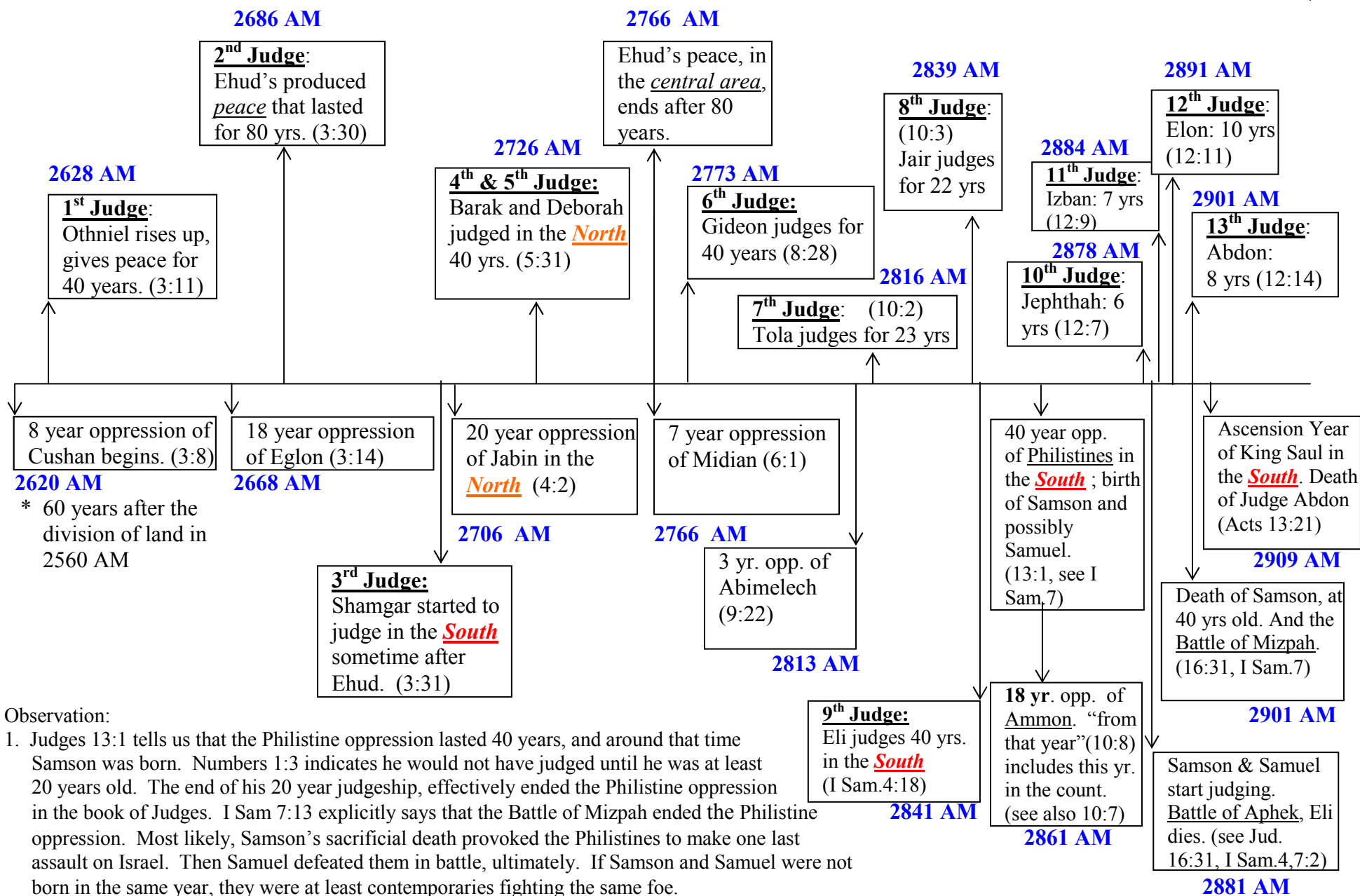


Year of the World: From the Judges to King Saul
(Chronology from James Jordan)

2600 AM

3000 AM



Observation:

- Judges 13:1 tells us that the Philistine oppression lasted 40 years, and around that time Samson was born. Numbers 1:3 indicates he would not have judged until he was at least 20 years old. The end of his 20 year judgeship, effectively ended the Philistine oppression in the book of Judges. I Sam 7:13 explicitly says that the Battle of Mizpah ended the Philistine oppression. Most likely, Samson's sacrificial death provoked the Philistines to make one last assault on Israel. Then Samuel defeated them in battle, ultimately. If Samson and Samuel were not born in the same year, they were at least contemporaries fighting the same foe.
- Judges 11:26. The 300 years of Ammonite passivity came to an end with their oppression. 2560 – 2860 are the 300 years of Ammonite passivity mentioned in Jephthah's letter. In 2861 AM, including that year, or "from that year" (10:8) they started their 18 year oppression.

The Acts 13:21 connection: “*After that He gave them judges for about 450 years, until Samuel the prophet. And afterward they asked for a king, so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for 40 years.*”

How did Paul the Apostle know about the 40 year reign for King Saul, when it is not mentioned in the Old Testament?

Well, the Old Testament math of dated events leaves a gap of 40 years for Saul’s reign.

480 years after the Exodus to building of Temple (see I Kings 6:1)

40 years of wilderness wandering	2514 – 2554 AM	
7 years of conquest and division of land	2554 – 2560 AM	
300 years from division of land in 2560	2560 – 2860 AM	→ Judges 11:26 300 years since the conquest of the banks of Arnon.
18 years of Ammonite oppression	2861 – 2878 AM	300 year period ended when Ammon first started their 18 year oppression.
6 years of Jephthah’s judgeship	2878 – 2884 AM	
7 years of Ibzan’s judgeship	2884 – 2891 AM	
10 years of Elon’s judgeship	2891 – 2901 AM	
8 years of Abdon’s judgeship	2901 – 2909 AM	→ 2909 would have been Saul’s ascension year. His 1 st year was 2910.
40 years remaining for Saul	2910 – 2949 AM	→ 2949 was David’s ascension year. His 1 st year was 2950
40 years of David’s reign	2950 – 2989 AM	→ (I Kings 2:11) 2989 was Solomon ascension year. His 1 st was 2990.
4 years into Solomon’s kingship he began to build the temple	2990 – 2993 AM	→ (I Kings 6:1)

Add up all these years and you get 480 – the same amount mentioned in I Kings 6:1. Seeing this gap of 40 years can easily explain how the Apostle Paul knew that King Saul reigned in Israel for 40 years.