

**The Biblical Calendar
of
History**

by Harold Camping

A Chronological Record of Events
According to the Holy Bible



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Introduction

Chapters 5 and 11 of the book of Genesis have long been a seemingly insurmountable obstacle to students of the Bible. Inasmuch as they begin with Adam and end with Abraham, they have their roots in creation and their outreach into the era of the great civilizations of Babylon and Egypt, which flourished during Abraham's day. They therefore tantalize the scholar who is trying to reconstruct past history. Unfortunately, because a solution to an understanding of these chapters has not been forthcoming, the events embraced within their scope -- creation, the fall of man, the Noahian flood -- are likewise often looked upon as accounts impervious to clear understanding.

Bishop Ussher's attempt to understand these chronological notices has only worsened matters. His conclusions that Adam's date was 4004 B.C., the flood date was 2349 B.C. and that the Israelites spent 215 years in Egypt, agree neither with the Biblical nor the secular evidence.

But these chapters of Genesis are a part of the Word of God, and therefore they must be true and dependable. The question is, can they be rightly understood? I would be so presumptuous as to suggest a solution to these chronologies. This solution will be compared with some of the pertinent archaeological evidence.

The Clue Phrase "Called His Name"

In Genesis 4 and 5 we read of the birth of Enosh to Seth. Why did God use different language in describing this event in Genesis 4 than in Genesis 5? In Genesis 4 we read, "Seth called his name Enosh" (Gen. 4:26). But in Chapter 5 the Bible says, "Seth begat Enosh" (Gen. 5:6). Why did God use the phrase "called his name" (ASV) in connection with Enosh's birth in Genesis 4 when He did not in Genesis 5? It is obvious that the phrase "Seth begat Enosh," or "Methuseelah begat Lamech," did not insure that Enosh was the immediate son of Seth or Lamech or Methuseelah. Many instances can be found where a father-son relationship appears to be indicated and yet other Scriptural evidence points to a more distant ancestry. Matthew 1:1, where Jesus is referred to as the son of David, and David, the son of Abraham, is illustrative.

A more careful examination of the Scriptures reveals why the phrase "called his name" which is the Hebrew *qara*, was used. In every place where this phrase is employed, there can be no doubt of the existing relationship; invariably it is indicative of parent and child. Thus the Bible says, for example, "Abraham called the name of his son. . . Isaac" (Gen. 21:3), ". . . so they called his name Esau" (Gen. 25:25), "a virgin shall conceive and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). In every instance where this "clue" phrase appears one may be certain that an immediate son is being described and not a more remote descendant.

God's use of this "clue" phrase thus assures one that Seth was the immediate son of Adam (Gen. 4:24), Enosh of Seth (Gen. 4:26), and Noah of his father, Lamech (Gen. 5:29).

But what about the rest of the names appearing in these genealogies under discussion? Two are decipherable. Other Biblical evidence shows clearly that Shem was the immediate son of Noah, even though the phrase

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“called his name” is not used.¹ The Bible shows, too, by other information that when Terah was 130 he became the father of Abram.² But in the case of all of the other names listed in these chapters there is no Biblical evidence of any kind that points to an immediate father-son relationship. In fact, there is internal evidence within these accounts that points to other than immediate father-son relationships.³

An Ancient Calendar

In further reflection upon this situation, two Biblical notices should be examined. The first is that of Genesis 7 and 8, where the dates of the flood events are referenced to the age of Noah. Thus Gen. 8:13 records, “in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters....” etc. Gen. 7:6 indicates to us that the six hundred years was the age of Noah when the flood came. Could the calendars of ancient peoples have been tied to the life spans of certain individuals?

The second notice is that of the New Testament where Christ declared “this generation will not pass away until all these things take place” (Matt. 24:34). In this reference Christ is speaking of events that would take place just before His return. He is therefore insisting “this generation” would continue at least for almost two thousand years, for this much time has now elapsed, and all of the events of which he was prophesying in Matthew 24 have not yet happened. As a matter of fact, this is the generation of Jesus Christ. This is 1981 A.D. -- the year of our Lord.⁴ The events of today are dated exactly as they were in Noah’s day, by reference to the birth day of a person.

Since this method of dating events was practiced in Noah’s day, was suggested by Jesus Himself, and is actually the practice used today, could not this have been the method described in Genesis 5 and 11? Isn’t it possible that these accounts are a calendar giving the name of the patriarch whose life span was the reference point at his period or generation in history? This would make abundant sense, for this would provide for continuity and clarity in historical reckoning.

