

13:1). He would have been 97, at the least, with a probable age of 99. It is likely that he had some years of age remaining at the division of the land as indicated in Joshua 23:1-2, and the comment that some of the elders, who had seen the works of the Lord, had outlived him, places the date of his death a few years before the first oppression.

### Servitudes and Judges

The first servitude after the 14 years of the elders was to Cushan-rishathaim, and it lasted 8 years, from anno 2569 to anno 2577. In this 8 years of idolatry and sin, there were two sabbatical years that Israel did not observe: 21, 28, which are added up 1 and 2 (column F1).

Israel was delivered by Othniel son of Kenaz, who gave rest to Israel for 40 years.<sup>120</sup> (It is impossible that the 8 years of servitude were included in the 40 years, since the land was not given rest during the servitude.)<sup>121</sup>

After Othniel died, Israel did evil again in the sight of YHWH. So he sold them into the hand of Eglon, king of Moab for 18 years. The children of Israel cried out to the Lord, who raised up Ehud. Ehud slew Eglon, and delivered Israel. He gave them rest for 80 years.

During the 18 years serving Moab (2617 – 2635) instead of YHWH, Israel racked up an additional 3 sabbatical years, which they did not observe, 3, 4, and 5. And the years that Israel sinned were added up to the sum of 26 years.

After Ehud died, Israel sinned yet again, so YHWH sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan for 20 years (2715 – 2735). Following Jabin's oppression, the land had rest for 40 years under the judgeship of Deborah. During Jabin's oppression Israel did not observe the sabbath years (6, 7, and 8) and the years of sin accrued to the sum of 46.

After the 40 years of Deborah, Israel did evil again, and so YHWH so them into the hand of Midian for 7 years. During this seven years, there was only one sabbath year (9), which Israel did not observe, and Israel's sin reached the total of 53 years.

When Israel cried to YHWH, he gave them Gideon, who delivered Israel and gave the land rest for 40 years. After Gideon died, Israel was oppressed for 3 years by Abimelech. After Abimelech died, Tola Judged Israel for 23

years. Then Ammon reconquered most of the transjordan, but Jair successfully resisted the Ammonites in his district for 22 years until his death. Upon his death, the Ammonites conquered his district also, and harassed the Israelites on the west side of the Jordan river for 18 years.

Jephthah judged Israel for 6 years and Ibzan for 7. Elon judged 10 years and Abdon 8. Following this, Israel was sold to the Philistines for 40 years. Samson lived during the days of the Philistines, and upon his death Israel was delivered. The High Priest Eli judged Israel for 40 years until his death when the ark of God was captured by the Philistines. The first year of Eli was 2959, and corresponded to 1181 B.C. This is the exact year that Beecher gives for the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Eli.<sup>122</sup> This represents the best results that 19<sup>th</sup> century scholarship was able to produce. It was not exceeded in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, mid 20<sup>th</sup> century skepticism saw to it that the work of the previous generation was forgotten.<sup>123</sup>

The death of Eli in anno 2999 is followed by a second Philistine oppression that lasted 20 years. By the time of Samuel the prophet, Israel has added up 134 years of sin, and 22 sabbatical years which were not observed. The total number of years from the first oppression until Samuel is 450.

### Validation of the Sums [Optional]<sup>72</sup>

Year	2508 =	0	Exodus	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+40	+40		Add 40 to both sides
Year	2548 =	40	Exodus	Result (a=b)
Exodus	40 =	0	Entry	Given (b=c)
Year	2548 =	0	Entry	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+7	+7		Add 7 to both sides
Year	2555 =	7	Entry	Result (a=b)
Entry	7 =	0	Elders	Given (b=c)
Year	2555 =	0	Elders	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+14	+14		Add 14 to both sides
Year	2569 =	14	Elders	Result (a=b)
Elders	14 =	0	Cushan	Given (b=c)
Year	2569 =	0	Cushan	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+8	+8		Add 8 to both sides
Year	2577 =	8	Cushan	Result (a=b)
Cushan	8 =	0	Othniel	Given (b=c)
Year	2577 =	0	Othniel	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+40	+40		Add 40 to both sides
Year	2617 =	40	Othniel	Result (a=b)
Othniel	40 =	0	Eglon	Given (b=c)
Year	2617 =	0	Eglon	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+18	+18		Add 18 to both sides
Year	2635 =	18	Eglon	Result (a=b)
Eglon	18 =	0	Ehud	Given (b=c)

<sup>120</sup> Complaints voiced about the regularity of the occurrence of eras of 20, 40, 80, or 120 are made to cast doubt on the naturalness of such numbers and hence the integrity of the bible. Such skepticism, however, fails to take into account that God was actively managing the time that Israel spent in either years of rest or servitude. His oversight of the outcome is quite evident when the enumeration of the 390 years of sin is taken into account with the 480 anno Dei years.

<sup>121</sup> Many chronologists try to shorten the period of the judges by making the servitudes run concurrently with the early years of each judgeship. However, the Scripture forbids this by repeating, "The land had rest  $\chi$  years" (Judges 3:11, 3:30, 5:31, 8:28), or by indicating that the deliverer rose up at the end of the servitude (Gideon, Tola, Jephthah). This is sufficient to show that there is no "rule" that oppressions should be the first part of judgeships. So neither should Eli or Samuel's terms run concurrently with the Philistines. The result of such tampering with the plain sense of the text makes the chronology unsolvable for those so entrapped.

<sup>122</sup> Beecher 251.14, *Dated Events of the Old Testament*, pg. 107 (A.D. 1907). Before this date, Beecher's chronology goes off track. The 40 year Philistine oppression should be placed immediately before Eli, but Beecher needs to eliminate a sufficient number of servitudes from the Judges to shorten the period from the Exodus to Solomon's 4<sup>th</sup> year to 480 years.

<sup>123</sup> The NASB Study Bible 251.12, 1 Samuel 4:18 (cf. pg. 363 & Chronology chart inside front cover) claims that Eli should overlap Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abon, and Samson., and places Jephthah in 1078 B.C. This places Eli 102 years out of place, and Jephthah 175 years out of place. This is the result of modern scholarship, and it makes a mockery out of biblical texts like Acts 13:20, and is built on the assumption that God never intended anyone to figure out the chronology of the bible.