

The Book of Genesis

Lesson 1

Chapter 1:1

Introduction

The events in the book of Genesis span 2,352 years and yet, its story did not pass through generations of people before it was transcribed as it did in the religious books of other faiths. Within its pages, the genealogy of those who passed the stories from one to another reveals that as few as seven generations handled the information and, then, the LORD confirmed the accuracy of the writing as Moses inscribed it on the original scrolls in the first two years of the Exodus journey. This closely held story begins with Adam's creation and life and then reveals that Adam died at the age of 930 lunar years. The accounts of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, were based on the lunar calendar of 354 days. Each year consisted of twelve months; each month began with the new moon. If our solar Gregorian calendars had been used, Adam would have died at the age of 901.

The book of Genesis reveals that Adam died when Methuselah was 242 years old. Both were living in the same area of the world and Methuselah knew Adam personally, as well as including the story of creation. Six other descendants of Adam lived extremely long lives and well into the adult life of Methuselah. Plenty of witnesses to the lives of Adam and Eve coincided with both Adam and Methuselah. According to this book, Methuselah lived until the year of the flood.

Noah was 605 years old when the flood occurred, but we can look to Noah's son, Shem, to shrink the number of persons who could have personally transferred the information down to Moses. Shem was 100 years old when Methuselah died. Both lived in the same area and knew each other. Shem heard the story of Adam from Methuselah who knew Adam firsthand.

Shem died when Isaac, the son of Abraham, was 60 years old. Isaac surely knew Shem who knew Methuselah who knew Adam.

Isaac died when Joseph was 30 years old. Although Joseph had been sold into slavery by his brothers when he was 17 years old, Joseph knew Isaac well. Joseph's line is not the line we wish to follow; rather, we will follow the line of Levi, one of Joseph's older brothers. During the great famine, Levi moved to Egypt to be under the protection of Joseph with the rest of his father's family when he was somewhere between 33 and 35 years of age.

Isaac's son was Jacob who worked for Laban seven years for the hand of Rachel in marriage. When Jacob was 77 years old he thought he was marrying Rachel but Laban tricked him into a wedding with Leah, Rachel's older sister. Leah was unable to bear children for the first seven

years of their marriage. Jacob worked another seven years and married Rachel when he was 84. After Jacob married Rachel, the Lord allowed Leah to begin having children. Levi, Leah's third son, could not have been born earlier than the third year after Jacob married Rachel. Therefore, Levi was not born before Jacob was 87 years old. Joseph was Jacob's 11th son and he was born when Jacob was 90 years old. It is safe to say that Levi and Joseph were about three years apart in age. Levi would have been about 20 years old when Joseph was sold into slavery and about 33 when Isaac died.

Levi's second son was Kohath and Kohath's first son was Amram who married Jochobed and their third child was Moses who became the LORD's scribe for this book. In summary and in order, the overlapping lives of six men carried the creation story to the Hebrew scrolls by word of mouth. They were Adam, Methuselah, Shem, Isaac, Levi, Kohath, Amram and Moses. Each knew the previous man personally as an adult.