Calendar Confirmation from Egypt

God gives additional evidence to support this reasoning. In Exodus 6 God gives genealogical information concerning some of the descendants of Jacob. The information given does not appear very meaningful to our present day and age. But hidden amongst these verses are three numbers. The first is found in verse 16 where it is stated that Levi’s three sons were Gershon, Kohath and Merari, and the years of Levi’s life were 137. The second is in the next verse, where it says Kohath’s four sons were Amram, Ighar, Hebron and Uzziel, and the years of Kohath’s life were 133. The third is in verse 20, where it says Amram was married to Jochebed and she bore him Moses and Aaron, and the years of Amram’s life were 137. At first reading, it appears that Levi was the great grandfather, Kohath the grandfather, Amram the father, and Moses and Aaron the sons. But is this so? There is no other Biblical evidence that indicates this is the case, and there is no use anywhere in the Bible of the phrase “called his name” in reference to these men which would point to an immediate father-son relationship. But why would God give the life spans of only three

individuals amongst so many?

To solve this puzzle, let us assume that God is giving us the calendar for the Israelitish sojourn in Egypt. One might recall that Jacob came to Egypt with his sons including Levi, and that the Israelites went out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. Both Levi and Aaron are mentioned in Exodus 6 and the age of Aaron at the time of Israel’s departure from Egypt is given as 83 (Exodus 7:7). It can be shown from the Biblical references that when Levi entered Egypt he was 60±3 years of age, with the burden of the evidence pointing to 60 years.⁵ Since he died at the age of 137, he lived 77 years in Egypt. If this is a calendar giving the names of the reference patriarchs or generations, we would expect that Kohath was a descendant of Levi and was born the year of Levi’s death; that Amram was a descendant of Kohath, and that he was born the year of Kohath’s death. Aaron in turn was born the year of Amram’s death, and was descended from Amram. Let us add these time spans together:

Levi	77 years in Egypt
Kohath	137 years in Egypt
Amram	133 years in Egypt
Aaron	83 years in Egypt
	430 years -- Total Time

Turning now to the Biblical record, we discover the following interesting information. “Now the time that the children of Israel dwelt in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of Jehovah went out from the land of Egypt” (Ex. 12:40, 41).

God thus shows us clearly that the calendar used to record the passage of time during the Egyptian sojourn was based on the lives of Levi and his descendants, Kohath, Amram and Aaron. This explains too the prophecy given to Abraham in Gen. 15:13-16, where he is told his descendants would be oppressed 400 years in a land that was not theirs, and that they would return to their own land in the fourth generation.

Aaron’s was the fourth generation

I believe that God in His wonderful wisdom has given us the key that unlocks the hitherto perplexing genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11. These chapters are a calendar. The time was divided into patriarchal periods or generations, even as the New Testament period is the generation of Jesus Christ, and as the Egyptian sojourn was so divided. Thus, for example, when Methuselah died, bringing to an end his generation, a man who was born in the year of Methuselah’s death was selected to be the next reigning patriarch, or at least the next man for calendar reference. After Methuselah, this was Lamech. None of the conditions of his selection are given, except that he had to be a descendant of Methuselah. The Bible indicates that Methuselah was 187 years old when he begat Lamech; i.e., when he was 187 the forefather of Lamech was born to Methuselah (Gen. 5:25). This notice establishes the certainty of Lamech’s blood descent from Methuselah by showing where his forefather tied into the life of Methuselah.

Christ's began 1981 years ago.⁶ God has thus given in His Word a complete calendar from creation to Christ.

A chronology beginning with Adam may now be set forth. To tie this genealogical table to our present calendar, synchronization between the Biblical and secular histories should be found. Because so much work has been done in recent times, particularly in relationship to the dating of the kings of Israel, this can be done rather readily. Edwin R. Thiele, in his book *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings* established the date of the death of Solomon and the division of the kingdom as 931 B.C.⁷ Since Solomon reigned 40 years (I Kings 11:42) and began building the temple in the fourth year of his reign (I Kings 6:1), this building began in the year 967 B.C. This date in turn can be related to the exodus because in at least two places God gives a time bridge from the exodus to the building of the temple. The first is recorded in I Kings 6:1, where 480 years is indicated as the time span between these events. The second can be shown from the chronology of the Hebrew judges.⁸

A time span of 480 years brings us to 1447 B.C. as the date of the Exodus. If we work back from this date to Adam, we arrive at the date for Adam as 11013 B.C. The key dates are as follows:

Creation of Adam	11013 B.C.
Seth born	10883 B.C.
Enosh's generation	10778-9873 B.C.
Kenan's generation	9873-8963 B.C.
Mahalel's generation	8963-8068 B.C.
Jared's generation	8068-7106 B.C.
Enoch's generation	7106-6741 B.C.
Methuselah's generation	6741-5772 B.C.
Lamech born	5772 B.C.
Noah born	5590 B.C.
Flood	4990-4989 B.C.
Arpachshad's generation	4488-4050 B.C.
Shelah's generation	4050-3617 B.C.
Eber's generation	3617-3153 B.C.
Peleg's generation	3153-2914 B.C.
Reu's generation	2914-2675 B.C.
Serug's generation	2675-2445 B.C.
Nahor's generation	2445-2297 B.C.
Terah born	2297 B.C.
Abram born	2167 B.C.
Isaac born	2067 B.C.
Jacob born	2007 B.C.
Entrance into Egypt	1877 B.C.
Exodus	1447 B.C.
Foundation of temple laid	967 B.C.
Division of Kingdom	931 B.C.

