

CHRONOLOGY OF THE BIBLE

2009
SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

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Chronology of the Bible - Overview

Why study the chronology of the Bible?

To gain a more in-depth understanding and appreciation of the Bible.

Ground Rules and Assumptions:

- The Bible, as we have it today in our common translations, is accurate.
- Supplemental sources of information will be used to complement what the Bible tells us, not to contradict the Bible.
- Apparent contradictions in the Bible are a result of an imperfect understanding on our part and are not due to an error in the Bible. We will make an attempt to understand and resolve these but may not be successful in all cases.

Chronological Periods

Genesis

- Generations of Adam.
- Generations of Seth.

Sojourn in Egypt through the conquest of Canaan

- How to interpret 430 year sojourn (Ex 12:40-41, Gal 3:17, Acts 7:6).
- Hebrew calendars of offerings and feasts.

Period of the Judges

- Reconciling 480 yrs of 1 Kings 6:1 with timeline of Judges and Paul's reference to 450 yrs in Acts 13:20.
- Ruth.

Kings of Israel & Judah

- Including chronology of the Prophets of Israel & Judah.
- Synchronizing Bible chronology with secular chronology – assigning dates to Biblical events.

Fall of Jerusalem and Babylonian Captivity

- Chronology of the events in the final chapters of 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther.
- 70 years prophecy.
- Prophets of the captivity and post-exilic periods.

Between the Old & New Testaments

- Prophecies of Daniel fulfilled concerning Persia, Greek and Rome.

