

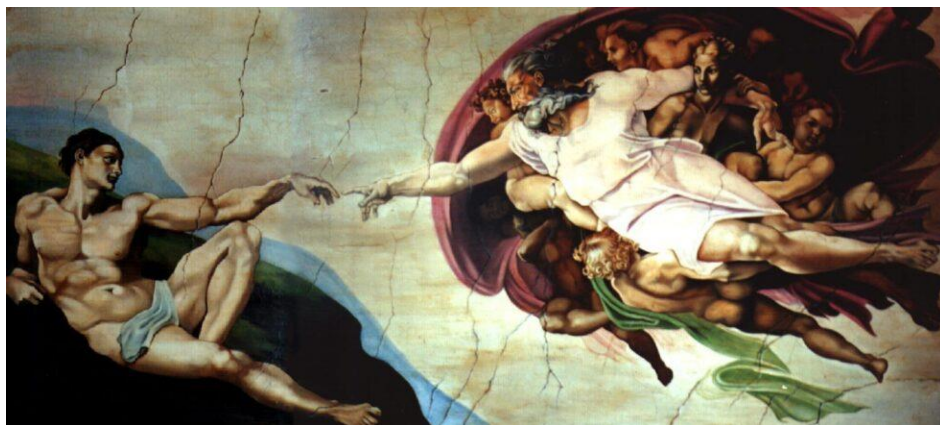
12 Dates to Make the Bible Flow

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Chronology is "the study of time." Biblical chronology is the backbone for understanding the Bible.
MEMORIZE these 12 Dates to Make the Bible Flow and watch your Bible comprehension grow.

4000 B.C. The Creation of Adam



I'll let people fall all over themselves attempting to prove the age of the earth, but I'll politely bow out. Whether you believe the earth and universe are "billions and billions" of years old, or relatively young (e.g., "thousands of years"), knock yourself out proving it. I only point out **the creation of Adam**, the first man, around 4,000 BC. Scientists recently traced the human genome and "discovered" that all humans descend from just one man and one woman. Science confirms what the Bible reveals. Since nobody was around when the first man and woman appeared on earth, it takes greater faith to believe all humans evolved from amoebas and apes than to believe God created Adam and Eve in His image (Genesis 1:27).

2345 B.C. The Flood of Noah



Some believe Noah's flood was global and catastrophic; others believe this biblical flood is local and hyperbolic (exaggerated). As for me, since every nation of the world has a flood legend in her history, I lean toward the worldwide cataclysmic flood. God caused the earth's population to perish because of man's wickedness. The re-population of the earth began with Noah's sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth) and their descendants, from whom all the people groups of the world can be traced. **The Table of Nations** in Genesis 10 is a stunning study on the world's population growth, as well as a key that unlocks the door to different cultures that cover the globe. The world's population today can only be what it is if you begin populating the world with people from scratch in 2500 B.C. - Otherwise, if people have been on earth "millions of years," the world's population by the scientific rate of growth (a doubling of population every 74 years) would have our world population today in the trillions (instead of 8 billion).

2000 B.C. The Birth of Abram



At age 75, Abram left "Ur of the Chaldees" (an ancient city in modern Iraq) when God told him to leave his country, his people, and his father's family to go *"to a land that I will show you"* (Genesis 12:1). The Creator of the world is calling Abram to Himself to *"make of him a great nation "* (Genesis 12:2), through whom *"all the peoples of the earth will be blessed"* (Genesis 12:3). This call begins the nation of Israel, through whom the Messiah would come. Abram had a son Isaac, and Isaac had a son Jacob, whose name God changed to "Israel." The Creator is "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Exodus 3:6).