The First Civilization

The development of a Biblical chronology beginning with Adam is interesting, but will it hold up when compared with the known facts of

The selection of the next patriarch had to include a birth date coinciding with Methuselah's death date to insure a rational history. Had he been born one or more years earlier an overlap would have occurred which would have blurred history. If Lamech had been born one or more years later than Methuselah's death, a gap would have occurred which would have confused history. Therefore, when a citizen of the world of that day spoke of an event occurring in the year Methuselah 950, only one year in history answered to this date. Again, if he spoke of the year Lamech 2, only one year answered to this date, and he knew precisely how many years transpired from Methuselah 950 and Lamech 2.

At the beginning men were comparatively scarce. Thus it seems apparent that when Adam died, there was no one born that year who was qualified to become the next reference patriarch. When Seth died 112 years later the same situation prevailed. But when Enosh, the grandson of Adam, died 98 years after Seth, a child who was a descendant of Enosh was born in the same year, and this child was eventually named as the next reference patriarch. This was Kenan. Kenan's life span thus became the calendar reference for that period of history. The calendar was continued in this fashion until Methuselah died and Lamech was born.

When Lamech was born he was the one to whom the calendar was referenced. But his descendant who was born the year of Lamech's death and who should have become the next patriarch died in the flood. This can easily be known, for Lamech died 5 years before the flood and only Noah and his immediate family survived the flood. Noah, who was an immediate son of Lamech, of necessity became a substitute calendar reference, even though he was not born the year of Lamech's death. Thus the flood events are all dated by the life span of Noah (Gen. 7:6, 11; Gen. 8:4, 5, 13, 14).

When Noah died 350 years after the flood, the same situation prevailed that existed when Adam died. Few people lived upon the earth, and no one met the conditions required to become the next reference patriarch. When Shem died 152 years after Noah, the child Arpachshad, a descendant of Shem, was born in the same year and he became the next patriarch. The calendar was then continued in this same fashion until Terah was born.

When Terah was born he was the reference patriarch. But during his life span God brought into being the nation of Israel through Terah's immediate son, Abram. Thus the descendant of Terah who was born the year of Terah's death was outside the Messianic line and outside of God's chronological purposes. God effectively had narrowed men down to the family of Abram. The normal method of calendar keeping was set aside in the absence of patriarchs who qualified. When Abraham died, no descendant of his was born the year of his death. When Isaac, the immediate son of Abraham, died, the same situation prevailed. This was repeated when Jacob, the immediate son of Isaac, died. But in the year that Levi, the immediate son of Jacob died, a descendant of Levi was born whose name was Kohath, and he apparently met the qualifications of a reference patriarch. Thus he continued the calendar line as we have seen. Amram followed Kohath, and Aaron followed Amram. Interestingly it can be shown that in a real sense Aaron's generation continued until

secular history? To ascertain this, the earliest civilization of antiquity will next be examined to determine its location and the time of its emergence. The threshold of history appears to be located in the area of the present nation of Iraq. Albright writes:⁹

Archaeological research has established that there is no focus of civilization in the earth that can begin to compete in antiquity and activity with the basin of the Eastern Mediterranean and the region immediately to the east of it. . . The Obaidan is the earliest clearly defined culture of Babylonia, where we find its remains underlying nearly all the oldest cities of the country, such as Ur, Erech, Lagash, Eridu, etc. This proves that the occupation of the marshlands of Babylonia by human settlers came rather late in history of the irrigation culture, probably not far from 3700 B.C.

Thus the archaeological evidence shows that the location of the first civilization after the flood was in the Mesopotamia Valley, and this agrees exactly with the Bible, for it reports the first cities were Babylon, Erech, Nineveh, etc. (Gen. 10:10, 11).

The date of 3700 B.C. suggested by Albright is apparently satisfactory to most archaeologists. M.B. Rowton writes that in Uruk, one of the most ancient Mesopotamia sites, the earliest level of monumental buildings is that of the level known as Uruk V. He concludes,¹⁰ "the beginning of Uruk V can plausibly be dated 3500 B.C." These dates of 3500 or 3700 B.C. are estimates arrived at by starting at a more clearly defined historical point and allowing a reasonable period of time for each level of occupation prior to this. Thus, the archaeological evidence appears to indicate that prior to about 3700 B.C. there was no substantial culture anywhere in the world. About 3700-3500 B.C. the first great civilization began to be formed in the plains of Sumer in the land of Babylon, Erech, Ur, etc.

