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
  - Discusses the units of time in Scripture.

**Part 2**

- **Seven Millennial Days**
  - By M. J. Beattie
  - Explores the prophetic implications of each day of creation week.
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
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?

“The Bible Timeline

“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

*Except for the creation week scroll, and as otherwise noted, all Scriptures quoted in this document are from the New King James version.
"The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble" (Proverbs 4:19 RSV).

The first six days of creation week all began with evening (darkening). Likewise, the first six millenniums each began with spiritual darkening. From the foundation of the world, Satan has been dimming the light of God's good, true knowledge by mixing it with his own corrupt, evil instructions. It was this mixture, the knowledge of good mixed with evil, that Adam and Eve swallowed when they ate of the forbidden fruit.

"Sundown" Darkness descended upon mankind when Adam and Eve turned away from the light of God's words to walk in the shadows of the serpent's deception.

1st millennium's night

Over half a millennium without any widely-influential prophet of God

With the Lord a thousand years are as one day (2 Peter 3:8).

The numbers of the years in the lives of Adam through Noah are given in Genesis 5.

The earth was [became] without form [lacking backbone, character, and family stability — swayed by the serpent's guile] and void [of the true knowledge and spirit of God], and [mental and spiritual] darkness was upon the face of the deep [clouding the vision of the human 'waters']...

(Genesis 1:2)
"...The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day" (Proverbs 4:18 RSV).

While the earth waited for the Messiah's Light, the night watchers (Enoch, Noah, Moses, the prophets...) were lights, called upon to expose the works of the devil. (Isaiah 21:5; Jeremiah 6:7; Ezekiel 3:17-21; 33:7-9)

**Evening Watch** in a nearly 4000-year night

(3922 – 2934 BC / 6 to 9 p.m.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
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<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adam</td>
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<td>Adam's death</td>
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<td>Seth</td>
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**Mahalaleel** ("praise of God") 895 years

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>65</th>
<th>830</th>
<th>895</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jared (&quot;a descent&quot;) 962 years</td>
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<tr>
<th>162</th>
<th>800</th>
<th>962</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enoch (&quot;initiated&quot; to do a special work — hot and on fire with the Light of God) lived 365 years</td>
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<tr>
<th>65</th>
<th>300</th>
<th>365</th>
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<td>Methuselah (&quot;man of a dart&quot; pointing toward flood) 969 years</td>
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<th>187</th>
<th>782</th>
<th>969</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lamech 777 years</td>
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**Spiritual Daylight**

came to Enoch as God worked with him. And that light was shared with the world as Enoch boldly and openly lived and taught God's right and holy way. Yet, Enoch was hated because he prophesied of God's eventual judgment against the ungodly behavior of the men of his day — men who loved the darkness of having their own way, rather than the light. (Genesis 5:21-24; Jude 14-15; Hebrews 11:5)

"All the days of Enoch were 365 years" (Genesis 5:23).

This matches the number of days in a solar year and points to the fact that the spiritual light in Enoch came directly from God, from the "Sun of Righteousness" (Malachi 4:2), the daytime "Light of the world" (John 9:5) with whom Enoch walked.

Enoch prophesied, "Behold the Lord comes... to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him" (Jude 14-15).

"Sundown"

The 1st millennial day came to a close when Enoch walked off with God (the Light of Day) and disappeared. 989 AC / 2934 BC

For want of the right foundation, because the world loved darkness and had the spirit of murder, the first "1000-year day" was cut short by about twelve years. Similarly, the rest of the days of Satan's rule over man appear to have been shortened (Matthew 24:22; Mark 13:20).

