

Chronological Order of the Bible

By Pastor Tim Nutt

History of the Calendar

Mankind has used calendars since the beginning of history. Those have been the, Biblical, Lunar, and Solar calendar. The Bible teaches this in Genesis 1:14 says, "*And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years*". Also it says in Psalms 104:19: "*He appointed the moon for the seasons.*" Here we see God chose the moon to be one of his calendars for the world. The Lord chose the Lunar and Solar calendar to be his form of telling time.

Biblical Calendar

The first form is the Biblical calendar. This is made up of 360 days. In Genesis 7:11-24, 8:3,4, in the account of the Flood, we find that five months from the 17th day of the second month, until the 17th day of the 7th month are reckoned as 150 days, or 30 days to a month, or 360 days for a year. So we see that we are to use in "Biblical (Prophetical) chronology" a calendar year of 360 days.

Lunar Calendar

The next was used for over four thousand years. The majority of the world used the Civil calendar, which was under the Lunar (moon cycle) system of 354 days, until the Julian (Solar or Sun) Calendar was introduced. The Civil calendar is what was used when God created the earth. That is how they kept track of time from the beginning of history.

The Civil calendar was celebrated with the start of the new year every October 1st. That is when the Jews celebrated the Feast of the Trumpet (Sukkot), now it is called by the Jews Rosh Hashanah. What is commonly called the Day of Atonement, which is October 10th, today is called by the Jews Yom Kippur.

When the Israel left Egypt, Jesus commanded the beginning of the year to be April instead of October. Moses did so in Exodus 12:1-2: "*And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*" The Lord did this so Israel would remember and celebrate what the Lord did in Egypt. The Sacred calendar was the same as the Civil calendar, except for the start of the year. The both calendar's used the lunar cycle. A lunar cycle is where the moon goes from full, half, quarter and then back to full again. That is one cycle. There were twelve lunar cycles in a year and it ended at September 30th. So the first day of the year for the Civil calendar was October 1st.

The Civil calendar was used for the official calendar for kings, childbirth and contracts. The Sacred (Jewish) calendar was used for festivals. Here is the Jewish calendar:

Name	Month	Days	Civil	Sacred
Tishri	October	30	1 st	7 th
Heshvan (Cheshuan)	November	29 or 30	2 nd	8 th
Chislev (Kislev)	December	29	3 rd	9 th
Tebeth (Tevet)	January	29	4 th	10 th
Shebat (Sheval)	February	30	5 th	11 th
Adar	March	29 or 30	6 th	12 th
Nisan	April	30	7 th	1 st
Iyar	May	29	8 th	2 nd
Sivan	June	30	9 th	3 rd
Tammuz	July	29	10 th	4 th
Ab (Au)	August	30	11 th	5 th
Elul	September	29	12 th	6 th

Solar Calendar

When the Jews were carried away in the Babylonian captivity, they had to adjust their calendar to keep up to date with the Babylonian Solar calendar. This meant adding an extra month every three years, or adding an extra 29-day month seven times in nineteen years. That month was called Veadar (Adar II or in Hebrew Shanah Meuberet), and it was added between Adar and Nisan. The Hebrews months were alternating between 29 or 30 days long.

For the last 2098 years the world have been on the Solar (sun) calendar. It was called at first the Julian calendar because Julius Caesar commanded his astrologer, Sosigenes, to find a better calendar. Julius Caesar decreed the year 46 B.C. to begin with January, not with the Vernal (spring) Equinox (the moment the sun is directly over the equator) which is in late March. After Julius Caesar was murdered, Caesar Augustus named the new calendar after him (Julius Caesar). The Julian calendar was 11 ½ minutes short, so by the time Pope Sixtus was ruling the Catholic church, the Vernal Equinox was falling short, around March 12th instead of late March (20).

Gregorian calendar

After Pope Sixtus, was Pope Gregory. And in the fifteenth century Pope Gregory commissioned German astronomer Regiomontanus to make a new calendar that was more precise than the Julian calendar. He added ¼ of a day in which we add a day in February once every four years. In 1545, the Pope Gregory, at the council of Trent made the Gregorian calendar official, making Thursday, October 4th, 1582 to the next day, October 15th, 1582. The Gregorian calendar is 26 seconds to long, but this discrepancy will need 3,323 years to build up to a single day.