How does this time compare with the Biblical chronology? In Genesis 10 the notice is given that the first building activity after the flood is that of Nimrod, the beginning of whose kingdom was Babel, Erech and Accad, all of them in the land of Shinar (Gen. 10:10). But when did Nimrod come upon the scene? His genealogical descent is that of Noah, Ham, Cush, Nimrod (Gen. 10:1, 6, 8). The Bible offers no timetable for this side of the family tree, but it does offer precise information regarding another branch, that of Noah, Shem, Arpachshad and Shelah. If the genealogical statements of the Bible are studied one might note that very often two branches of the tree are offered. One is that of the descendants leading eventually to Christ and about which precise timetables are given, as we have seen. The second is the genealogical descent of that side of the family which turned away from God. It can be shown that the timetable of these two lines run roughly parallel.¹¹

It thus may be assumed that Ham and Shem were contemporaries (they obviously were, inasmuch as they were brothers), that Arpachshad and Cush were nearly contemporaries, and that Shelah and Nimrod were probably men of the same period of history. Thus, if Shelah's date is

known, it may be surmised that Nimrod's was close to the same date.

Shelah's date by Biblical reckoning was that of 4050 B.C. to 3617 B.C. Nimrod then must have lived about this time. The Bible would thus suggest a date of about 3900 to 3617 for the founding of the great cities of the Mesopotamia Valley. Thus the date suggested by the evidence of archaeology (3700-3500) accords very well with the Biblical statement.

It is of more than passing interest in this connection that the name *Nimrod* has left its mark on the Mesopotamia Valley. The great archaeologist George Rawlinson writes:¹²

The remarkable ruin generally called Akkerhuf, which lies a little to the south-west of Baghdad, is known to many as the "Tel-Nimrod"; the great dam across the Tigris below Mosul is the 'Suhr-el-Nimrud'; one of the chief of the buried cities in the same neighborhood is called 'Nimrud' simply; and the name of 'Birs-Nimrud' attaches to the grandest mass of ruins in the lower country.

The Confusion of Tongues

The next bit of history that should be interesting to investigate is the event of the tower of Babel. Is there any secular evidence that relates to the account of this confusion of tongues as set forth in Genesis 11? There is, indeed.

It might first of all be noted that the account of Genesis 11 indicates that prior to this time in history all men spoke one language. Moreover, the leading civilization was that of these people who dwelt in the plains of Shinar or Sumer. Their desire to be the one great civilization of the world prompted the building of this great tower, which in turn brought on God's interference with their plans so that they were forced to separate into various nations.

As has already been shown, the first great civilization of the world as revealed by secular evidence was that which sprang forth in the Mesopotamia Valley. The time of the beginning of the second important civilization of antiquity could be of real significance. Presumably, it would have begun very shortly after the tower of Babel. The event of the tower of Babel can be known to have occurred during the generation of Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided (Gen. 10:25). Peleg's generation was dated 3153 B.C. to 2914 B.C. Therefore one would expect no important civilizations other than Babylonia to have an antiquity greater than about 3150 B.C.

Egypt Becomes a Great Civilization

All archaeological evidence points to Egypt as the second great civilization to appear. While there was a primitive culture in Egypt prior to the First Dynasty, the uniting of all of Egypt under Pharaoh Menes to form the First Dynasty was the signal for a major burst in the arts of civilization. Albright writes:¹³

It is now certain that the level of Egyptian culture remained considerably below that of Mesopotamia until the First Dynasty,

when under strong indirect influence from the Euphrates Valley, it forged ahead of the latter in a breathtaking spurt.

Interestingly, the new civilization of Egypt beginning with the First Dynasty was patterned after the Babylonia (Mesopotamia) culture. Albricht continues:¹⁴

The close of the predynastic Age and the beginning of the Thinite (period of first two centuries) period witnessed a sudden burst in the arts of civilization. This seems to have been connected in some way with an increase of cultural influence from Asia, since there are numerous exact parallels between Mesopotamia and Egyptian culture at this time, the former being demonstrably older and more original in nearly every instance.

The date of the beginning of the First Dynasty under Menes is calculated to be somewhere between 2800 B.C. and 3100 B.C. The early archaeologists such as Breasted dated his reign at about 3400 B.C. As new archaeological evidence was uncovered this date was moved forward to about 3000 B.C. Albricht believes 2850 B.C. is a good estimate.¹⁵ William C. Hayes suggests 3100 B.C. is the best date presently available.¹⁶

Considering the above information, one is struck by the fact that prior to about 3100 B.C. to 2850 B.C. only one civilization of consequence existed in the world. That was the nation of Babylonia on the plains of Shinar. Then at that time, in a sudden burst of progress, Egypt grew to become a second great civilization, a civilization patterned after the first. And these dates are in almost exact agreement with the Biblical date for the Tower of Babel. Surely the confusion of tongues as recorded in Genesis 11 sent thousands of people skilled in all the arts and crafts of Mesopotamia to Egypt and elsewhere. Thus accord can be seen between the sacred and the secular records by this indirect evidence of the timetable of the civilizations of antiquity.

