Understanding

Times and Seasons

Part 3

The Bible Timeline

Declaring the End from the Beginning

Compiled by M. J. Beattie

Background information used in the construction of this timeline may be found in the following publications available free of charge at cgsf.org:

Understanding

Times and Seasons

Part 1

The Biblical Evidence about

God's Many Clocks

By M. J. Beattie

Understanding
Times and Seasons

Part 2

Seven Millennial Days

By M. J. Beattie

Discusses the units of time in Scripture.

Explores the prophetic implications of each day of creation week.

Preface

The Jewish calendar defines the autumn of 3760 BC as the time of the creation of Adam. This is based on a timeline created by Rabbi Yose ben Halafta in the second century AD. His dates basically follow the Biblical genealogies and other Scriptures in the Hebrew Masoretic Text in about the same way as the present work. But his numbers shrink the period of the Persian Empire down to just over 50 years, putting the fall of Babylon in around 374 BC instead of 539.

Rabbi Yose's dates are based on an interpretation of Daniel 9 that looked to Simon bar Kokhba (who died in the Jewish revolt in 135 AD) as a messiah, in fulfillment of the seventy weeks prophecy — squeezing the time between the destructions of the first and second temples into a 490-year period. With this interpretation, the Rabbis (Pharisees) conveniently and deliberately denied that Jesus was the Messiah. Yet Rabbi Yose's dates for events in the pre-Christian era are clearly in conflict with the records of history.

In the present work, the mainstream view of extra-biblical history is regarded as being generally accurate — in agreement with the Scriptures. And the gap between the Testaments is bridged with an understanding of the seventy weeks prophecy that accepts Jesus as the Messiah.

The Scriptural basis used in arriving at each date on this timeline is carefully

documented. However it should be understood that many of these dates, even many computed exclusively from the Bible, are approximate. In gleaning numbers from the genealogies in Genesis, we cannot assume that all of the individuals mentioned were born on the same day of the year. The number of months more or less than the given number of years is seldom stated.

However, having said that, it should be noted that the numbers given in the Bible add up in some very interesting ways — especially when viewed against a backdrop of the various symbolic lengths of a "day" or of a "time" in Scripture.

The Old Testament Scriptures give all of the information necessary to determine the number of years between the creation of Adam and the completion of the temple by Solomon — which brings us to the end of the third millennium of human history.

For the fourth millennium (the time of Solomon through Jesus), historians have used the Biblical numbers regarding the reigns of the various kings (of Judah, Israel, Babylon, etc.) along with archeological evidence to establish the BC dates. Although there has been resistance among atheistic historians to give much weight to the Scriptural record, the more evidence that has been unearthed, the more obvious it has become that the numbers found in Scripture

are in harmony with the witness of secular history, some of which is literally written in stone, clearly establishing the timing of the most significant fourth millennium events. But, as with the genealogies, the exact date (month and day as well as year) of events in the fourth millennium are not always given. In such cases there is a small margin of error possible. Human error in understanding could also throw things off a bit, but the general timeframe is well established. And the story of the millennial days gives the key necessary to verify that the approximate dating of the kings of Israel and Judah (as computed by those who accept both the archeological evidence and the Biblical record) is generally accurate.

Where to Begin

The first order of business in making any timeline is to decide what number to start with. Many timelines inadvertently start with year zero as the first year of Adam's life, so that he would be one year old in year 1, two in year 2, and 930 years old when he died in year 930. But here the year 1 AC is used as the first year After Creation and as the first year of Adam's life, such that he was one year old during year two and died during year 931. With this approach, if sabbatical years were counted from creation, then years evenly

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divisible by seven (years 7, 14, 21, etc.) would have been sabbatical years.

The Jews traditionally associate Adam's creation with the beginning of the Biblical civil year. Here, the Sabbath of creation week is viewed as a jubilant memorial feast — a day celebrating the completion of creation, a feast of blowing of wedding trumpets for the newly created Adam and Eve, and the day of the new moon commencing the civil year (Rosh Hashanah, the Biblical Day of Trumpets). God set aside that day, the seventh day of the week, for mankind — resting from His labor to spend the time with His children. And He saw that all He had created and made was *very* good!

Setting Dates?

It is not humanly possible for all of the dates presented on this timeline to be correct. One can only offer the evidence of Biblical and extra-biblical history to the best of one's ability up to the point of publication. Many numbers seem to fit perfectly (or nearly so),

such as those that allow for a 2520-year gap, or some other relevant length of time, between two significant dates. Alignment of sabbatical and jubilee years, like those observed in the fulfillment of the seventy weeks prophecy, also helps to verify dating. And when the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, is seen standing where it ought not, then some remaining details will fall into place.