Details on the Seven Periods

The Scripture is very clear in its record of times and dates. Through careful study of the dates mentioned in Scripture, it is possible to discover a Biblical timeline. Since the Bible doesn't give an exact year for specific events, one must start at the last King of Judah in 586 B.C. and calculate the dates in reverse. These dates correspond accurately with traditional dates given by historians and Bible theologians. Please keep in mind that from Creation to the Julian calendar the years are decreasing and after the Julian calendar the years are increasing. The word B.C. means "Before Christ," referring to before Christ birth. The word A.D. is Latin for Anno Domini which means, "In the year of the Lord," not after death like some believe. Here is each period in detail. * Denotes traditionally believed

1. Creation Period

4164-2508 B.C.

1656 years

Fast Facts

Though this is the largest period, the Bible tells the least about this part of time. For more information, read the book of Enoch. It is interesting to know by studying these dates that Methuselah died just before the flood, within the same year. In Lunar Calendar, Creation starts at 4164 B.C., but for the Solar Calendar it starts in 4039 B.C. We know this by the 11 days difference in Calendar and if you times 11 by 4164 you get 45,804 days. And if you take 45,804 divided by 365 and you will get 125 years. Then you subtract 125 from 4164 and you will get 4039.

Genesis 5:1-32				
Name	Born	Died	Total years	Age when his son was born
Adam	4164	3234	930	130
Seth	4034	3122	912	105
Enos	3929	3024	905	90
Cainan	3829	2929	910	70
Mahaleel	3759	2864	895	65
Jared	3704	2742	962	162
Enoch	3542	3177	365	65
Methuselah	3477	2508	969	187
Lamech	3290	2513	777	182
Noah (May 16*)	3108	2158	950	502
Flood	November 17, 2508 Genesis 7:11			

2. Patriarch Period

2508-1926 B.C.

582 years

Fast Facts

This period starts with the Flood and ends with Jacob entering Egypt. It is interesting

Biblical Chronological History

The Bible is in Lunar years. Since the beginning of creation to the Solar calendar by Lunar years, it is 4164 years. But in Solar years, from creation to the Solar calendar it is 4039 years. This discrepancy becomes apparent at the time of Christ's death, when the calendar is changed hundreds of years earlier from Lunar to Solar.

The Bible is very precise in its chronological history. The Bible is the best history book ever. Its dates are exact and there are no errors in the Word of God. What is so great about the Biblical chronological order is that there is a Scriptural reference to every date. And each Scriptural reference stacks on upon each other to make a Biblical period in history.

There are seven periods in Biblical history and, like bricks, they stacks up one period upon another. The specific dates listed in Scripture all fit together to make up each of the seven periods. James Ussher is famous for his Chronological history of the Bible. He took historical papers and estimated that God had created the earth October 22 4004 B.C.: by his writings do most Men of God use to understand the Chronological history of the Bible.

The Seven Periods in Bible History

7. Church Age Period
0 A.D. – Present
2022 years
6. Intertestamental Period
586-0 A.D.
586 years
5. Divided Kingdom Period
980-586 B.C.
394 years
4. United Kingdom Period
1496-980 B.C.
516 years
3. Egyptian Captivity Period
1926-1496 B.C.
430 years
2. Patriarch Period
2508-1926 B.C.
582 years
1. Creation Period
4164-2508 B.C.
1656 years

These generations make up the 400 years of captivity (Exodus 12:40, Galatians 3:17, Acts 7:6, 17). Of course their lifetimes overlapped. It was exactly 430 years to the day from when Israel entered to when they exited Egypt (Exodus 12:41). Jacob went into Egypt on April 15, 1926 and Moses led Israel out of Egypt on April 15, 1496. The first Passover the night of April 14th, 1496. Israel crossed the Red Sea during the night of April 17th, 1496 (Exodus 14:27).

Name	Born	Died	Age	Reference
Miriam		April 1455		Number 20:1
Aaron	1579	August 1 st 1456	123	Numbers 33:38-39
Moses	1575	March 1 st 1456	120	Due. 34:7, Ex. 7:7

During this time, it is believed that Job went through his time of testing and some even believed that Moses wrote the book of Job. Moses lived in Midian, south-east of Palestine which is in the same general location as the land of Uz. We can establish the timing of Job's life by his friendship with Eliphaz the Temanite, who was a direct descendant of Teman, the grandson of Esau (Job 2:11). And Elihu a Busite, who was a direct descendant of Buz the son of Nahor the brother of Abraham (Job 32:2).

4. United Kingdom Period

1496-980 B.C.