Writing and the Tower of Babel

It might be noted too that writing had its beginning in Mesopotamia and may be related to the confusion of tongues. Sir Leonard Wooley writes:¹⁷ "All the archaeological evidence seems to prove that true writing was first developed in southern Mesopotamia." The timing for this event is given as 3500 to 3000 B.C. Gelb concludes:¹⁸ "the date of the earliest Sumerian writing should be set tentatively at about 3100 B.C."

The confusion of tongues in Sumer some time in the period between 3150-2900 B.C. could well have been the catalyst that produced writing. Before this dramatic civilization-splitting event all was secure. Only one language was spoken in all the world. Verbal communication was adequate and dependable. But then came this fearful event that shook the very foundations of this great civilization. Men could no longer understand each other. There must be a better way. The application of the spoken word to clay tablets would provide insurance that this kind of a

happening would never totally destroy a culture again. The clay tablets would always prove to be the reference point. One surely can see the possibility if not the probability of this connection between writing and the Tower of Babel.

Conclusion

We thus see that the chronology of history established by Biblical reckoning agrees rather satisfactorily with the archaeological evidence of the earliest civilizations. The Biblical timetable is of course the most reliable, for it is God's Word. If we have properly interpreted it, it should make possible a far more definitive analysis of the secular evidence than ever before. It should also provide a dependable framework in which to understand dating evidence such as that offered by radiometric isotopes like carbon 14.

Hopefully, a perspective of history has been set forth that shows that answers are potentially forthcoming when we begin with the Biblical framework. The concept of a 13,000 year old world, which began to be repopulated again after the flood some 7,000 years ago, and which 1,500 years later had grown to a point which allowed the spawning of the first great cities, surely makes much more sense than that of mankind being around for hundreds or even thousands of millenniums, and then becoming a cohesive city civilization only in the last 5,500 years. Furthermore, the apparent possibility of the end of the age occurring in our time also accords far better with the shorter timetable.

Admittedly, the first purpose of the Bible is not to be a textbook of science or history. It is fundamentally a presentation of God's grace revealed through Jesus Christ. But when the Bible does speak in any field of learning, it does so with great care, accuracy and authority. Three reasons might be advanced for this: (1) these subjects are often an integral part of the plan of salvation; (2) they are part of God's message to man; and (3) by reason of His very nature God is accurate when He speaks. Therefore, it possibly has much more to offer than many have supposed. I hope that others will be encouraged to build upon the suggestions offered in this presentation.



A CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN BIBLICAL HISTORY

Events	B. C.
CREATION. (about 13,000 years ago)	11013
CREATION OF ADAM.	11013
BIRTH OF SETH. Adam was 130 when Seth was born (Gen. 5:6)	10883
BIRTH OF ENOS. Seth was 105 when Enos was born (Gen. 5:6)	10778
END OF ENOS'S PERIOD 905 years after his birth (Gen. 5:11) which is the year Kenan was born and which began his period	9873
END OF KENAN'S PERIOD 910 years after his birth (Gen. 5:14). This is the year Mahalaleel was born and beginning of his period	8963
END OF MAHALALEEL'S PERIOD 895 years after his birth (Gen. 5:17). This is the year Jared was born and beginning of his period	8068
END OF JARED'S PERIOD 962 years after his birth (Gen. 5:20). This is the year Enoch was born and beginning of his period	7106
END OF ENOCH'S PERIOD 365 years after his birth (Gen. 5:23). This is the year Methuselah was born and beginning of his period	6741
END OF METHUSELAH'S PERIOD 969 years after his birth (Gen. 5:27). This is the year Lamech was born and beginning of his period	5772
BIRTH OF NOAH. Lamech was 182 when Noah was born (Gen. 5:28, 29)	5590
THE FLOOD (about 7,000 years ago). Noah was 600 when the flood came (Gen. 7:6)	4990
DEATH OF SHEM 502 years after the flood (Gen. 11:10, 11). This is the year Arpachshad was born and beginning of his period	4488
END OF ARPACHSHAD'S PERIOD 438 years after his birth (Gen. 11:12, 13). This is the year Shelah was born and beginning of his period	4050
END OF SHELAH'S PERIOD 433 years after his birth (Gen. 11:14, 15). This is the year Eber was born and beginning of his period	3617
END OF EBER'S PERIOD 464 years after his birth (Gen. 11:16, 17). This is the year Peleg was born and beginning of his period	3153
TOWER OF BABEL During Peleg's patriarchal period the division of the continents occurred. The Tower of Babel must have occurred between these dates (Gen. 10:25)	3153-2914
END OF PELEG'S PERIOD 239 years after his birth (Gen. 11:18, 19). This is the year Reu was born and beginning of his period	2914
END OF REU'S PERIOD 239 years after his birth (Gen. 11:20, 21). This is the year Serug was born and beginning of his period	2675
END OF SERUG'S PERIOD 230 years after his birth (Gen. 11:22, 23). This is the year Nahor was born and beginning of his period	2445
END OF NAHOR'S PERIOD 148 years after his birth (Gen. 11:24, 25). This is the year Terah was born and beginning of his period	2297
BIRTH OF ABRAM TO TERAH. Terah was 130 years old at birth of Abram	2167
ABRAM ENTERED CANAAN	2092
CIRCUMCISION OF ABRAHAM when he was 99 years of age	2068
BIRTH OF ISAAC. Abraham was 100 years old at birth of Isaac (Gen. 21:5)	2067
BIRTH OF JACOB. Isaac was 60 years old at birth of Jacob (Gen. 25:26)	2007
1. Jacob arrives in Haran at the age of	60
2. He works seven years for Rachel and is then married to Rachel and Leah. He is then	67
3. Reuben is born to Leah the following year when Jacob is	68
4. Simeon is born next to Leah when Jacob is	69
5. Levi is born next to Leah when Jacob is	70
6. Jacob finishes his second seven year contract for Rachel when he is	74
7. He works for wages for 20 years. In the 17th year of this period Joseph is born. Jacob is	91
8. At the end of the 20 year period Joseph is weaned and Jacob wishes to leave Haran. He is	94
9. He works six years longer for his flocks and leaves Haran at age	100
JACOB'S FAMILY ARRIVES IN EGYPT when Jacob is 130 (Gen. 47:9)	1877