Although there was an expectation before beginning construction of this timeline that the events of the various millenniums should correspond directly to the events of creation week, every effort was made to be sure that there was no fudging of dates to force the numbers to fit. If Genesis One was to fit the timeline, the timeline had to be true. The timeline was *not* put together expressly to fit Genesis One; Genesis One just happens to fit the timeline. The way that it fits turns out to be somewhat different than expected, but it does fit amazingly well. And the events of creation week do appear to

have been meant to be prophetic, to illustrate in a parable how God would work with mankind throughout the ages.

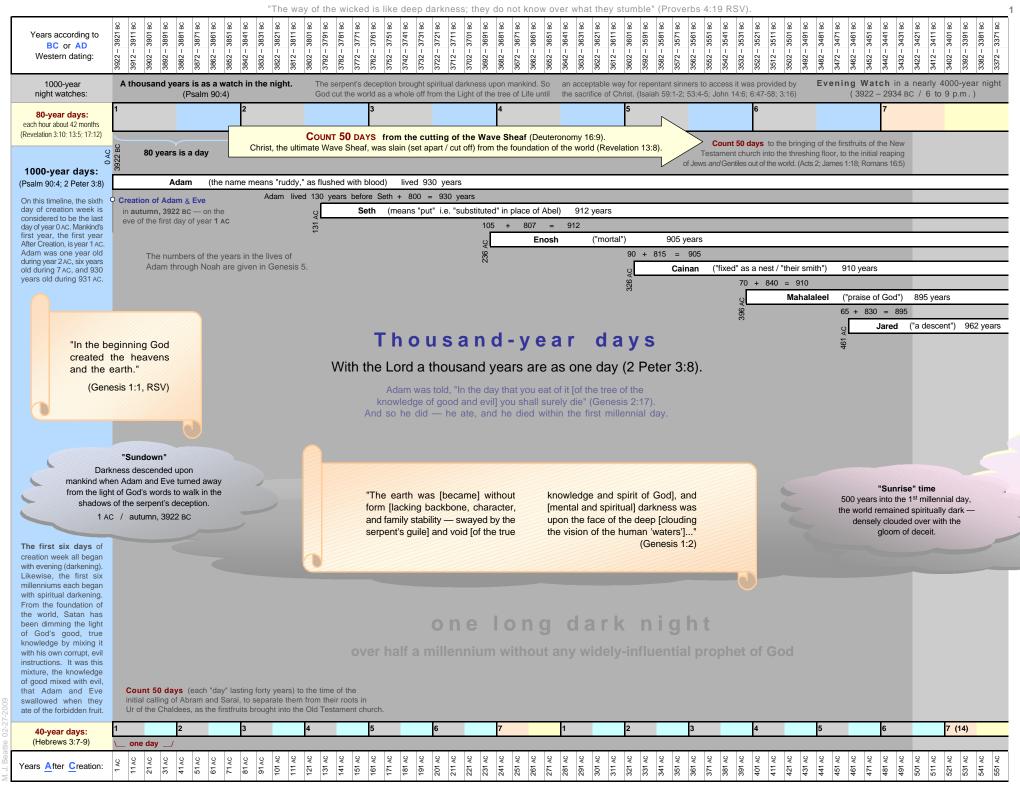
The production of this timeline was *not* begun to find out when Jesus Christ will return. The goal was to prove the veracity of the idea that all of the events of creation week foreshadowed things to come in a 7000-year plan for humans on earth. If the timing of the return of Jesus Christ is hidden in the story of Genesis One, then that is God's doing. And, as the details of the story unfold, it behooves us to give glory to the Great Designer of such an intricately detailed and wonderfully laid out plan.