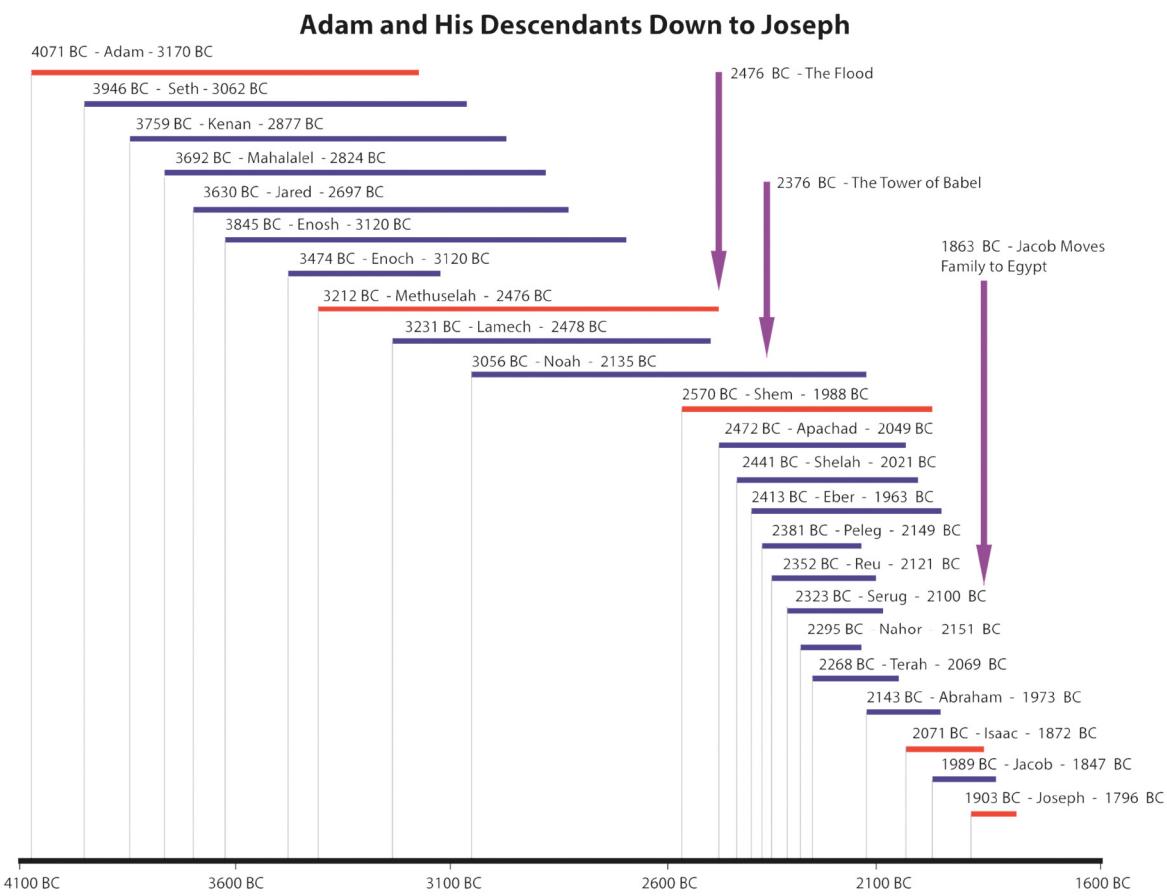


Figure 1: Chart Showing the Overlapping Lengths of Each Life from Adam to Joseph

Each length of life in Figure 1 has been recalculated to the Solar Gregorian Calendar in use today. As the Lord promised in the book of Genesis, after the flood, the length of life for each person was significantly reduced.

God Breathed Scripture

The Lord's protection of the Scripture did not lie in the hands of mere men. The Apostle Paul says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."¹ Today, the definition of inspiration is "something that makes someone want to do something or that gives someone an idea about what to do or create; a force or influence that inspires someone."² However, that is not the proper definition for the word inspired in Paul's message. It means "breathed." For a proper understanding of this passage today, it is better translated "All Scripture is breathed by God," meaning that it comes directly from God. According to Moses' own account in the Book of Exodus, the LORD directly oversaw the work of Moses.

Exodus 19:1 In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ² When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain. ³ And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: ⁴ 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶ and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." ⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. ⁸ And all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

Ninety days after leaving Egypt, Moses and the children of Israel were at the foot of Mount Sinai. There, Moses climbed the mountain and met with the LORD for extended periods and the LORD directed his work. Within two years after arriving at Mount Sinai, the book of Genesis was complete, breathed from the mouth of the LORD.

Beginning God

Genesis 1:1 **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

"In the beginning God!" Every word that follows these words in the Holy Bible, every thing that comes after them, rests on the foundation established with these four words. Nothing remaining in the Bible can be correctly interpreted unless the magnitude of these first words are clearly understood. They represent the starting point for all existence that will follow. If these words are ignored, the very essence of what remains in Scripture has no foundation. What is the

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16

² Merriam-Webster Dictionary

foundation that must be clearly understood about these four words that resonate throughout the rest of the Bible and all eternity? The foundation of all is God and no one else! God existed before anything else. He and He alone began it all!

The Hebrew Bible starts with the word *bershit* and it can be translated “beginning” or “genesis.” To make sense in English, we add the words “In the . . .,” but the literal Hebrew says, “Beginning Elohim” or “Genesis Elohim.” The book takes its name from the first word of the book.