1500 B.C. The Call of Moses



Though this 1500 BC date for the call of Moses is approximate, it is very close to accurate. We know that Israel and his family went down to Egypt during a great famine and stayed because of Joseph's influence (one of Israel's sons). Over the next three centuries in Egypt, the Israelites *"multiplied greatly"* (Exodus 1:7) and grew into a mighty nation. The United States has been a nation for not quite 250 years, less time than Israel lived in Egypt. The United States has grown from 100 early settlers to 355,000,000 people. It's not hard to understand how Israel became a "great nation" in Egypt. A Pharaoh of Egypt came to power who grew afraid of the Israelites, so he enslaved them. God called Moses to lead the Hebrew people out of their bondage. When God called Moses at the burning bush, He said, *"I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"* (Exodus 3:6). Moses led God's people out of Egypt back to the land that God initially gave to Abram, the land of Canaan. When the Israelites left Egypt in the early 15th century BC (est. 1495 BC), God made a covenant with them at Mt. Sinai. This conditional covenant of Law promised that **IF** Israel obeyed God, **THEN** Israel would be blessed by God. But **IF** Israel violated their covenant conditions, **THEN** Israel would experience the wrath of God. We call this covenant "The Mosaic Covenant" or "The Old Covenant." Israel called it "The Law." The Law included everything about Israeli life in their new land - the calendar, the festivals, the taxes, the sacrifices, Temple worship, Sabbath days, dietary laws, and civil laws. Everything about Israel revolved around God's Law. Why? **The Law pointed to the Messiah.** He would *"bless all the peoples of the earth"* (Genesis 12:3). Jesus is the true and faithful Israel. After leaving Egypt, the people of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years. Finally, the young nation of Israel crossed the Jordan River at Beth-Abara (where Jesus was baptized), and the people of Israel began conquering the Canaanites. For the next 400 years (from the battle of Jericho to the anointing of Saul as King), Israel was ruled by various judges (see Joshua, Judges, and I and II Samuel) until the people begged for a king.

1051 B.C.

The Kingdom of Israel

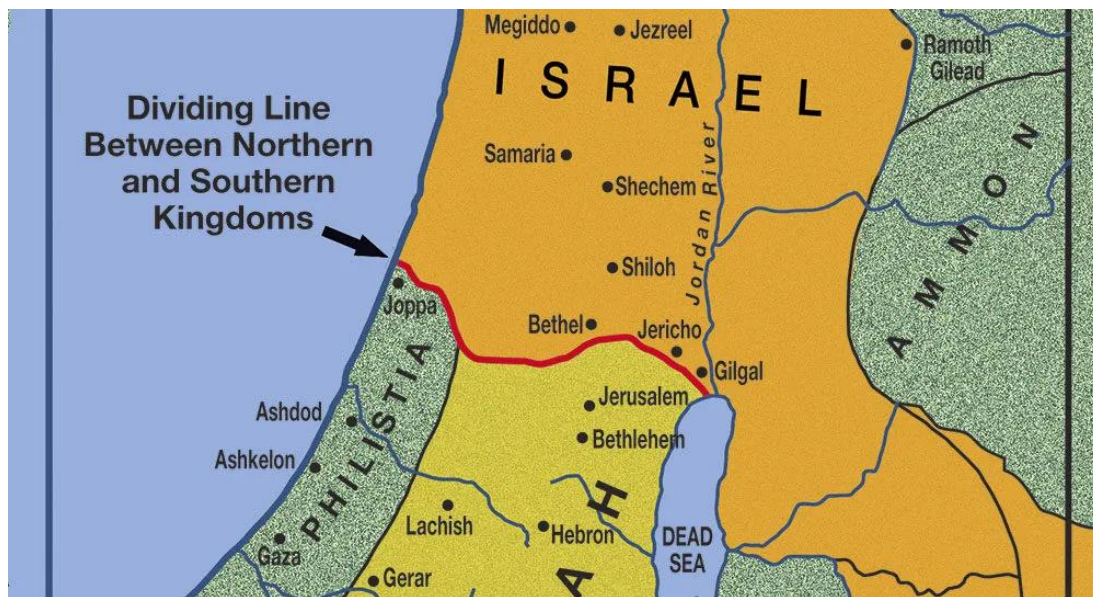


During the 400 years that wise men and women (judges) ruled over Israel, the people began doing that *"which was right in their own eyes."* The Israelites looked at neighboring nations with kings and wanted "a king" for themselves. They asked their prophet Samuel for God to give them a king over Israel "like other nations" (1 Samuel 8). When God allowed Israel to have a king in **1051 BC**, it was the beginning of a decline that eventually led to a complete divorce of God from national Israel because Israel *"broke the covenant with God"* (Jeremiah 3:8). Of course, this was all part of the providential plan of God. God's Law was intended to reveal the depths of man's sin (Romans 3:7-25) and the beauty of mankind's Savior. Jesus fulfills the Law in every way, and He gives perfect righteousness and corresponding blessings from God to all who trust Him (Philippians 3:7-11). A kingdom is "a king's dominion. The Kingdom of Israel had Jerusalem as its capital and only three kings in its history, with each king reigning for 40 years.