518 years

Fast Facts

We get this period from I Kings 6:1, 11:42. It begins with Moses leading Israel out of Egypt to the death of Solomon. *"And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD"* (I Kings 6:1).

The time of the Judges lasted about 450 years (Acts 13:20) from Moses to Samuel. We are able to determine the beginning and ending of this period, but some of the details are undefined in Scripture. Throughout the time of the Judges, Israel maintained a cycle of blessing, backslide, persecution, and repentance. God raised up judges to lead Israel in following Him. Some of these judges were local to a specific area and were not national rulers.

Interesting events that took place during the time of the Judges include: The tabernacle was first set up on April 1, 1495 (Exodus 40:17, 37). Joshua parted the Jordan River on April 10th, 1455 (Joshua 4:19). It is traditionally believed that Joshua lived 110 years, from 1530-1420 (Judges 2:8). Caleb was born in 1535. Absalom lived 40 years from 1060-1020 (II Samuel 15:7). Ammon rapes Tamar in 1027. And Ammon lived 35 years from 1060-1025 (II Samuel 13:23, 38; 14:28). It is traditionally believed that the Prophet Samuel lived from 1171 to 1062. And Eli lived from 1214 to 1116 and judged Israel from 1156 to 1116.

The Time of the Judges

to note that Noah and Abraham lived at the same time for 58 years and Noah's son, Shem, outlived Abraham by 35 years. It is also interesting that Isaac was still alive when Joseph was sold into slavery in 1948 B.C. The Tower of Babel happened somewhere within the life time of Peleg (Genesis 10:25). God called Abraham out of Haran in 2141 (Genesis 12:4). Sarah lived 127 years, from 2206-2079 (Genesis 17:17, 23:21). Ishmael lived 137 years, from 2130-1993 (Genesis 16:16, 25:17). Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed in the year 2117. Jacob served Laban from 1979-1959 (Genesis 30:25-26). Isaac married Rebecca in 2076 (Genesis 25:20). Jacob lived with Abraham 15 years and with Shem 50 years. Esau took his 1st wife in 2016. Jacob married Leah in 1972. Joseph married Asenath daughter of the priest of on in 1935 (Genesis 41:45-46). Isaac lived with Shem for 110 years.

Genesis 11:10-30

Name	Born	Died	Total years	Age when his son was born	Reference
Shem	2606	2006	600	100	
Arphaxad	2506	2068	438	35	
Salah	2471	2038	433	30	
Eber	2441	1977	464	34	
Peleg	2407	2168	239	30	
Reu	2377	2138	239	32	
Serug	2345	2115	230	30	
Nahor	2315	2167	148	29	
Terah	2286	2081	205	70	
Abraham	2216	2041	175	100	Gen. 17:17
Isaac	2116	1936	180	60	Gen. 35:28
Jacob	2056	1909	147	91	Gen. 47:28
Joseph	1965	1855	110		Gen. 37:2, 41:46, 45:6, 47:9, 50:26

3. Egyptian Captivity Period

1926-1496 B.C.

Exodus 12:40

Fast Facts

Some think that there is a gap between Genesis and Exodus, but this is not true. In Genesis 15:16 Jesus promises Abraham that his descendants would be persecuted by a foreign nation, but in the fourth generation they would be set free. *“And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years....But in the fourth generation they shall come out hither again”* (Genesis 16:13,15). They were actually in Egypt for 430 years. They were not persecuted until after the first 30 years. Exodus 6:16-23 gives us the four generations:

Generation	Name	Lived	Reference
1	Levi	137 years	Ex. 6:16
2	Kohath	133 years	Ex. 6:18
3	Amram	137 years	Ex. 6:20
4	Aaron	123 years	Num. 33:38

final 90 years was much civil unrest, much fighting to place to see who should be King. The first was after Jeroboam II died there was much dispute who should be the next King. It took eleven years until Jeroboam II son Zachariah took the throne. Then fighting among themselves took place again after Pekah was killed by Hoshea, but Hoshea did not become King for eight years and reigned only nine years before Israel was taken away by Assyria.