"...and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light" [of the knowledge of God, showing the right way to live]; and there was light [emanating from God through Enoch as Enoch walked with God]. And God saw that the light [in Enoch] was good; and God separated the light from the darkness [by taking Enoch away from those who sought to kill him]. God called the light Day [meaning "Hot", on fire with the Truth], and the darkness he called Night ["Twisted" away from the light]. And there was evening and there was morning, one [millennium-long] day" (Genesis 1:2-5).
**9 p.m., changing of guard in 4000-year night**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2872 BC</td>
<td>Adam's death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2871 BC</td>
<td>Noah's birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2870 BC</td>
<td>Methuselah's birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2869 BC</td>
<td>Seth's birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2868 BC</td>
<td>Enosh's birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2867 BC</td>
<td>Cainan's birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2866 BC</td>
<td>Mahalaleel's birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2865 BC</td>
<td>Jared's birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2864 BC</td>
<td>Midday Watch (9 p.m. to midnight / 2934–1946 BC)</td>
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**Midnight Watch**

The midpoint of the 2nd millennium day was overcast with the darkness of sin and clouds of impending doom.

**989 AC / 2934 BC**

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**Sundown**

The 1st millennium day came to a close when Enoch walked off with God (the Light of Day) and disappeared.

**989 AC**

About 70 years after the disappearance of Enoch, Lamech called his newborn son's name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed." (Genesis 5:29)

Noah's message:

"Mankind's days will be 120 years." (Genesis 6:3)

"Sunrise" time

How could Shem have been 100 years old when Arphaxad was born two years after the flood, if Noah was 500 when Shem was born and 600 when the flood came? For the numbers to fit, Noah must have been almost (but not quite) 501 years old when Shem was born, turning 600 shortly before the flood began. Then when Arphaxad was born about two years after the 40-day deluge, Shem would have been almost (but not yet) 101.

The alternative explanation claims that it was not Shem, but rather Japheth who was born when Noah was 500 (and that it was not Abram, but rather his older brother Haran who was born when Terah was 70). But does this explanation make sense? The Bible is the story of Abraham. Genesis holds his family records, handed down through Moses, to whom God spoke face-to-face. The birth dates of Japheth and Haran are irrelevant to the story.

**2nd millennium's night**

with no open intervention or major public prophecy from God

The first two millennia were like winter days. They had long, cold nights (spiritually-speaking) and relatively short periods of daylight.

For further clarification of apparent anomalies, see appendix.
How could Shem have been 100 years old when Arphaxad was born two years after the flood? If Noah was 500 when Shem was born and 600 when he took up flood duties, Shem would have been almost (but not quite) 501 years old when Noah took up flood duties. Then when Arphaxad was born about two years after the 40-day deluge, Shem would have been almost (but not yet) 101. The alternative explanation claims that it was not Shem, but rather his older brother Haran who was born when Noah was 500 (and that it was not Abram, but rather his older brother Nahor who was born when Terah was 70). But does this explanation make sense? The Bible is the story of Abraham. Genesis holds his family records, handed down through Moses, to whom God spoke face-to-face. The birth dates of Japheth and Haran are irrelevant to the story.

The deaths of Lamech and Methuselah were signs of the imminence of the END OF THE WORLD that then existed (2 Peter 3:6). “The righteous perisheth, and man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come” (Isaiah 57:1; KJV).

The earth was divided, dispersed from Babel, in the days of Peleg’s gestation. So the building of the city ceased the confusion of languages (Genesis 11:9). And the people of Babel, with their corrupt ideas about religious worship and about how to treat one another, were scattered abroad to flow out over the face of all the earth. Thus they, and those who followed in their wicked ways, became the “waters below” or “seas” of the post-flood world — as referred to in Revelation 17:15.

As Paul (Acts 13:20) misunderstood the length of the period of the judges, so Stephen (Acts 7:4) was mistaken in saying that Terah was dead when Abram left Haran. However, Terah was indeed dead spiritually (Judges 2:4), which is why Abram was told to leave him. Stephen, a man full of faith, was in error in a number of the details that Acts faithfully records that he said. His example serves to instruct us that God’s NT servants are not infallible. We must prove all things.