- Saul (1051-1011 B.C.)
- David (1001 - 971 B.C.)
- Solomon (971 - 931 B.C.).

931 B.C.

The Division of the Kingdom of Israel



931 BC is the most important date in biblical chronology, but it is also THE DATE that few Christians know or understand. In 931 BC, the 12 Tribes of the United Kingdom of Israel are divided into TWO KINGDOMS - the NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL (10 tribes) and the SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH (two tribes). When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam wished to continue the heavy taxes his father had imposed to build the Temple. 10 tribes of Israel rebelled and started their own kingdom under another

man by the name of Jeroboam. This division of the kingdom split in Israel led to two nations or kingdoms. The ten tribes formed a northern kingdom that they called **Israel**. The northern tribes moved their capital to a city they called Samaria. They built for themselves their own temple and began to worship pagan gods. Two tribes -Judah and Benjamin - remained in the south and formed the southern kingdom called **Judah**. The southern kingdom kept Jerusalem as their capital, continued to worship at the Temple, and tried to keep their covenant with God. Of the nineteen kings that would eventually rule the northern kingdom of Israel, not one of them was a good king in the sight of God. Of the twenty kings that would eventually rule the southern kingdom of Judah, about half were good, and the other half were evil. You will never understand the Old Testament until you know that the Old Testament's prophetic books are words warning either to the northern kingdom or the southern kingdom to repent and turn to God. The books of the Old Testament look like this:

Historical books (17 - Genesis to Esther)

Poetical books (5 - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)

Prophetic books (17 - Isaiah to Malachi)

You will only comprehend the books of **KINGS and CHRONICLES** and the last seventeen books of the Old Testament (e.g., the prophetic books) when you understand that the kings and prophets mentioned are either from Israel or Judah.

722 B.C.

The Fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel



The northern kingdom of Israel never obeyed God in a covenant relationship. Their nineteen kings from 931 BC to the kingdom's collapse in 722 BC were all evil. Stories like that of King Ahab and Jezebel reveal

how lost the people of Israel, and their leaders were. Prophets like Elijah, Hosea, and others came to northern Israel and spoke to the people and kings on behalf of God. Their message was "repent" or "perish." The people of Israel closed their ears to the warnings of God through the prophets; God then raised the Assyrians, the world's first empire, to bring to an end the northern kingdom of Israel. In 722 B.C. Assyria conquered the northern kingdom, took the Israeli men into captivity (Nineveh was Assyria's capital), brought in pagan men they'd captured in other nations, and forced them to intermarry with the Israeli women. The descendants of these "*mixed marriages*" were the Samaritans, considered "half-breeds" by the Jews of Jesus' day. The Jews (Jew is an abbreviation for Judah, the people of the southern kingdom) would go to great lengths to avoid the Samaritans and the land in which they lived (Samaria). But not Jesus. "He must go through Samaria" (John 4:4) because Jesus is interested in giving life to the least, the lost and the littlest - those the world rejects. It was in the land of Samaria that Jesus met the woman at the well and gave her the water of life. Though the descendants of the mixed marriages were called "Samaritans," after the fall of the northern kingdom, the ten northern tribes of Israel were forever lost - thus, they are called the "Lost Tribes." The Mormons wrongly teach that these lost tribes became the Native Americans. In reality, the tribal identity of northern Israel was lost because they broke the covenant with God, and God divorced Himself from them as a nation.