The Chronological Sequence During the Egyptian Sojourn

Remembering that the death year of one patriarch coincides with the birth year of the next, the result must look like this:

Levi's Time in Egypt (137 minus 60)	77 Years
Kohath's Period of Patriarchal Leadership	133 Years
Amram's Period of Patriarchal Leadership	137 Years
Aaron's Age at the Time of the Exodus (Exod. 7:7)	83 Years
Total	<u>430 Years</u>

Historical Timetable of Pharaohs and Dynasties

1888 B.C. - Sesostris III became Pharaoh. He was part of the Middle Kingdom or 12th Dynasty of Egypt. His father, Sesostris II, probably had reigned during the previous 19 years and possibly came to an untimely death.

1886 B.C. - Joseph became Prime Minister or Grand Vizier of Egypt under Sesostris III.

1877 B.C. - The family of Joseph came to Egypt and took up residence in the land of Goshen. The city of Avaris (Zoan in the Bible), which later was called Tanis or Qantir, was their capital.

1850 B.C. - Sesostris III died after an exceedingly successful reign of 38 years. He was succeeded by another great 12th Dynasty Pharaoh named Amenemhet III. Under his reign Joseph continued as Prime Minister. A canal bearing Joseph's name was constructed at this time.

1806 B.C. - Joseph died.

1802 B.C. - Amenemhet III died after a 48 year reign. During his reign Egypt was prosperous, tranquil and productive. He was succeeded by Amenemhet IV who reigned for the brief period of 9 years. During his reign there was much internal strife for royal supremacy.

1791 B.C. - Amenemhet IV died and was succeeded by the last Pharaoh of the 12th Dynasty, Sebeknefrure.

1787 B.C. - Sebeknefrure's brief reign of 4 years ended and with it ended the 12th Dynasty. The 13th Dynasty began. The reigns of succeeding Pharaohs were short and the empire began to dissolve. The Israelites, who

no doubt are the "Hyksos" of archaeological fame, took advantage of the internal struggles to acquire a strong hand in the Egyptian government and indeed some of them may have reigned as Pharaohs during this period.

1580 B.C. (approx.) - Several dynasties have ruled over Egypt since 1787 B.C. At this time Ahmose I began to reign as the first king of the 18th Dynasty. He forcibly began to remove the Israelites (Hyksos) from political power. The most war-like Israelites were driven from the land and the Israelitish nation began to be severely oppressed. Either this Pharaoh or a closely succeeding Pharaoh such as Thutmose I could well have been the king who "did not know Joseph" (Exod. 1:8).

1560 B.C. (approx.) - Ahmose I was followed by his son Amenhotep I. Amenhotep I consolidated the gains of his father.

1540-1535 B.C. (approx.) - Thutmose I began to reign as king. He too was a continuation of the 18th Dynasty. He continued and probably intensified the oppressive measures against the Israelites, for he was ruling when Moses was born. His animosity toward the Israelites was probably heightened by his troubles with Palestine and Syria. His reign was followed by that of his son Thutmose II.

