

## Introduction to the Chronological History of the Old Testament

Recognition must be given to those to whom it is due. This class would not be taking place if it were not for the work of Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones, "The Chronology of the Old Testament". Some of the truths that we will cover were already understood by me, but his work clarified many things that I did not understand.

I used most of Dr. Jones' work and have modified it in some places for simplicity in teaching as well as a few points where we differ. My recommendation to those who are interested in understanding these truths in a greater way is to get a copy of his book and see all the detailed information that he has and the labor that he has put into this work. There are only a few books outside of the Bible that I recommend to people, but this definitely is one that I recommend!

This work is a "standard chronology" and not an absolute one. Since the Scriptures record only years for a certain event and not the days and months, summing up the years can give an inaccurate number because of the partial years.

Dr. Jones made clear in his book that Satan is using a 'Trident' to cloud the minds of individuals regarding the truth found in the Scriptures. These are the three prongs:

1. Textual Criticism- It successfully cripples ones confidence in the actual wording of the Scriptures when an individual succumbs to the temptation of not trusting God to keep His promises to preserve His Word.
2. The trident's central spike is evolution- It assaults the Word of God at its very inception by calling into question the most basic tenets of Scripture.
3. Biblical Chronology- We see that evolution's key component is the doctrine of 'time' (hence chronology). If the Scriptures have been accepted by an individual as full of scribal errors, emendations, corruptions, etc., no matter how painstakingly prepared, any chronology would be deemed of little worth and certainly not deserving the time necessary to evaluate it.

Dr. Jones is a Biblicist, which in his words does not merely refer to a fundamentalist or a biblical scholar as many dictionaries define it. The word biblicist connotes one who, while taking both the immediate and the remote context into account, interprets and believes the Bible literally.

Dr. Jones' work impressed me when I saw the length of time he believed the children of Israel were in Egypt before the Exodus. I have understood that truth for many years because of Pastor Ed Abernathy and his teaching back in Bible School. I have not seen others who have understood that timing and was eager to find out how he saw the Old Testament chronology.

I must say at this point that I disagreed only at one point concerning timing with Dr. Jones and that was when Abraham was given the promise. It was a five year difference that ends up moving my time of creation five years earlier than his. As I teach this class I will clarify that point, but everything else has been enlightening and encouraging. Many, many thanks to this man of God for his tremendous work.

## Creation to Christ Graph

Anno Mundi- **AM** is the year of the world

Before the Birth of Christ-**BC**

- In order to convert AM to BC or vice versa, merely subtract the given year from the year of creation or 3999 B.C. That is, 586 BC is 3413 AM ( $3999-586=3413$ )
- Another way of saying this is that summing any given years AM date and its BC designation will always yield 3999
- My creation date is 5 years different from Dr. Jones'. Seeing that the BC dates for the destruction of Jerusalem and the other two events that are also recognized by the secular world, the adjustment in time led me to this particular year.

### How are the dates determined?

**\*\*\*Very important information\*\*\***

The principal dates that are determined which affect all the other dates are:

- 1) The fall of the Kingdom of Judah with the burning of the temple, destruction of the city of Jerusalem along with its walls, and the deportation of most of the citizens to Babylon. Jer 32:1 and Jer 52:12-14 show this occurring in the 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar.
  - This is critical because it is one of only three places where firm dated secular historical events overlap the Scriptures, thus forming a connecting bridge between the two. This date is seen as 586 BC
- 2) Another one is the fourth year of Jehoiakim with Nebuchadnezzar's first which was also the year of the great battle at Carchemish (Jer 25:1; Jer 46:2) 605 BC
- 3) The third one is the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar with the 30th year of our Lord Jesus, the Christ (Luke 3:1,23) AD 26-28
  - All other Biblical dates are assigned by numbering forward and backward from these three anchor points.
  - Using all scriptural data only, as Dr. Jones did, I found it remarkable how it all fit together!