The word “God” is unique to our language, deriving its roots from Old English spoken during the Anglo-Saxon period in England. It means “good” and it refers specifically to the Supreme Divine Good Being. In translating the Bible into Anglo-Saxon, the Hebrew word *Elohim* and the Greek word *Theos* are rendered as God. No other Deity name in the Anglo-Saxon Bible has been translated as God. Yahweh, and its Latin counterpart, Jehovah, are translated as LORD and the other names for the Supreme Being are translated according to His action as Healer, Provider, Deliverer, etc. English translations of spiritual books from other faiths also use the word “God” for their supreme deity; however, such use does not mean that the god of all faiths is the same God of the Bible. The foundation of our God is built on the Hebrew *Elohim* and its Greek counterpart *Theos* and no other. The Quran calls *Allah* “God” but he is definitely not the same God as *Elohim* or *Theos*. A short comparison of just two characteristics of *Elohim/Theos* and *Allah* will quickly show that the God of the Bible is not the god of the Quran.

Elohim/Theos vs Allah

Elohim/Theos Never Changes

James 1:17 Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

Elohim/Theos Loves All the People of the World

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Allah Changes

Surah 2:106 None of Our revelations do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, but We substitute something better or similar: Knowest thou not that Allah Hath power over all things?

Allah Does Not Love All the People of the World

Surah 32:13 If We had so willed, We could certainly have brought every soul its true guidance: but the Word from Me will come true, "I will fill Hell with Jinns and men all together."

God Created

"In the beginning God created . . ." No one else can take the credit for all that exists; it is God's making and His alone. The word "create" is interesting. From the human position, a man will cut a tree and might carve the likeness of an animal or build a useful tool and then say, "Look at what I have created." In this case, man is using something that exists to fashion something else. This example is totally opposite from the true meaning of the original word used in this first phrase. Here, "created" means produced out of nothing by Almighty fiat. The eternal foundation of all that follows these four words rests on the simple but profound understanding that nothing existed before "God created." All the good and all the bad in this world were created by God for a purpose, His eternal purpose for one sector of His creation who will soon be revealed in this chapter is mankind. The corpus of all the remaining Scripture will deal with God's interaction with His creation called man.

Heavens

"In the beginning God created the heavens . . ." Notice that God's first act was to create the heavens. The earth did not create the heavens nor did the imagination of any being that lived on the earth; the heavens were created by God for God. He created His visible dwelling before He created the earth. Later in the Bible, the LORD reveals to man all that was created in the heavens on that first day. Here is a short synopsis of those heavens.

GOD'S HOME: Somewhere in all of creation God created His dwelling place called the Holy City, the heavenly City of Peace called Jerusalem.³

It is the place where God will wipe away all tears and death will never occur again and mourning, crying and pain do not exist.⁴

The city glows like a clear, clean, brilliant crystal jewel.⁵

It has a high wall around the complex with three gates on each side. Each gate has a specific name: Judah, Reuben, Issachar, Naphtali, Assur, Simeon, Benjamin, Manasseh, Ephraim, Dan, Zebulun, Gad.⁶

An angel stands guard at each gate.⁷

The door to each gate is made of a single pearl.⁸

The Holy City is built on a twelve layer foundation with each layer composed of a different precious stone: jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius,

³ Revelation 21:1-3; 10

⁴ Revelation 21:4

⁵ Revelation 21:11

⁶ These are the names of ten of the sons of Jacob and two of the sons of Joseph who will become the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph and Levi were also sons of Jacob; however, Levi does not have a gate because his descendants became the priestly line to attend to the Holy things. Joseph was given a double blessing; therefore, his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, were granted gates with their names taking the place of Joseph and Levi.

⁷ Revelation 21:12

⁸ Revelation 21:21

chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth and amethyst. Each layer is named after one of the Apostles that Jesus will select: Matthew, James, John, Peter, Philip, Bartholomew, Andrew, Thomas, James Alphaeus, Jude and Paul.⁹

The Holy City is a cube, 1,500 miles in all directions and its physical wall around the complex is 216 feet thick.¹⁰ The walls are made of jasper but the inside of the city is made of pure gold that is as clear as glass.¹¹

A river containing the water of life flows from the gold throne of God straight out though the east central gate in the middle of the golden avenue.