586 B.C.

The Fall of the Southern Kingdom of Judah



After the fall of the northern kingdom, the southern kingdom (Judah), took in remnants of the ten tribes of the north who escaped and took refuge in Jerusalem. The Assyrians attacked Jerusalem and King Hezekiah in 701 BC. Hezekiah fell prostrate before the LORD and begged for mercy for Judah. In one

night, 185,000 Assyrian mighty warriors were wiped out by a pandemic. The prophets had all predicted that "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Jesus) was to come from Judah, and that the Messiah would "reign over the house of David forever." It was "Judah" alone that continued as a nation after 722 BC. The abbreviation "Jew" is a shortened euphemism for "Judahites." Before 722 BC and the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel, God's people were all called Hebrews. Only after the destruction of the northern Kingdom does the phrase "jew" come into existence. King David was from the tribe of Judah. So, the promise God originally made to Abraham that through him, "all the nations of the earth would be blessed" was still in effect. However, the people of Judah began to go the way of their northern brothers. Prophets like Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and others began to warn Judah that they, too, would perish if they didn't repent and return to God. The world's second empire, the Babylonians, conquered the Assyrians. In a series of three increasingly severe attacks on Jerusalem (605, 597, and 586 B.C.), Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem and took the Jews captive in 586 BC. This captivity into Babylon (modern Iraq and Iran) is called "The Babylonian Exile."

It is possible to date the 70 Years of Babylonian Exile for the Jews one of three ways:

1. From 609 B.C. and the Battle of Megiddo (when Judah's king Josiah was killed) and Babylon became an empire, to Babylon's collapse to the Persians in October of 539 B.C. (see Daniel 5).
2. From the capture of Daniel and his three buddies in 605 BC by Nebuchadnezzar to the release of all Hebrew captives by Cyrus the Great of Persia in 535 BC and the Jews return to Judah.
3. From 586 BC and the Temple's destruction in Jerusalem to 516 BC and the rededication of the rebuilt Temple when "old men wept" as they remembered the glory of the former Temple.

400 B.C.

The Close of the Old Testament



When the Jews returned from Israel after their Babylonian captivity, they were led by men like **Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah**, and they rebuilt the walls and the city of Jerusalem. The Jews rebuilt the Temple itself and re-dedicated it in **516 B.C.** They tried to get back to their normal lives in the land of Israel. Esther, a Jew born in Babylonian captivity, would remain in Babylon and eventually marry a Persian king named Xerxes. Her story is the last historical book of the Old Testament. A ton of people read the Old Testament and get confused because they don't realize if you wish to read the Bible chronologically, you must stop at the **17th book (Esther)**. The middle five books of poetry in the Old Testament and the last seventeen books of the Old Testament (the books of the prophets) *fit within the first seventeen books of the Old Testament according to the history of Israel*. After the Jews began Temple worship again in 516 BC, God was not present. It is during this period (from the close of the Old Testament to the coming of Christ) that there is the rise of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. When there is the worship of God without the Spirit of God, you will either have the rise of legalism (Pharisees) or liberalism (Sadducees). From the close of the Old Testament to the birth of Christ, there is a period of history where the Greeks defeat the Persians. The Romans then defeat the Greeks. And during the Roman rule of the world, the Messiah appears (see Daniel 11). Daniel prophesied all these events so precisely that skeptics assumed Daniel couldn't have written the scroll of Daniel because a man can't tell the future. These skeptics were silenced at the discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls, which contained the complete book of Daniel. It was written before all the world's events that occurred "*Between the Testaments*" (400 BC to 4 BC and the birth of Christ) had happened. God knows the future.

4 B.C.

The Birth of Christ



I won't get into the reasons why the scholars in the Middle Ages made a four-year error when they started B.C. and A.D. dating (Clue: It has to do with leap years). Still, it will help you to understand the span and scope of the Old Testament if you remember **the numbers 4 and 0**.

4000 B.C. - The Creation of Adam.

Take away a zero.

