'** [classic history = Achashverosh ;

in Seder Olam - **no gap!**]

Year 7 Artachshasta [Ezra 6:14 thru 7:7], Ezra makes Aliya from Persia

Year 20 " - Nechemya makes 'aliya' [Nechemya chapter one]

Years 32 & 34 " Nechemya returns [chapter 13]

# Seleucid era

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Seleucid era** or ***Anno Graecorum*** (literally "year of the Greeks" or "Greek year"), sometimes denoted "AG", was a [system of numbering years](#) in use by the [Seleucid Empire](#) and other countries among the ancient [Hellenistic civilizations](#). It is sometimes referred to as "the dominion of the Seleucidæ," or the Year of Alexander.

The era dates from [Seleucus I Nicator](#)'s re-conquest of [Babylon](#) in 312/11 BC after his exile in [Ptolemaic Egypt](#),<sup>[1]</sup> considered by Seleucus and his court to mark the founding of the Seleucid Empire.

According to Jewish tradition, it was during the sixth year of [Alexander the Great](#)'s reign that they began to make use of this counting.<sup>[2]</sup>

Two different uses were made of the Seleucid years:

1. The natives of the empire used the [Babylonian calendar](#), in which the new year falls on 1 Nisanu (3 April in 311 BC), so in this system year 1 of the Seleucid era corresponds roughly to April 311 BC to March 310 BC.
2. This included the Jews, who call it the *Era of Contracts* Hebrew מניין שטרות, *minyān shtarot*). It is used in the Jewish historical book, now "[deuterocanonical](#)", [1 Maccabees](#), in 6:20, 7:1, 9:3, 10:1, etc.<sup>[4]</sup>
3. The [Macedonian](#) court adopted the Babylonian calendar (substituting the [Macedonian month names](#)) but reckoned the new year to be in the autumn (the exact date is unknown). In this system year 1 of the Seleucid era corresponds to the period from autumn 312 BC to summer 311 BC. By the 7th century AD / 10th AG, the west Syrian Christians settled on 1 October-to-30 September.<sup>[5]</sup>
4. Jews, however, reckon the start of each new Seleucid year with the lunar month Tishri.<sup>[6]</sup>

These differences in the beginning of the year mean that dates may differ by one.

The Seleucid era was used as late as the 6th century [AD](#), for instance in the [Zabad trilingual inscription](#) [[fr](#)] in [Syria](#), dated the 24th of [Gorpaios](#), 823 (24 September, 512 AD),<sup>[8]</sup> and in the writings of [John of Ephesus](#).<sup>[9]</sup>

Syriac chroniclers continued to use it up to [Michael the Syrian](#) in the 12th century AD / 15th century AG.<sup>[5]</sup> It has been found on [Nestorian Christian](#) tombstones from [Central Asia](#) well into the 14th century AD.<sup>[10]</sup>

The Seleucid era counting, or "era of contracts" (*minyān sheṭarot*), was used by [Yemenite Jews](#) in their legal deeds and contracts until modern times,<sup>[11]</sup> a practice derived from an ancient Jewish teaching in the [Talmud](#), requiring all [Diaspora Jews](#) to uphold its practice.<sup>[12]</sup>

For this reason, the Seleucid era counting is mentioned in the [Book of Maccabees](#) (I Macc. i. 11) and in the writings of the historian, [Josephus](#).

The Seleucid era counting fell into disuse among most Jewish communities, following Rabbi [David ben Zimra](#)'s cancellation of the practice when he served as Chief Rabbi of Egypt.<sup>[13]</sup> [in 16th century/ the radbaz]