1527 B.C. - Moses was born at a time when a royal edict condemned all the boy babies to be destroyed. Princess Hatshepsut, a daughter of the king, found him in the bulrushes and raised him as her son.

1501 B.C. - Thutmose III began to reign as the greatest king of the 18th Dynasty. For approximately the first 25 years of his reign he was co-regent with Princess Hatshepsut. She regarded herself as a king and was the dominant ruler during this co-regency.

1487 B.C. - Moses fled from Egypt. King Hatshepsut, who had raised him to be her son, sought to kill him because of his evident loyalty for the Israelites.

1481 B.C. (approx.) - King Hatshepsut died and Thutmose III continued to reign until the time of the exodus.

Israel went out of Egypt (Thutmose III) 1447 B.C.
Israel entered into Canaan 1407 B.C.

EXODUS FROM EGYPT 430 years later
(Exod. 12:40)
ENTRANCE INTO CANAAN 40 years later
1447 B.C.
1407 B.C.

King	Reign	Character
1. Rehoboam	931-913 B.C. (17 Yrs.)	Bad
2. Abijah	913-911 (3 Yrs.)	Bad
3. Asa	911-879 (41 Yrs.)	Good
4. Jehoshaphat	873-848* (25 Yrs.)	Good
5. Jehoram	853-841* (12 Yrs.)	Bad
6. Ahaziah	841 (1 Yr.)	Bad
7. Athaliah	841-835 (6 Yrs.)	Bad
8. Joash	835-796 (40 Yrs.)	Good
9. Amaziah	796-767 (29 Yrs.)	Good
10. Azariah (or Uzziah)	792-740* (52 Yrs.)	Good
11. Jotham	750-732* (18 Yrs.)	Good
12. Ahaz	735-716 (19 Yrs.)	Bad
13. Hezekiah	716-687 (29 Yrs.)	Good
14. Manasseh	697-643 (54 Yrs.)	Bad
15. Amon	643-641 (2 Yrs.)	Bad
16. Josiah †	641-609 (32 Yrs.)	Good
17. Jehoahaz	609 (3 Mo.)	Bad
18. Jehoiakim	609-598 (11 Yrs.)	Bad
19. Jehoiachin	608-597*	Bad
20. Zedekiah	597-587	Bad

King	Reign	Character
1. Jeroboam I	931-910 B.C. (22 Yrs.)	Bad
2. Nadab	910-909	Bad
3. Baasha	909-886	Bad
4. Elah	886-885	Bad
5. Zimri	885	Bad
6. Tibni	885-880	Bad
7. Omri	885-874*	Bad
8. Ahab	874-853	Bad
9. Ahaziah	853-852	Bad
10. Joram	852-841	Bad
11. Jehu	841-814	Bad
12. Jehoahaz	814-798	Bad
13. Jehoshaphat	798-782	Bad
14. Jeroboam II	793-753*	Bad
15. Zechariah	753-752	Bad
16. Shallum	752	Bad
17. Menahem	752-742	Bad
18. Pekahiah	742-740	Bad
19. Pekah	752-732*	Bad
20. Hoshea	732-722	Bad

Remnants of these 10 tribes joined with nation of Judah, which is then called Israel.

(Capture of Samaria and captivity of Israel)

Chronological Table of the Kings of the Divided Kingdom

King	Reign	Character
ISRAEL (10 Tribes)		
JUDAH (2 Tribes)		

Date	Events
1447 B.C.	The Exodus
1407 B.C.	Entrance into Canaan
1407-1367 B.C.	Initial 40 year Period in Canaan
	During this period the conquest of Canaan occurred under Joshua and Othniel delivered Israel
1367-1287 B.C.	Next 80 year Period in Canaan
	During this period Ehud and Shamgar deliver Israel
1287-1247 B.C.	Next 40 Year Period in Canaan
	Deborah and Barak were deliverers during this period
1247-1207 B.C.	Gideon judged Abimelech rules
1207-1204 B.C.	Tola judged Abimelech rules
1181-1159 B.C.	Jair judged
1159-1153 B.C.	Jephthah judged
1153-1146 B.C.	Ibzan judged
1146-1136 B.C.	Elon judged
1136-1128 B.C.	Abon judged
1128-1108 B.C.	Samson judged
1108-1068 B.C.	Eli judged
1068-1067 B.C.	Ark in Philistines' hands
1067-1047 B.C.	Samuel judged
1047-1007 B.C.	Saul reigned as king
1007-967 B.C.	David reigned
971 B.C.	Solomon
967 B.C.	Temple foundation laid