Kings of Judah

Name	Began	Ended	Reigned	Reference	Born	Died	Lived	Prophet
Rehoboam	980	963	17 yrs	I Kings 14:21	1021	963	58	Ahijah
Abijam	963	960	3 "	I Kings 15:2				
Asa	960	919	41	I Kings 15:10				
Jehoshaphat	919	894	25	I Kings 22:42	954	894	60	
Jehoram	894	886	8	II Kings 8:17	922	886	36	
Ahaziah	886	885	1	II Kings 8:26	908	885	23	
Athaliah	885	878	7	II Kings 11:4				
Joash (Jehoash)	878	838	40	II Kings 12:1	885	838	47	
Amaziah	838	809	29	II Kings 14:2	863	809	54	
Uzziah (Azariah)	809	757	52	II Kings 15:2	825	757	68	
Jotham	757	741	16	II Kings 15:33	782	741	41	Isaiah
Ahaz	741	725	16	II Kings 16:2	761	725	36	Hosea
Hezekiah	725	696	29	II Kings 18:2	750	696	54	Micah
Mannasseh	696	641	55	II Kings 21:1	708	641	67	
Amon	641	639	2 yrs	II Kings 21:19	663	639	24	
Josiah	639	608	31 "	II Kings 22:1	647	608	39	Zephaniah
Jehoahaz	608	608	3 mths	II Kings 23:31				Habakkuk
Jehoiakim	608	597	11 yrs	II Kings 23:36	633	597	36	Jeremiah
Jehoiachin	597	597	3 mths	II Kings 24:8				
Zedekiah	597	586	11 yrs	II Kings 24:18				

Kings of Israel

Name	Began	Ended	Reigned	Reference	Prophet
Jeroboam	980	958	22 yrs	I Kings 14:20	Ahijah
Nadab	958	956	2 "	I Kings 15:25	
Baasha	956	932	24	I Kings 15:33	
Elah	932	930	2	I Kings 16:8	
Zimri	930	930	7 days	I Kings 16:15	
Omri	929	917	12	I Kings 16:23	
Ahab	922	900	22	I Kings 16:29	Elijah
Ahaziah	900	898	2	I Kings 22:51	
Jehoram (Joram)	898	886	12	II Kings 3:1	Elisha
Jehu	886	857	29	II Kings 10:36	
Jehoahaz	858	841	17	II Kings 13:10	
Joash	841	825	16	II Kings 14:14	
Jeroboam II	823	782	41	II Kings 14:23	Jonah

Name/Event	Began	Ended	Years	Reference
Wilderness Wanderings	1496	1456	40	Ex. 19:11, Nu. 1:1, 14:34
Conquering of Canaan	1455	1450	5	Josh. 14:10
King of Mesopotamia	1450	1442	8	Judges 3:8
Othniel	1442	1402	40	Judges 3:11
Reign of Moab	1402	1384	18	Judges 3:14
Ehud & Shamgar	1384	1304	80	Judges 3:30
Jabin, King of Canaan	1304	1284	20	Judges 4:3
Deborah & Barak	1284	1244	40	Judges 5:31
Nation of Midian	1244	1237	7	Judges 6:1
Gideon	1237	1197	40	Judges 8:28
Abimelech	1197	1194	3	Judges 9:22
Tola	1194	1171	23	Judges 10:2
Jair	1171	1149	22	Judges 10:3
Eastern Israel's servitude to Ammon	1149	1131	18	Judges 10:8
Jephtha	1131	1125	6	Judges 11:26, 12:7
Izban	1125	1118	7	Judges 12:9
Elom	1118	1108	10	Judges 12:11
Abdon	1108	1100	8	Judges 12:15
Western Israel Servitude to the Philistines	1149 to 1109			Judges 13:1
Samson	1149	1129	20	Judges 16:31

The Time of the Kings

Fast Facts

Interesting events: The Foundation of Solomon's Temple was dedicated on May 2nd, 1016 (II Chronicles 3:2, I Kings 6:37) and the dedication of the completed Solomon's Temple was on October 8th -23rd, 1009. The Temple was not actually completed until the next month of November 1009 (II Chronicles 7:9-10).

Name	Began	Ended	Reigned	Reference	Born	Died	Reference	Prophet
Saul	1100	1060	40 yrs	Acts 13:21				Samuel
David	1060	1020	40 yrs	II Sam. 2:10	1090	1020	II Sam. 5:4	Nathan
Solomon	1020	980	40 yrs	I Kings 11:42				Gad

5. Divided Kingdom Period

980-586 B.C.