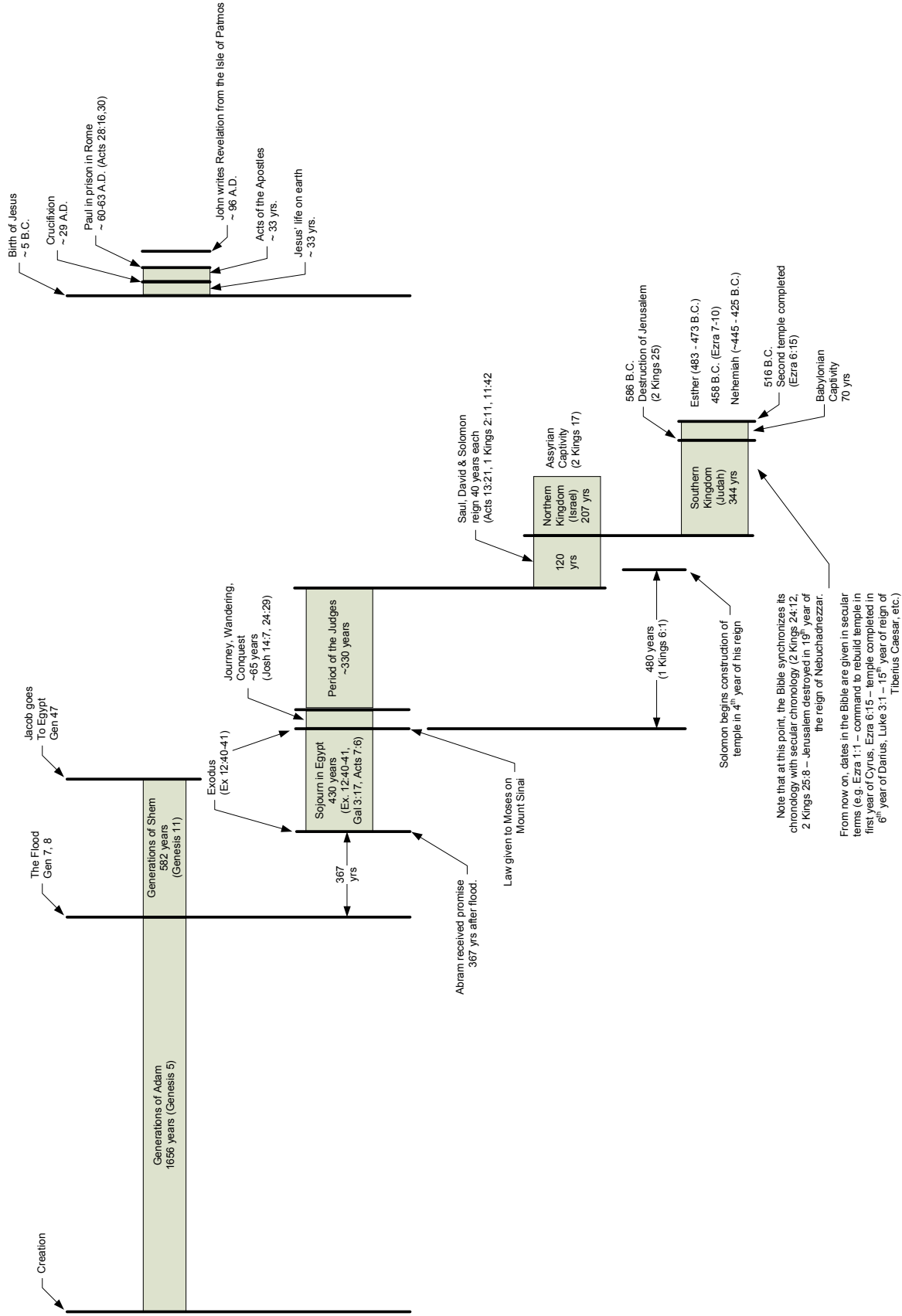
Chronology of the life of Christ

- 70 weeks prophecy.

