

Biblical Chronology

From Solomon to Abraham

1 Kings 11:43

Death of Solomon

931 BC

1 Kings 11:42

Length of Solomon's reign _____

_____ = inauguration

1 Kings 6:1

Temple construction began in the
4th year of Solomon's reign

1 Kings 6:1

Exodus from Egypt was _____ years
before temple construction began

Exodus 12:40

Length of the Egyptian sojourn _____

Gen 47:9

Jacob's age at start of sojourn _____

_____ = birth date

Gen 25:26

Isaac's age at the birth of Jacob _____

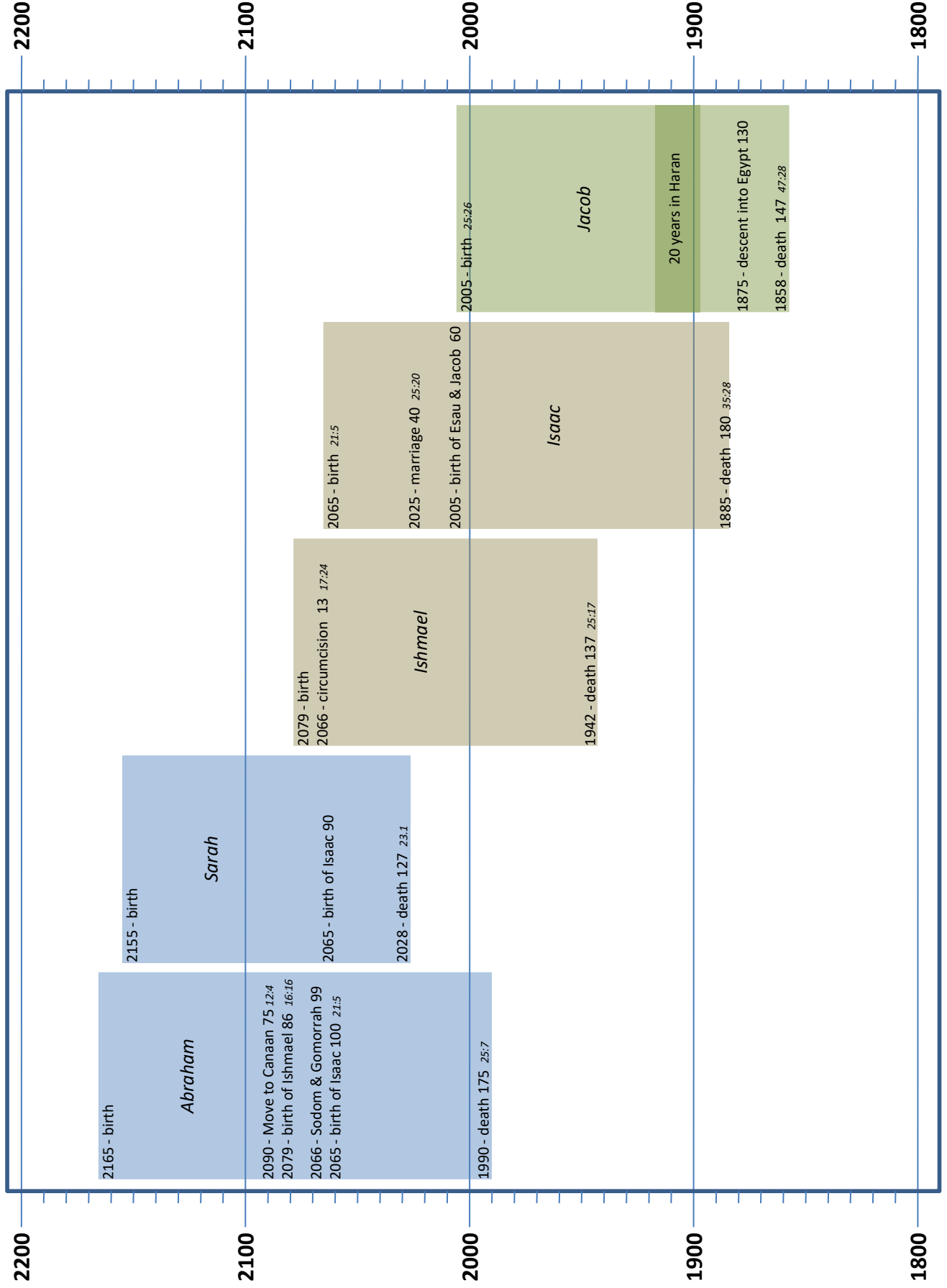
_____ = birth date

Gen 21:5

Abraham's age at birth of Isaac _____

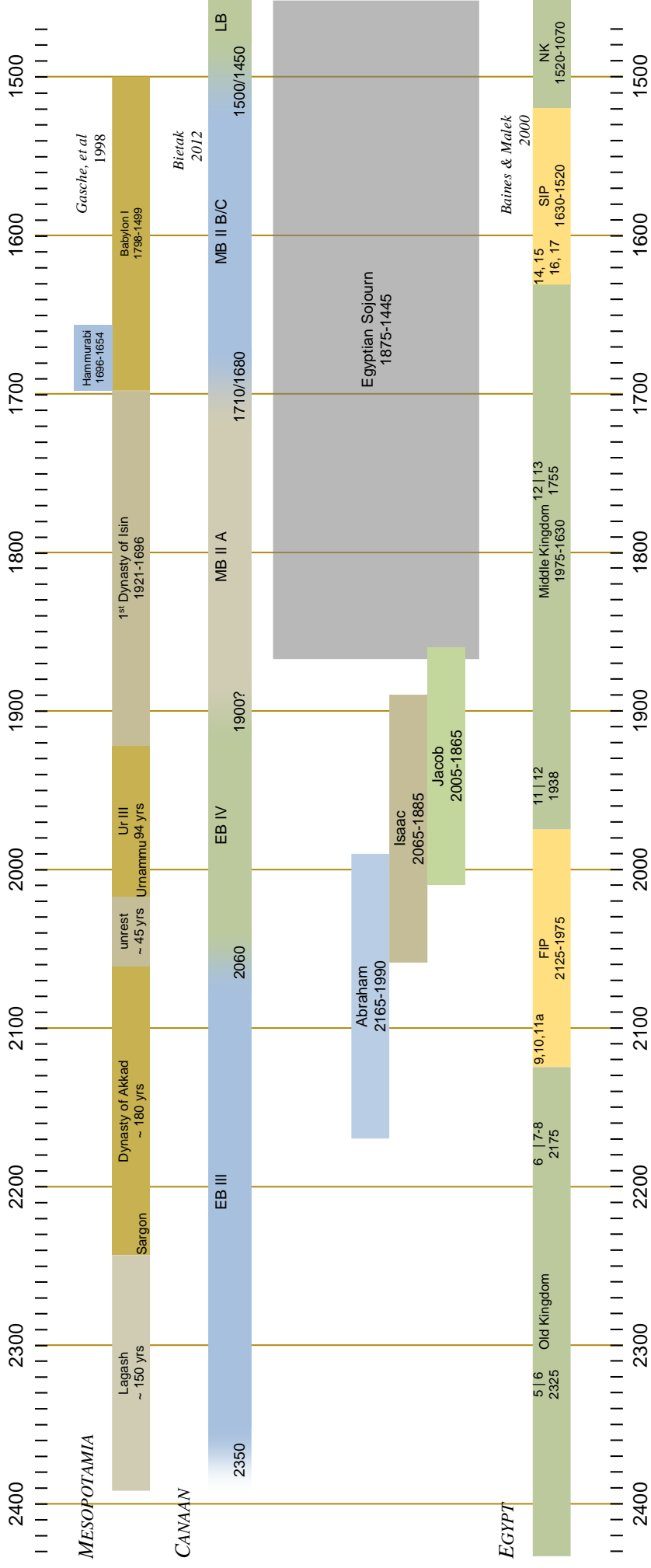
_____ = birth date

Events in the Lives of the Patriarchs



Historical Setting of the Patriarchs

Using the low Mesopotamian chronology of Gasche et. al., the Patriarchs lived during the Ur III period. Using the low Egyptian chronology of Baines and Malek, the Patriarchs lived during the FIP and at the start of the MK. Using the chronology of Beitak for the Levant, they lived during the EB IV and slightly before and after.

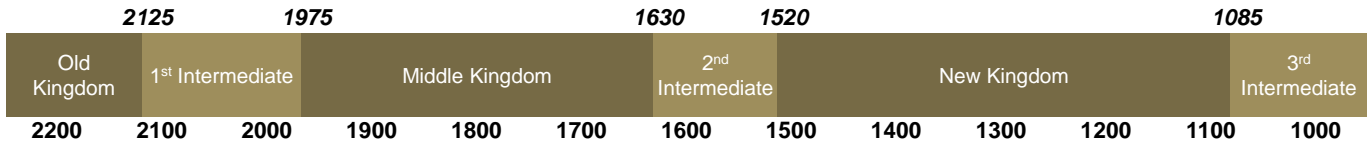