400 B.C. - The Close of the Old Testament

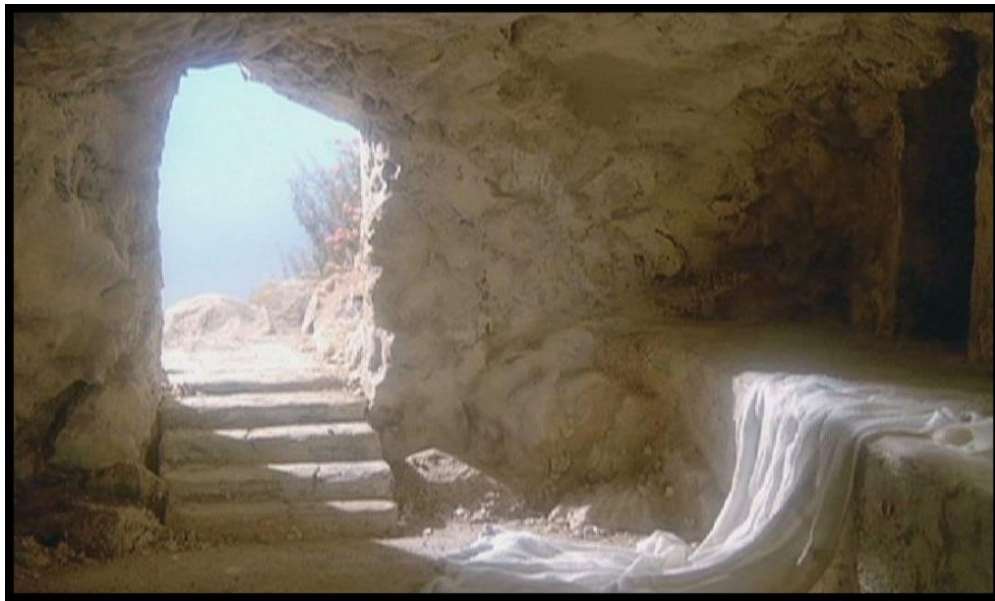
Take away two zeroes.

4 B.C. - The Coming of Christ.

Jesus Christ came "to fulfill the Law" and make a New Agreement with the world. The Old Covenant was a conditional agreement whereby God perfectly blessed those who perfectly obeyed God. In the New Agreement (Covenant), all those who trust Jesus the Messiah, the One who came to fulfill the Law, are perfectly blessed by God by grace through faith! The life of Jesus Christ is a life He lived actively fulfilling the Law through His obedience. He passively fulfilled the Law through His death and resurrection in place of trusting sinners. The coming of God in Christ to this world is the center point of history. History is His story. I find it absolutely without excuse that Christians are very excited and talk to others more about Christ's second coming than we do His first coming. His coming in 4 B.C. changes everything.

A.D. 30

The Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ



The death of Jesus Christ is God's mercy for sinners. God forsook the Son He loved that He might never forsake those who love His Son. The demons of hell will leave alone anyone who talks generically about God. But when someone begins telling others that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" the demons go crazy. For those who have a hard time understanding how God can come to earth as a

Man, it usually revolves around how the immortal, invisible, and immutable Creator could ever be "limited" to a Man. The answer is beautiful. We worship and serve only one God. But this God who created us so transcends our ability to understand Him that we could never know Him except, for the fact in His love for us, God condescends to our level and reveals Himself to us. Christ came so that we might know God. He is Emmanuel - God with us. When you understand that God conquered sin and death for those who will trust Christ, the same power that raised Christ from the dead goes to work within you. Jesus came that we might have life, and this life is for those who trust Him.

A.D. 70

The Destruction of the Jewish Temple



The time between the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (A.D. 30) to the destruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans (A.D. 70) is what the Bible calls "the last days." It's the last days of the Old Covenant, not the last days of the world. In fact, during this time of transition (40 years), the good news of what Christ came to do went to "the Jews first, then the Gentile" (Romans 1:16). Daniel prophesied the end of the nation of Israel (Daniel 9:24-27), and just like God gives a period of mercy during transitions in His dealings with His people (40 days of the flood; 40 years in the wilderness; 40 days of temptation, etc.), God gave His people 40 years before He brought the worship of the Jews at the Temple to an end. "The last days" of the Old Covenant begin a New Agreement between God and the world. The people of Israel were scattered throughout the world until May '14, 1948, when the modern nation of Israel was birthed after nearly 1900 years of absence.

I would like to hear from you if this pamphlet helped you understand the Bible better. Please email your story to me (Wade Burleson) at wade@istoriaministries.com – The material in this pamphlet may be used with credit for education and non-profit purposes. All material in this pamphlet is subject to copyright laws for use in commercial distribution - ©IstoriaMinistries.