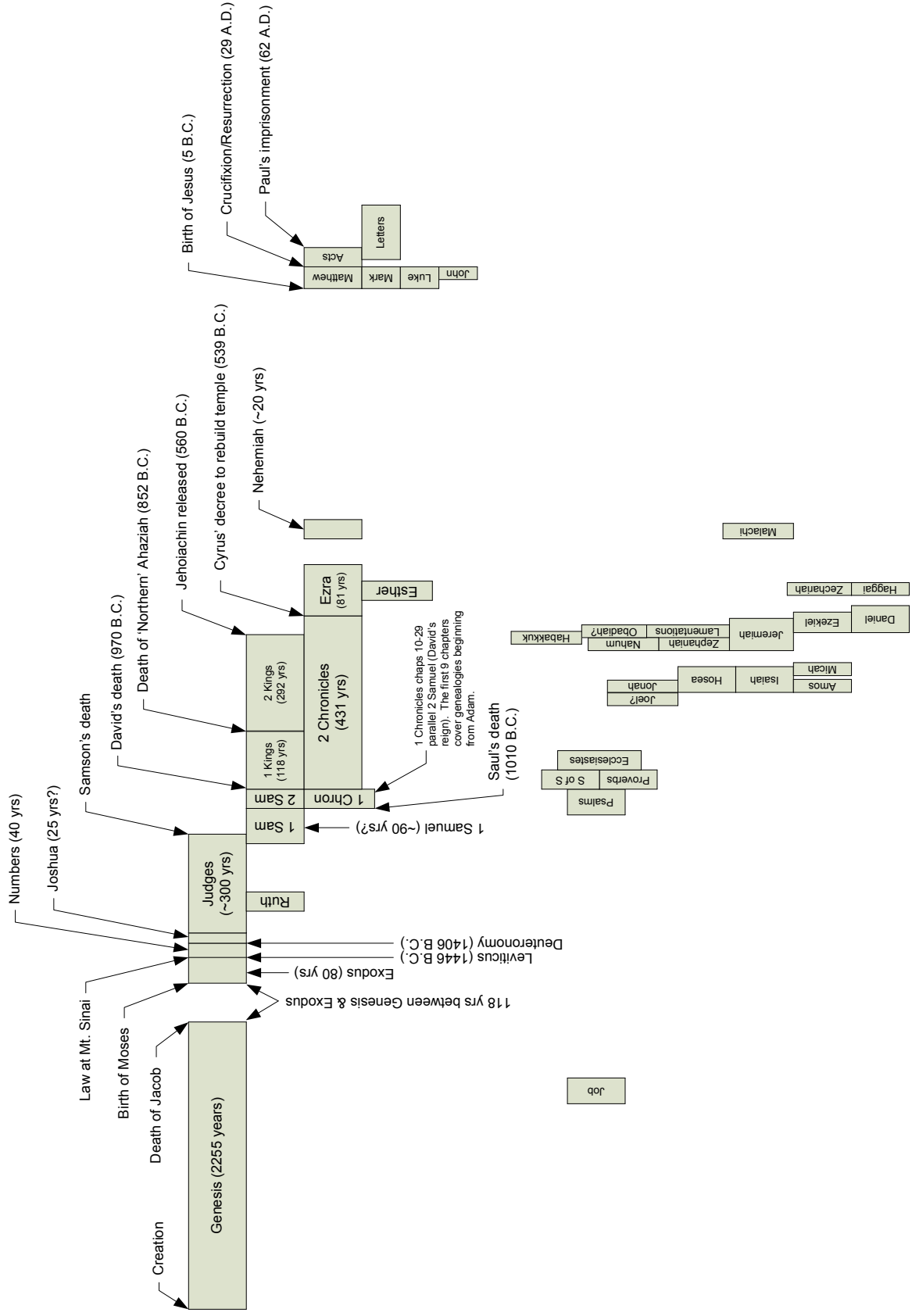
Chronology of Acts & the Epistles

- When were all of the letters written?

