

his central section of transjordan and crossed over the Jordan and made forays into Israel proper on the west side of the river. From the death of Jair to the deliverance of Jephthah, the Ammonites harried and vexed the whole of Israel for 18 years.

Conquest	7	Computed	
Elders	+ X	Judges	3:11
Cushan	+ 8	Judges	3:8
Othniel	+ 40	Judges	3:11
Eglon	+ 18	Judges	3:14
Ehud	+ 80	Judges	3:30
Jabin	+ 20	Judges	4:3
Deborah	+ 40	Judges	5:31
Midian	+ 7	Judges	6:1
Gideon	+ 40	Judges	8:28
Abimelech	+ 3	Judges	9:22
Tola	+ 23	Judges	10:2
<hr/>			
300 = 286 + X			
X = 300 - 286	Judges	11:26	
X = 14			

The sum of the component eras from the conquest of Heshbon to the end of Tola's 23 years is  $286 + \chi = 300$ , where  $\chi$  represents the years between the end of the conquest (2555) and the first oppression by Cushan. If Jair's 22 years are included the equation would be  $286 + 22 + \chi = 300$ , with solution  $\chi = -8$ . Since  $\chi < 0$ , clearly this is impossible. So Jair's 22 years are not included<sup>118</sup>, and the 300 years ends with the death of Tola, with solution  $\chi = 14$  for the elders period. This is a perfectly reasonable solution since it results in the oldest Israelites to remember Sinai at age 19 living to an age of 77 in 2568; it was only after the death of this generation that Israel rebelled. If the average lifespan was 70, then this leaves 7 years to spare for the younger generation that did not remember the Exodus to rebel.

#### Validation of the Sums<sup>72</sup>

In this validation table, the year counter is set to 0 so that it can be verified that a total of 300 years accumulate from the conquest of Heshbon to the accession of Jair (Judges 11:26).

Year	0 =	0 Conquest	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+7	+7	Add 7 to both sides
Year	7 =	7 Conquest	Result (a=b)
Conquest	7 =	0 Elders	Given (b=c)
Year	7 =	0 Elders	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+14	+14	Add 14 to both sides
Year	21 =	14 Elders	Result (a=b)
Elders	14 =	0 Cushan	Given (b=c)

<sup>118</sup> There is an ambiguity in the Hebrew text as to whether the 300 years were meant to include Jair's 22 years. Using proof by contradiction, we show that it must be excluded.

Year	21 =	0 Cushan	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+8	+8	Add 8 to both sides
Year	29 =	8 Cushan	Result (a=b)
Cushan	8 =	0 Othniel	Given (b=c)
Year	29 =	0 Othniel	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+40	+40	Add 40 to both sides
Year	69 =	40 Othniel	Result (a=b)
Othniel	40 =	0 Eglon	Given (b=c)
Year	69 =	0 Eglon	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+18	+18	Add 18 to both sides
Year	87 =	18 Eglon	Result (a=b)
Eglon	18 =	0 Ehud	Given (b=c)
Year	87 =	0 Ehud	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+80	+80	Add 80 to both sides
Year	167 =	80 Ehud	Result (a=b)
Ehud	80 =	0 Jabin	Given (b=c)
Year	167 =	0 Jabin	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+20	+20	Add 20 to both sides
Year	187 =	20 Jabin	Result (a=b)
Jabin	20 =	0 Deborah	Given (b=c)
Year	187 =	0 Deborah	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+40	+40	Add 40 to both sides
Year	227 =	40 Deborah	Result (a=b)
Deborah	40 =	0 Midian	Given (b=c)
Year	227 =	0 Midian	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+7	+7	Add 7 to both sides
Year	234 =	7 Midian	Result (a=b)
Midian	7 =	0 Gideon	Given (b=c)
Year	234 =	0 Gideon	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+40	+40	Add 40 to both sides
Year	274 =	40 Gideon	Result (a=b)
Gideon	40 =	0 Abimelech	Given (b=c)
Year	274 =	0 Abimelech	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+3	+3	Add 3 to both sides
Year	277 =	3 Abimelech	Result (a=b)
Abimelech	3 =	0 Tola	Given (b=c)
Year	277 =	0 Tola	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+23	+23	Add 23 to both sides
Year	300 =	23 Tola	Result (a=b)
Tola	23 =	0 Jair	Given (b=c)
Year	300 =	0 Jair	If a=b, and b=c, then a=c
	+0	+0	Add 0 to both sides
Year	300 =	0 Jair	Result (a=b)

#### The Days of Joshua

Joshua lived 110 years, dying in the 14 year period between the conquest and the first oppression. Allowing that he could have died at any point in this period would make Joshua anywhere from 50 to 63 years old at the Exodus. It is likely that he was at the lower end of this range, say 53-55, at the time of the Exodus. The normal age of retirement from military service was 51. However, the age for skilled generals was 50-60, who would no doubt serve longer in the national interest, so that their experience was not lost. Joshua is said to be a young man in the King James Version (Exodus 33:11).

However, the Hebrew word נָעָר (*na'ar*) in this context, only means *servant* or *retainer*.<sup>119</sup> Clearly, Joshua had pledged himself to be Moses' aide. At the division of the land in 2555, Joshua is said to be "old and stricken in years" (Joshua

<sup>119</sup> See the BDB Hebrew Lexicon (251.22), definition #2, **servant, retainer**. While the word *young* in Exodus 33:11 is a mistranslation, the Hebrew does not have the word *man* with it at all. The two words together, *young man*, in English, may connote immaturity; however, a grey haired elder might say someone was *still young* and mean anyone strong and vigorous, who just happened to be younger. Moses needed assistance at age 80 to hold his arms up for an extended period. Joshua was young enough to help him in this task.