430 years

Fast Facts

Josiah's Great Passover took place in the year 621 B.C. (II Chronicles 35:18, II Kings 23:23). The separation of Israel took place in October of 980*. And Jeroboam set up the two gold calves for pagan worship on November 15, 980 (I Kings 12:32). Assyria deported Israel to another country in the year of 720 B.C. From the time Zimri died in 930 till Omri took the throne a Civil War between Omri army and Tibni army to see who would be King. From 922 to 917 B.C. Omri was old and not in good health, so even though he was King his son Ahab ruled*. Same with the final year of Jehu also. The

Zachariah	771	770	6 mths	II Kings 15:8	
Shallum	770	770	1 "	II Kings 15:13	
Mehahem	769	759	10	II Kings 15:17	
Pekahiah	759	757	2	II Kings 15:23	
Pekah	757	737	20	II Kings 15:27	
Hoshea	729	720	9	II Kings 17:1	Nahum

6. Intertestamental Period

586 B.C. -0 A.D.

586 years

Fast Facts

This period starts with the end of Judah as a Kingdom and goes through the Intertestamental period to the birth of Christ. There was three times Babylon carried Israel into captivity. The first carrying away was 597 B.C., the second was 586 B.C., and the third carrying away into captivity was 582 B.C. (Jeremiah 52:28-30). We know the Babylonian Captivity was seventy years by Jeremiah 25:11-12; it is 597-527 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar took the city of Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple was destroyed on July 9, 586 B.C. (II Kings 25:3). Jehoiachin (55 years old) was released from prison March 27, 560 B.C. (II Kings 25:27). Evilmerodach was murdered by Neriglissar only two years in his reign. And Babylon fell on the night of October 31, 527 B.C.

Babylonian Captivity Period

597-527 B.C.

70 years

Kings of Babylon

Name	Began	Ended	Reigned	Reference	Prophet
Nebuchadnezzar	605	562	43	II Kings 24:12, 25:8	Ezekiel
Evilmerodach*	562	560	2		Daniel
Nabopolassar*	560	542	18		
Belshazzar*	542	527	15		

After the Babylon Empire was defeated by the Medio-Persian Empire. There King (Cyrus) makes a decree his first year of his rule to allow all Jews to go back to their home land and set up a temple. The foundation of Zerubbabel's temple was dedicated in May 526 B.C. (Ezra 3:8). The completion of Zerubbabel's temple was on March 3, 499 B.C. (Ezra 6:15). The reconstruction period of Jerusalem was from 527 to 447 B.C. (Daniel 9:25). There is some evidence to believe that at the beginning it was a split kingdom between the Medes and Persians. With Darius being the Medes King and Cyrus the Persian King. Smerdis was an imposter and was eventually found out.

Kings of Medes and Persian Empire*

Name	Began	Ended	Reigned	Prophet
Darius, king of the Medes	?	?		Zechariah
Cyrus	527	518	11	

Cambyses (Ahasuerus)	518	500	18	
Smerdis (Artaxerxes)	500	500	9 months	Haggai
Darius	500	465	35	Ezra
Xereis	465	444	21	Nehemiah
Artaxerxes	444	413	31	Malachi

Some interesting facts are that Alexander the Great reined from 336 to 323; Julius Caesar reigned from October 49 B.C. to March 15, 44 B.C.; Caesar Augustus reigned at the time of the birth of Christ.

Daniel's Seventy Week Prophecy

Daniel 9:24-27

There is a minority opinion on Daniel's Seventy week prophecy. The word weeks means sevens, so one week equals seven years. So the 70 weeks is 70 sevens, totaling 490 years. But the last week is the end time Tribulation period, so it's 69 weeks which is 483 years before Christ death. This started with Artaxerxes commanded Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem on March 14, 450 B.C. to April 15, 33 A.D., which was the day of Christ's death.

7. The Church Age

0 A.D. -Present

This starts with the life of Christ which was from 0-33 A.D., and laying the foundation of the Church. The death of Jesus Christ was on Wednesday, April 15th (Matthew 26:17, Exodus 12:8). The resurrection of Jesus took place Sunday morning, April 19th (Matthew 12:40). The Ascension of Christ was on May 28th (Acts 1:3). The day of Pentecost was June 6th (Acts 2:1, Leviticus 23:15-22). Then his disciples spread the Gospel starting churches all over the known world. This period ends with the Tribulation period. There are two other ages and they are.

8. Millennium Reign of Christ

After the Tribulation Period (seven years), Jesus shall rule and reign in Jerusalem until Satan is released, then the whole world will revolt against Jesus. Then shall Satan army will be put down and will be judged at the Great White Throne of Judgment. The last will be the fire which will destroy the land and the sky, then Jesus will make a new Heaven and Earth.

9. Eternity with God