MAJOR EVENTS IN BIBLE CHRONOLOGY



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CHRONOLOGICALLY

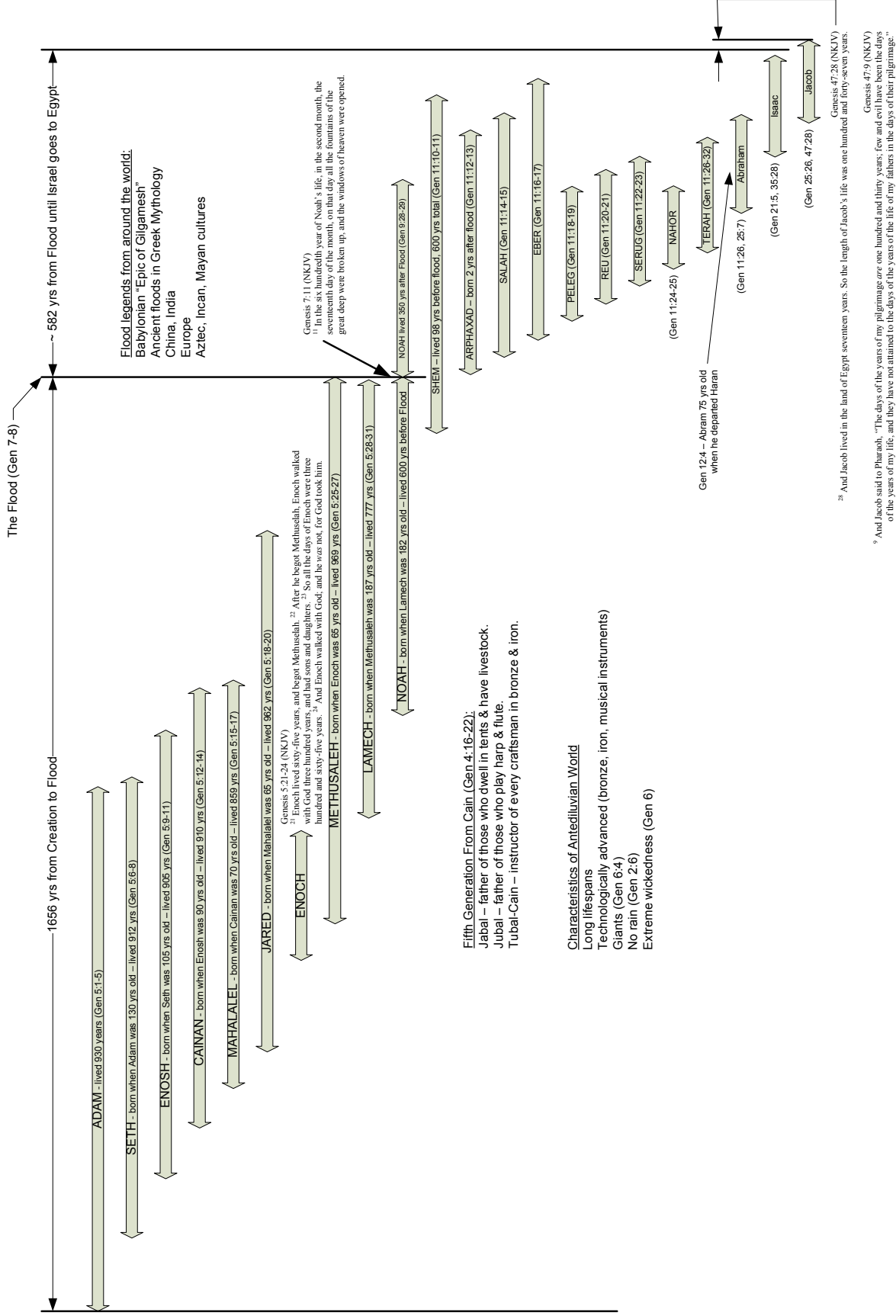


CHRONOLOGY

OF

GENESIS

CHRONOLOGY OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS



Generations of Adam (Genesis 5):

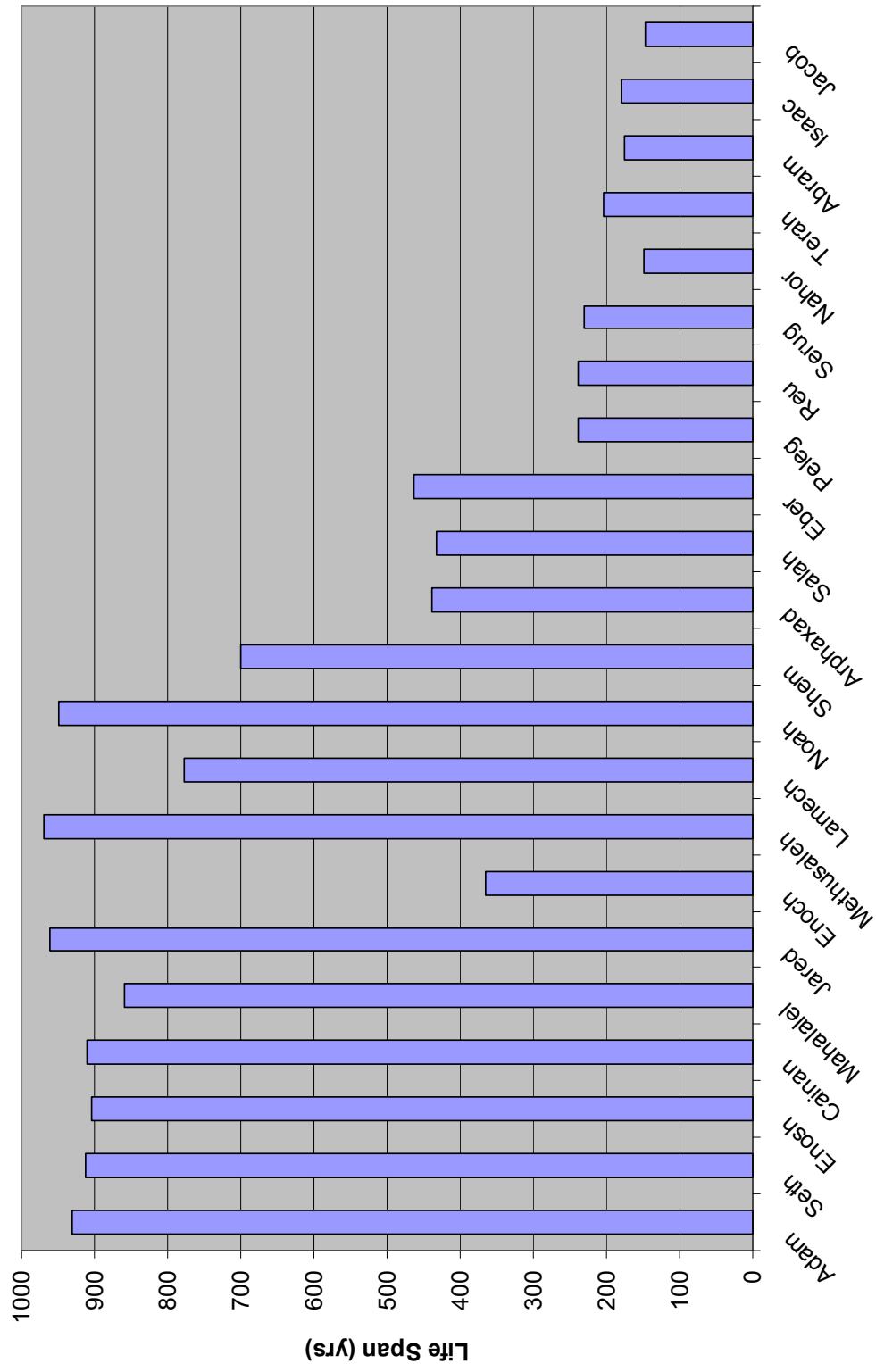
	Age at birth of next generation	Lifespan	
Adam	130	930	
Seth	105	912	
Enosh	90	905	
Cainan	70	910	
Mahalalel	65	859	
Jared	162	962	
Enoch	65	365	
Methusaleh	187	969	(Methusaleh died in or just prior to flood)
Lamech	182	777	(Lamech died five yrs before flood)
Yrs from Creation to birth of Noah:	<hr/> 1056		
Noah's age at flood:	600		Gen 7:11
Creation to Flood:	1656	yrs	