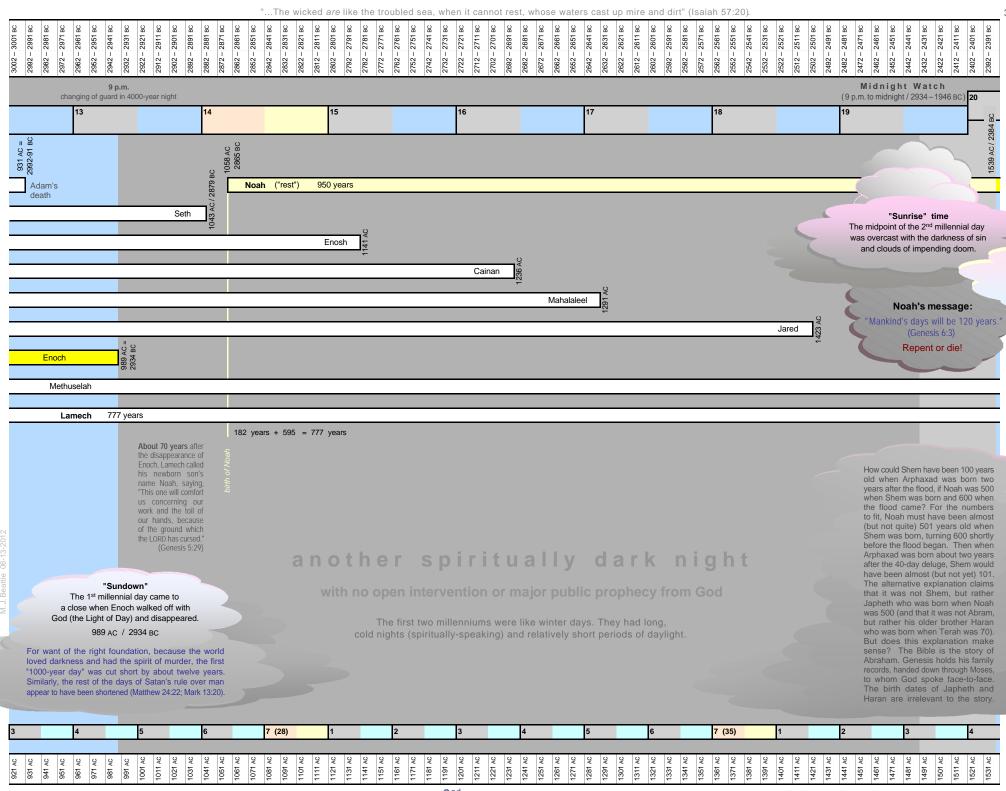
One thing is certain: If the millennial days on this timeline are even close to being appropriately aligned, then the end of the age is upon us *now*. And, "the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God" stands at the door knocking (Revelation 3:14,20)*. Can we hear His voice?

"Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure'..."

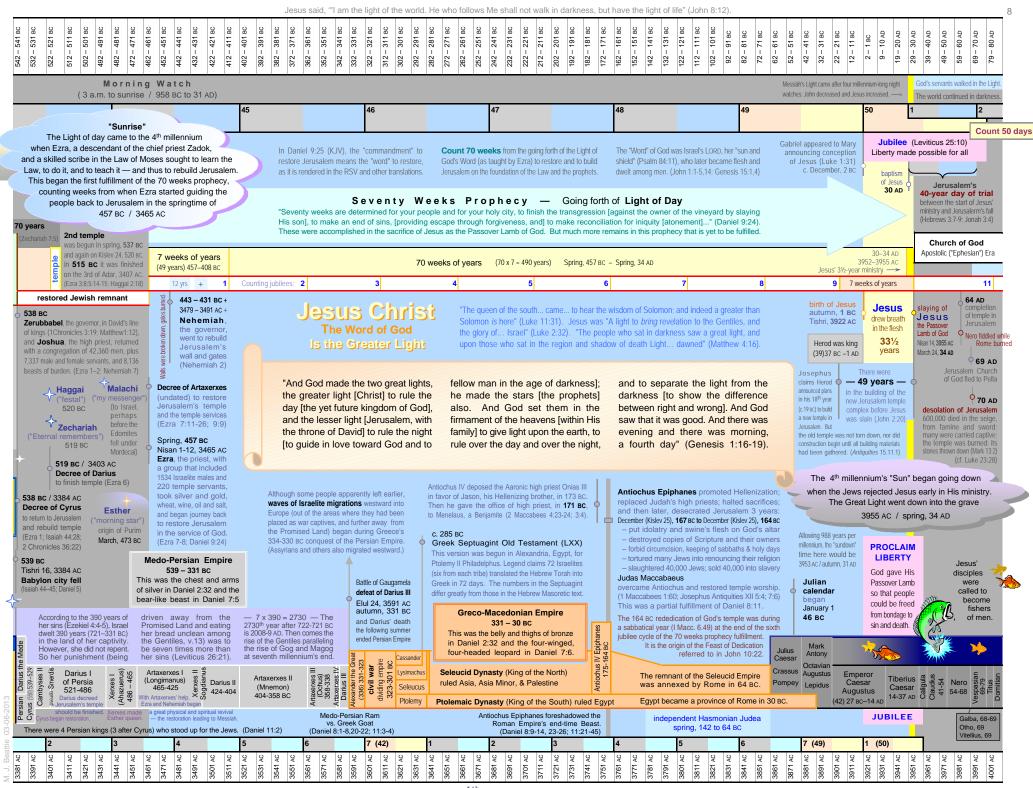
— Isaiah 46:9-10

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3rd millennium's night



To be continued...

This timeline is a work in progress. Hopefully additional pages will be published soon.

The historical record of the Bible ends about four thousand years after creation. But the rest of the Bible's message is told in its prophecies and in secular history. Some of the details are addressed in the following publications, available free of charge at <u>cgsf.org</u>:

Understanding
Times and Seasons

Part 4

Dating the Human Life of
Jesus Christ

By M. J. Beattie

Can we really *know* when Jesus lived?

Understanding
Times and Seasons
Part 5

WHEN
Will Messiah Come?

By M. J. Beattie

Numbers and signs for the wise to understand.