### Where to find their ages

1. Adam to Noah-Gen 5
2. Noah's age at flood-Gen 7:6
3. Shem to Terah-Gen 11:10-32
  - During Peleg's life the tower of Babel incident took place

**Note:**

Consider the overlap of their lives, Noah even lived about half-way through Terah's life.

- Gen 11:32 Terah was 205 when he died in Haran.  $205-75$  (Abrams age at that time)=130 yrs old when Abram born
4. Abram-Gen 12:1-4 age 75 when he left Haran
  5. Gen 21:5 Abraham is 100 when he has Isaac
  6. Gen 25:26 Isaac is 60 when Jacob is born
  7. How old is Jacob when Joseph is born?  
Gen 41:46 Joseph is 30 when interpreting Pharaoh's dream

Gen 45:6 (7 of plenty, 2 of famine, Joseph is 39 at this time) 5 years of famine remain  
 Gen 47:9 Jacob is 130 coming to Egypt

- 130 Jacobs age minus 39 Joseph's age=;91 years of age for Jacob at birth of Joseph

8. Gen 50:26 Joseph dies at 110 years old

- there is a chart to cover Jacob and his lineage

**Where is the 430 years of Bondage??**

- It is not there!! As I have looked to see what commentators say about this, I have been amazed and disgusted with their disregard for the scriptures themselves. They use rational thinking and rounding off 400 to 430 or vice-versa but will not acknowledge that what God says is true!

Acts 7:3-7 KJV

3 And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.

4 Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

5 And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

6 And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.

7 And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.

- The land would not be inherited until the children of Israel came in with Joshua and conquered the nations that were there.
- Abraham's seed would begin with Isaac and the ending would be 400 years later. Isaac dwelt in the land of Canaan as in a strange land. This just means a land not their own, which happened to be the case with the land they were on. Later on, Jacob ends up going to Egypt where there was slavery and bondage and affliction.
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- How old is Abraham when God calls him out of Ur of Chaldees?

? until Haran

Abraham leaves Haran 75

Abraham has Isaac 25 years later

Isaac has Jacob 60 years later +60

Jacob has Joseph 91 years later +91

Joseph lives to 110 years +110

261

10) Exod 7:7 Moses is 80 when he leads Israel out of Egypt

+80

341

- We have accounted for 341 yrs of that 430 yr

Exod 12:40 sojourning of Israel was 430 years

Gal 3:16-17 Promise given 430 years before law

430

-341

Number of years unaccounted for

89

Gen 15:13 and Acts 7:6 say that Abraham's seed would sojourn 400 years. From Isaac to Joseph's death equals 261 years. Add in Moses' 80 until the Exodus and it equals 341. The missing number of years between the death of Joseph and birth of Moses is 59 years. This makes the 400 years.

To get that 430 years from the promise we have to add in the years between Haran and birth of Isaac which is 25 years.  $400 + 25 = 425$ , 5 years short of the 430. That 5 years is how long Abraham stayed in Haran until Terah died. The promise was given to Abraham when he was 70 years old, when he still dwelt in Mesopotamia (Acts 7:2-4). This gives us the 430 years from promise to the law (law was given right after the Exodus).

Ex 12:41 KJV

41 And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.

Gal 3:17-18 KJV

17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

- The promise came to Abram when he was in Ur of Chaldee and 430 years later, on the selfsame day, God delivered them!!

### **The Judges**

There is another graph for the period of the judges which will show how these years are accounted for.

### **The Three Kings before the Divided Kingdom**

Acts 13:21 Saul-40 years as king (side note: Jonathan was at least 28 yrs older than David)

1 Kings 2:11 David-40 years as king, 7 in Hebron and 33 in Jerusalem

2 Chron 9:30 Solomon-40 years as king

### **When Jesus began His Ministry**

Luke 3:1-3,21 Jesus baptized about the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar AD 26-28