Generations of Shem (Genesis 11:10-26):

	Age at birth of next generation	Lifespan (after flood)	
Shem	100	600	
Begin dating from flood here:			
Shem begot Arphaxad 2 yrs after flood	2		
Arphaxad	35	438	
Salah	30	433	
Eber	34	464	
Peleg	30	239	
Reu	32	239	
Serug	30	230	
Nahor	29	148	
Terah	70	205	
Years from flood to birth of Abram:	<hr/> 292		
Abram's age when he first received promise:	75		Gen 12:1-4
Flood until promise given to Abram:	367	yrs	

	Age at birth of next generation	Lifespan	
Abram	100	175	Gen 21:5, Gen 25:7
Isaac	60	180	Gen 25:26, Gen 35:28
Age when Jacob went to Egypt	130	147	
Promise to Abram until move to Egypt:	215	yrs	
Flood until move to Egypt:	582	yrs	
Total duration of the book of Genesis:	2255	yrs	

Life Spans Before & After the Flood



CHRONOLOGY

of the

**430 Year
SOJOURN**

References to 430 year sojourn in Egypt:

Ex 12:40-41 Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.

Gal 3:17 And this I say, *that* the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance *is* of the law, *it is* no longer of promise; but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise.

References to 400 years of bondage:

Gen 15:13 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

Acts 7:6 But God spoke in this way: that his descendants would dwell in a foreign land, and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress *them* four hundred years.

Timespan from Abram's first receipt of promise until Israel comes to Egypt:

	yrs	
Gen 12:4-7	0	Abram 75 when he came to Canaan land and received promise (ref'd as beginning of 430 yrs in Gal 3:17)
Gen 21:5	25	Abraham 100 yrs old when Isaac born.
Gen 25:26	60	Isaac 60 yrs old when Jacob/Esau born.
Gen 47:9	130	Jacob 130 yrs old when he came to Egypt.
	215	yrs total

Lineage from Levi to Moses & Aaron

	Lifespans	
Ex 6:16-27 (also 1 Chron 6:1-3)		
Levi	137	
Kohath	133	Gen 46:11 - Kohath was numbered with the 70 of the family of Israel who first came to Egypt.
Amram	137	
Moses & Aaron	80 & 83	Ex 7:7 - Moses was 80 and Aaron 83 when they came out of Egypt (also Acts 7).

On population growth in Egypt

Gen 46:27

70 persons of family of Israel came to Egypt.

Gen 47:27

So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly.

Ex 1:7

But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

Num 1:45-46

So all who were numbered of the children of Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and above, all who *were able to* go to war in Israel— all who were numbered were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty.

It is thought that the total population of the children of Israel when they departed Egypt would have been 2 to 3 million.

For example, to grow from 70 to 2.3M would require population to double 15 times ($2^{15} = 32,768$ and $70 \times 32,768 = 2,293,760$).

For this to occur in 215 yrs would require doubling every 14.3 yrs. For it to occur in 430 yrs would require doubling every 28.6 yrs.