And God called the firmament Heaven [meaning “lofty, aloft”]. And there was evening as the light of what Enoch had taught faded and there was morning [as Noah’s preaching gave light to the world] a second day” (Genesis 1:6-8).
Once I have sworn by My holiness, I will not go back on My word; I will not change My mind, for the sake of Jacob My servant, for the sake of Israel My chosen one, in whom I swore to do good to your fathers. I will also make you a great nation, as I promised you, you and your descendants after you. And I shall give to you and to your descendants after you a land that I have blessed, the land of Canaan, where I said to your fathers I would give it to you. And I will make you greater than these nations; I will make you greater and higher than them, if you obey Me fully. And if you diligently obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all His ways, and keep His commandments, and obey His statutes, and cleave to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul; then I will make you a great nation, like the stars of heaven in multitude and like the sand which is on the seashore, which cannot be counted. For I will let My people go, so that they may offer sacrifice to Me in the land which I have given them. Only do not go up into the land of Egypt; for I will not give you any of the land of Egypt for a heritage. I will give you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Jebusites, the Girgashites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites as an inheritance, for I will destroy nations from your sight. And they shall possess the land of the Canaanites, which is the land of the Canaanites, and the land of the Hittites, and the land of the Girgashites, and the land of the Jebusites, and the land of the Amorites, whom your fathers used to serve. Only do not make My name sound reproached among the nations to which you go, in which you shall live.

The Time of Daniel's Concordant 40-Year Reign

Daniel's reign was from 2477 BC to 2176 BC. This is the same time period as the prophetic reign of Cyrus the Great of Persia (539-532 BC). This period of 40 years is significant because it is the time frame in which the prophecies of Ezekiel and Daniel were fulfilled. The prophecies of Ezekiel and Daniel were given to them by God during their respective 40-year reigns. The prophecies are used to confirm the accuracy of the Bible and the reliability of the prophecies of God.

The Promise of the Promise

Daniel's reign was a time of great spiritual revival. The people of Israel were restored to the land of Canaan and the temple was rebuilt. The prophecies of Daniel were fulfilled and the Israelites were able to worship God in their own land. The promise of the promise was fulfilled and the Israelites were able to enjoy the blessings of God.

The Time of the 40-Year Reign

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**Jesus Christ: The Word of God Is the Greater Light**

*And God made the two great lights, the greater light [Christ] to rule the day [yet future kingdom of God], and the lesser light [Jerusalem], with the throne of David] to rule the night [to guide in love toward God and to fell man in the age of darkness]; he made the stars [the prophets also]. And God set them in the firmament of the heavens [within His throne of David] to rule the night and over the day, and to separate the light from the darkness [to show between right and wrong]. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day* (Genesis 1:16-19).

**S e v e n t y W e e k s P r o p h e c y — G o i n g f o r t h o f L i g h t o f D a y**

“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity (atonement).” (Daniel 9:24).

**Sunrise**

The Light of day came into the 4th millennium when Ezra, a descendant of the chief priest Zadok, and a skilful scribe in the law of Moses sought to learn the Law, to do it, and to teach it — and thus to rebuild Jerusalem. This began the first fulfilment of the 70 weeks prophecy, counting weeks from when Ezra started guiding the people back to Jerusalem in the springtime of 457 BC / 3465 BC.

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<tr>
<th>3991 AC</th>
<th>3961 AC</th>
<th>3911 AC</th>
<th>3901 AC</th>
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<tr>
<td>3831 AC</td>
<td>92 – 91 BC</td>
<td>3821 AC</td>
<td>102 – 101 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>3791 AC</td>
<td>132 – 131 BC</td>
<td>3781 AC</td>
<td>142 – 141 BC</td>
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<td>3751 AC</td>
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<td>3731 AC</td>
<td>192 – 191 BC</td>
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<td>3711 AC</td>
<td>212 – 211 BC</td>
<td>3691 AC</td>
<td>232 – 231 BC</td>
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<td>3651 AC</td>
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<td>3641 AC</td>
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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 cgsf.org:

**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.