Fruit trees line the river on both sides and bear fruit every year. Both the fruit and the leaves can be eaten.¹²

Fiery angels called Seraphim were created the first day to attend to God's instructions to interact with creation as needed. These angels have six wings, two to cover their face, two to cover their feet and two with which to fly. They surround God's throne as a choir and speak the words, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." The number of angels cannot be counted because they are as numerous as ten thousand times ten thousand times ten thousand.¹³

The cherubim angels were created that first day. Their appearance is unlike anything found in the natural world. These creatures seem to have faces of multiple animals. These creatures guard the throne of God. Because their faces watch in all directions at the same time, they are able to fly without pivoting. Four living creatures are in front of the throne. Each has the face of a lion, bull, eagle and man. They have four wings and human-like hands under those wings. Their feet look like calves feet and they glow like polished bronze.¹⁴

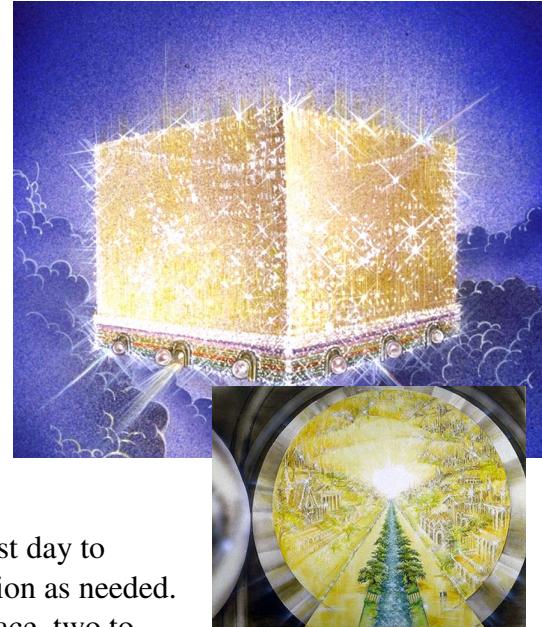


Figure 2: The Holy City and One Gate to the City by Pat Marvenko Smith. Use by Permission

⁹ Revelation 21:14, 19-20. Judas was replaced by Paul when the LORD selected him on the road to Damascus to be His Apostle.

¹⁰ Revelation 21:16-17

¹¹ Revelation 21:18

¹² Revelation 22:1-2

¹³ Isaiah 6:2,3,6,7

¹⁴ Ezekiel 1; 10; 41



Figure 3: The Throne Room of God by Pat Marvenko Smith. Use by Permission

The throne of God looks like it is made of lapis lazuli (a beautiful blue crystal gemstone found in modern day Afghanistan) and a rainbow surrounds it. The throne has wheels with wheels in the middle of the wheels, full of eyes around all the rims and the wheels can move in all directions without turning.¹⁵

Twenty-four thrones are in front of God. In the future, twenty-four elders will take their seats of honor on those thrones.¹⁶ In front of God's throne is a floor that looks like a sea of crystal emerald.¹⁷

The city contains the original heavenly tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the Table of Show Bread, the Golden Lampstand, the curtains of the tabernacle with the boards and sockets, the veil and the screen, the Bronze Altar, the court of the tabernacle, the garment of the priest, the Altar of Incense, the anointing oil, and the incense. One day on Mount Sinai, the Lord will show Moses all these items in heaven so he can construct replicas for the people on earth in the wilderness.¹⁸

The Books of Remembrance are created.¹⁹ The Lamb's Book of Life is created too!²⁰

The city is filled with rooms for those who love God, those who will be called according to His purpose and accept Him.²¹

John 14:2-3 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Sheol/Hades is built as well as Tartaras to hold the angels that will sin.²² The Lake of Fire is prepared for the final judgment.²³

Earth

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." After creating the heavens, God created the earth and placed it in the vast expanse that we call space but in the past was identified as visible heavens. The sun was not created yet and neither were the stars in the visible heavens. The earth was just a blue ball covered with water containing a firm structure. In verse 7 of this first chapter, God shaped the earth by altering the firm structure to separate the waters.

¹⁵ Ezekiel 1:22-28

¹⁶ Revelation 4:4; 11:16

¹⁷ Revelation 4:3

¹⁸ Exodus 25-30

¹⁹ Mal. 3:16-18

²⁰ Psa 69:28; Phil 4:3; Reve 13:8; 17:8; 20:15

²¹ Romans 8:28-30

²² Gen 37:35; Isa 38:10; Eze 32:27

²³ Rev 21:8; Mat 3:12