

Was Kohath the Grandfather of Moses? Evidence from Genesis 46 and Exodus 6, 7, and 12

Genesis 46

v 8 Now these are the names of **the sons of Israel**,
Jacob and his sons, who went **to Egypt**:

v 11 **The sons of Levi**: Gershon, **Kohath**, and Merari.

Exodus 6

v 18 **The sons of Kohath**:

Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel....

v 20 **Amram** married his father's sister Jochebed,
and she bore him **Aaron and Moses**....²

Exodus 12

v 7 **Moses was eighty years old
and Aaron eighty-three**,
when they spoke to Pharaoh.

Exodus 7

v 40 Now the time that **the sons of Israel**
lived **in Egypt** was 430 years.¹

¹ Adapted from William Henry Green, "Primeval Chronology," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 47 (1890): 291. Green writes, "...Levi's son, Kohath, was born before the descent to Egypt (Gen. 46:11); and the abode of the children of Israel in Egypt continued 430 years (Ex. 12:40-41). Now as Moses was eighty years old at the Exodus (Ex. 7:7) he must have been born more than 350 years after Kohath, who consequently could not have been his own grandfather."

² "...in the actual history of the birth of Moses his parents are not called Amram and Jochebed. Instead the text simply says (Ex. 2:1), 'And there went out a man of the house of Levi, and took a wife of the house of Levi'" (Green, "Chronology," 294).