Period	Years	Notes
Initial 40 year Period in Canaan	1407-1367 B.C.	During this period the conquest of Canaan occurred under Joshua and Othniel delivered Israel
Next 80 year Period in Canaan	1367-1287 B.C.	During this period Ehud and Shamgar deliver Israel
Next 40 Year Period in Canaan	1287-1247 B.C.	Deborah and Barak were deliverers during this period
40 Years	1247-1207 B.C.	Gideon judged Abimelech rules
3 Years	1207-1204 B.C.	Tola judged Abimelech rules
22 Years	1204-1181 B.C.	Jair judged
6 Years	1159-1153 B.C.	Jephthah judged
7 Years	1153-1146 B.C.	Ibzan judged
10 Years	1146-1136 B.C.	Elon judged
8 Years	1136-1128 B.C.	Abon judged
40 Years	1128-1108 B.C.	Samson judged
40 Years	1108-1068 B.C.	Eli judged
40 Years	1068-1067 B.C.	Ark in Philistines' hands
40 Years	1067-1047 B.C.	Samuel judged
40 Years	1047-1007 B.C.	Saul reigned as king
1 Year	1007-967 B.C.	David reigned
Final period of Samuel	971-931 B.C.	
20 Years	931-910 B.C.	Foundation of temple laid in fourth year of Solomon's reign
360 Years	931-631 B.C.	Solomon's temple construction began 480 years after exodus (1 Ki. 6:1)
36 years later	931 B.C.	Division of kingdom at death of Solomon

Note on Oppression By Heathen Power

Period	Years	Notes
8 Years	3:11-3:30	Israel served Cushanrishathaim
18 Years	3:14-3:31	Israel served Eglon
20 Years	4:3-5:31	Israel oppressed by Jabin
7 Years	6:1	Israel in hand of Midian
18 Years	10:8-12:17	Philistines oppressed Israel
40 Years	12:14-13:1	Israel in hand of Philistines
40 Years	13:1-15:20	Philistines
111 Years	6:1-15:20	Samuel 4:18

† Some Kings Have More Than One Name:

Consider the Kings after Josiah:

		Kings		
Josiah's Second Son	=	Jehoahaz		
Josiah's First Son	=	Jehoiakim	=	Eliakim
Jehoiakim's Son	=	Jehoiachin	=	Coniah
Josiah's Third Son	=	Zedekiah	=	Mattaniah
				Jeconiah

Israel (10 tribes) destroyed

Israel (Judah augmented by remnants from 10 tribes) subdued by Egypt

Israel taken in to Babylonian captivity and temple destroyed

Babylonia conquered by Cyrus, king of Medes and Persians (Under Cyrus first contingent of Jews returns to Jerusalem)

Temple partially rebuilt and rededicated

Ezra returned to Jerusalem to reestablish law

Rebuilding of wall by Nehemiah

SILENCE

Christ was born

Christ was baptized

Christ died on cross

Jerusalem destroyed by Romans

722 B.C.

609 B.C.

587 B.C.

539 B.C.

515 B.C.

458 B.C.

445 B.C.

7 B.C.

29 A.D.

33 A.D.

70 A.D.

REFERENCES

- ¹ Compare Genesis 7:13, 9:18 and I Peter 3:20
- ² Compare Genesis 11:27 ff, Genesis 12:4 and Acts 7:4
- ³ For example, Genesis 10:21 describes Shem as "the father of all children of Eber," though Eber is removed from Shem by several generations (cf. Genesis 11:10-16)
- ⁴ The fact that Jesus was born a few years earlier (probably 7 B.C.) does not diminish the force of this argument, for 1981 A.D. is in principle related only to Christ's birth date and not to any other.
- ⁵ Camping, Harold. *Adam When?* Ch. 3
- ⁶ *Ibid.*, ch. 6
- ⁷ Thiele, Edwin R., *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings*, Eerdmans, Rev. edition 1965, pg. 53, 54. Much additional support can be given to the accuracy of this date from the reigns of three of the greatest of the Egyptian Pharaohs - Sesostris III, Tutmosis III and Rameses II. A discussion of this is of course beyond the scope of this article.
- ⁸ Camping, Harold; ch. 5
- ⁹ Albright, William Foxwell; *From the Stone Age to Christianity*, Doubleday & Co. Inc. 1957, pg. 32
- ¹⁰ Rowton, M.B., in *The Cambridge Ancient History*, Cambridge University Press, 1964, pg. 57, 58
- ¹¹ Camping, Harold, ch. 7
- ¹² Rawlinson, George, *Egypt and Babylon*, John W. Lovell Co., pg. 9
- ¹³ Albright, pg. 142
- ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, pg. 157
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁶ Hayes, William C., *The Cambridge Ancient History*, 1964, pg. 4
- ¹⁷ Wooley, Sir Leonard, *The Beginnings of Civilization*, The New York American Library, 1965, pg. 364
- ¹⁸ Gelb, A *Study of Writing*, pg. 63