By comparison, the fastest growth rates in the U.S. over the last century have been about 2% per yr which is a doubling every 35 yrs.

Two explanations for 430 year Sojourn in Egypt

Theory 1: 430 yrs is dated from the time Abram first received promise at the age of 75.

Pros:

This would seem (at least on the surface) to be Paul's understanding based upon his dating of the 430 yrs from the receipt of the promise until the Law was given.

(Note that Septuagint translated Ex 12:40-41 as sojourn in "Egypt and Canaan".)

This makes sense with the generations from Levi to Aaron & Moses.

Cons:

Population growth seems impossible (although with God all things are possible and the Bible clearly tells us that God was aiding in this population growth).

Appears to be at odds with the prophecy of 400 yrs of bondage given to Abram in Gen 15.

Theory 2:

430 yrs is actual length of time from when Jacob (Israel) came to Egypt until the Exodus.

Pros:

Corroborates better with prophecy of 400 yrs bondage.

Population growth makes more sense (still a very high growth rate consistent w/Biblical passages concerning God's assistance).

Cons:

Have to come up with explanation for Moses & Aaron's lineage (generations missing??)

Doesn't seem to agree with Paul's understanding.

CHRONOLOGY

of the

EXODUS

and the

**CONQUEST OF
CANAAN**

Ex 12:2	Beginning of Jewish Calendar
Ex 12:17-19	Lord delivered them out of Egypt on night of 14th day of first month
Ex 16:1	Children of Israel arrive at Wilderness of Sin on 15th day of 2nd month after leaving Egypt. God provides manna for the first time.
Ex 19:1-2	Children of Israel arrive at Mt. Sinai on 1st day of third month.
Ex 19:10-16	God spoke to the people on the 3rd (possibly 4th) day of the third month. (Note that many have observed that this was very near if not right on the 50th day after the Children of Israel left Egypt which corresponds to the Day of Pentecost. As far as I know, the Bible does not make this comparison.)
Ex chaps 20-39	For the rest of the first year, Children of Israel remain camped at Mt. Sinai, receiving the Law from God via Moses. Early in this time span of about 10 months the incident with the golden calf occurred. Much of the law which they received during this time pertained to the building of the tabernacle and all the articles of the tabernacle, including the Ark of Testimony and the priestly garments. Most of this 10 months was undoubtedly spent in making all of these items exactly per God's specifications.
Ex 40:2, 17	Tabernacle set up on 1st day of 1st month of 2nd year. From Num 9:15, we learn that from this day, the cloud appeared over the tabernacle by day and the fire by night.
Lev chaps 8, 9	Aaron, his sons, their garments, the tabernacle and the articles of the tabernacle are consecrated per the instructions given in Ex 29. Note that this did not happen in Ex 29 because the garments, tabernacle, etc were not made yet. In Ex 29 God is giving the instructions for how to do this. The actual ceremony, which lasted 8 days (one day of offerings and anointing followed by 7 days where Aaron and his sons are isolated inside the tabernacle, took place in Lev chaps 8 - 9, after the tabernacle was raised (1st day of 1st month of 2nd year) but before the observance of the second Passover (14th day of 1st month of 2nd year). I believe this happened immediately after the tabernacle was raised (i.e. the first 8 days of the 1st month of the 2nd year).
	(Note that the book of Leviticus really has no duration. The only "event" in the book of Leviticus is the consecration of the tabernacle and priests. Most of Leviticus is a revealing of more of God's Law, especially pertaining to the service of the priests, offerings and laws of purity.)
Num chap 7	Consecration of the tabernacle and priests is spoken of for now the third time. Here we learn that beginning on the day after this took place (2nd day of first month of 2nd year), each of the tribes brings its offerings for the Levites, one day for each tribe for a total of 12 days of offerings. Note that the first 7 days of this would coincide with the period of time where Aaron and his sons are isolated in the tabernacle. The last day of this bringing of offerings would have been on the 13th day of the 2nd month of the 2nd year.
Num chap 8	Ceremonial cleansing of the Levites. This must have taken place on the 13th or 14th day of the 1st month of the 2nd year.
Num chap 9	Second Passover observed on 14th day of 1st month of 2nd year at twilight.
Num 1:1	Census of the people taken on the 1st day of the 2nd month of the 2nd year. (Note the "flashback" that occurs in the book of Numbers.)
Num 10:11	On 20th day of 2nd month of 2nd year, cloud is taken up from the tabernacle and the Children of Israel leave Mt. Sinai to continue their journey to Canaan. They were at Mt. Sinai 10 days short of one full year.
Num 20:1	Next reference point in Numbers. This is after the spies were sent out and the people rebelled and were told that they would wander for 40 yrs. It is hard to say what year this reference to the first month pertains to. I believe it is likely to be near the end of the 40yrs of wandering based upon Num 33:36-37 which gives this location (Wilderness of Zin, aka Kadesh) as one of the last locales in their wandering. This may have even been the first month of the 40th year as Aaron dies later in this chapter in the 5th month of the 40th year.