Other Views

It is estimated that Abraham's narrative, when he left Ur with his extended family, picks up when he was about 40 years old.

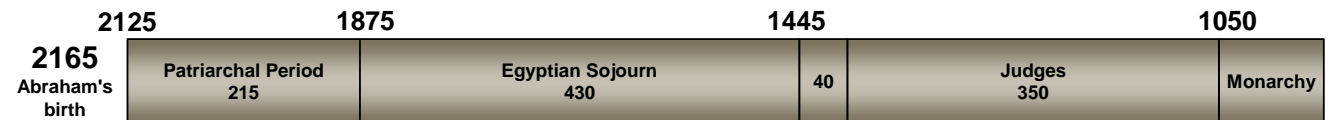
He entered Canaan at the age of 75 (Gen 12:4), or 2090 BC. This would place Abraham in Canaan toward the end of the Early Bronze Age, and in Egypt during the 1st Intermediate Period.

However, not all biblical historians accept the biblical chronology as it is given in the Hebrew text.



Biblical Chronology

Rasmussen 1989



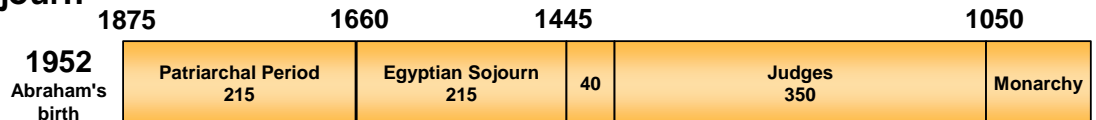
Late Exodus

Kitchen 1980



Shortened Sojourn

Beitzel 1985



Despite the text, specifically 1 Kings 6:1, many biblical scholars prefer a 13th century date for the Exodus. This lowers the preceding chronology by a similar amount, if the preceding periods are viewed as historical.

Others, like Beitzel, accept the reading of the Septuagint over the Hebrew text.

Exodus 12:40 (LXX) "And the sojourning of the children of Israel, while they sojourned in the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan, was four hundred and thirty years."