

**ושל סדום נ"ב שנה – And s'existence was fifty-two years**

### OVERVIEW

The גמרא states that סדום existed for fifty-two years, of which twenty six were peaceful years. תוספות reconciles the numbers.

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סדום lasted for fifty-two years -

כמו שמוכיח בקונטרס<sup>1</sup> שהיה אברהם בן מ"ח שנה כשנבנית סדום<sup>2</sup> –

As סדום was built. רש"י proves, since אברהם forty-eight years old when

The גמרא continues

– ושלוחה כ"ו שנים משמע שהיה אברהם בן ע"ג כשהרג את המלכים<sup>3</sup> –

And סדום was at peace for twenty six years; this would indicate that אברהם was seventy-three years old when he killed the four kings who were subjugating סדום, etc.

תוספות cites a differing opinion:

– ובסדר עולם משמע שהיה בן ע"ה שנה כשהכה את המלכים –

However from סדר עולם it seems that אברהם was seventy-five years old when he smote the four kings -

– דקאמר התם אברהם אבינו כשנדבר עמו בין הבתרים בן ע' שנה היה –

For he states there (in סדר עולם) that אברהם אבינו was seventy years old when ה' spoke to him at the הבתרים -

– שנאמר<sup>4</sup> ויהי מקץ שלשים שנה וגומר וחזר לחרן ושהה שם ה' שנים –

As is written, 'and it was at the end of four hundred and thirty years, etc.' אברהם then returned to חרן after the הבתרים and tarried there five years, and then he returned again to כנען -

– שנאמר<sup>5</sup> ואברם בן חמש שנים ושבעים שנה בצאתו מחרן וגומר –

As is written and אברם was seventy-five years old when he left חרן, etc.

– ואותה שנה שיצא מחרן שנת רעב היתה ירד למצרים ושהה שם ג' חדשים –

And that year in which he left חרן was a hunger year, and אברהם

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<sup>1</sup> ד"ה ששיבתה

<sup>2</sup> It was destroyed when אברהם was ninety-nine this equals to fifty two years (if we include both years).

<sup>3</sup> See רש"י (יא,א ד"ה עשרים). Seventy-three (when סדום was freed and began having שלוחה) and twenty six equals ninety-nine (when it was destroyed).

<sup>4</sup> אברהם was told to בין הבתרים of the גזירה (פסוק מ ד"ה שלשים) there רש"י See. שמות (בא) יב, מא thirty years before יצחק was born. יצחק was born when אברהם was a hundred years old.

<sup>5</sup> כנען. בראשית לך יב, ד. This was the second time אברהם went to

descended to מצרים and spent three months there, until אברהם -

בא וישב לו באלוני ממרא היא שנה שכבש את המלכים –

Came and settled in אלוני ממרא which was the same year in which he conquered the four kings -

ולפי זה לא היתה שלותה אלא כ"ד<sup>6</sup> –

So according to this reckoning סדום was at peace for only twenty four years. This contradicts our גמרא.

תוספות responds:

וצריך לומר שהיתה בשלוח ב' שנים בתחלה<sup>7</sup>:

And it will be necessary to say (according to the סד"ע) that סדום was at peace its first two years of existence.

### SUMMARY

According to the סדר עולם that אברהם was seventy-five when he smote the four kings, it will be necessary to say that סדום was first at peace for the first two years of its existence, and then after twenty six years of strife it was at peace for an additional twenty four years, after which it was destroyed.

### THINKING IT OVER

The גמרא states that צוער sinned (one year) less than סדום. How can we connect this to the מחלוקת whether אברהם was seventy- three or whether he was seventy-five years old when he smote the four kings?<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> This was from the seventy-fifth years of אברהם (when he freed סדום) until the ninety ninth year of אברהם (when סדום was destroyed by the מלאכים).

<sup>7</sup> This was followed by twenty six years of subjugation and strife, and concluded with an additional twenty-four years of peace.

<sup>8</sup> See (שפ"א) לשון הזהב.