Num 20:25-28 Num 33:38	Aaron dies on the 1st day of the 5th month of the 40th year.
Num 21:12 Deut 2:13	Children of Israel come to Valley of Zered (shortly after Aaron's death) 38 years after they left Kadesh Barnea (where the spies were sent out from).
Num 33	The only details we are given of the majority of the 40 yrs of wandering are the many locations given in this chapter at which they camped during the 40 years. Num 33:2 tells us that Moses recorded these locations at the command of the Lord. Deut chaps 1 & 2 also give some details about this wandering.
Num 21-25	The bronze serpent, the defeat of the Amorite kings Sihon and Og, the incident with Balaam and Israel's subsequent fall to harlotry w/Moab (orchestrated by Balaam) apparently all took place in the last year of the wandering in the wilderness, after the death of Aaron. Per Deut 1:3, these incidents would have all taken place in about a 6 month span from the 5th through the 10th months of the 40th year.
Deut 1:3	On the 1st day of the 11th month of the 40th year Moses begins his address to the people before they enter the land of Canaan. Deuteronomy records these last messages of Moses to the people, re-iterating much of the Law, warning them and instructing them on their upcoming conquest of Canaan.
	(Note that Deuteronomy, like Leviticus, really has no time span associated with it.)
Deut 34:7	Moses dies at the age of 120 years. Note that Ex 7:7 gives his age as 80 when he and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh. Deut 8:2, 29:5 make references to Moses leading the Children of Israel for 40 years.
Josh 5:10-12	Children of Israel observe the Passover on the Plains of Jericho on the 14th day of the 1st month of the year. I believe this would have been the 41st year or about 2 1/2 months after the death of Moses. Beginning on the day after observing the Passover, the manna ceases and they begin to eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan.
Josh 11:23 Josh 14:6-11	After Joshua's conquests "the land had rest from war" and, we can see that Joshua's conquest of Canaan took place in a span of 5 years from the words of Caleb in the 14th chapter. Chaps 12-22 are the dividing of the land after the conquest.
Josh 24:29, Judges 2:8	Joshua dies at the age of 110, "a long time" after the completion of the conquest of Canaan (Josh 23:1).

□ Journey from Egypt to Mt. Sinai (46 days)

□ Camped at Mt. Sinai (11 months, 20 days)

□ From Mt. Sinai to Moses' death (39 yrs)

□ Conquest of Canaan (5 yrs)

CALENDARS

Of

FEAST DAYS

And

OFFERINGS

“TYPICAL” MONTH OF OFFERINGS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday (Sabbath)
<p>New Moon 2 bulls 1 ram 7 lambs 3/10 ephah flour+oil+1/2 hin wine (x2) 2/10 ephah flour+oil+1/3 hin wine (x1) 1/10 ephah flour+oil+1/4 hin wine (x7) 1 male goat (sin)</p> <p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p> <p>Sabbath Offering 2 lambs 2/10 ephah flour + oil libation</p>
<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p>	<p>Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2</p> <p>Sabbath Offering 2 lambs 2/10 ephah flour + oil libation</p>
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OFFERINGS & FEASTS FOR SEVENTH MONTH OF THE YEAR (TISHREI)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday (Sabbath)
Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2
Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Tenth Day of Month (No Work) Day of Atonement (Lev 16) Offering 1 bull 1 ram 7 lambs 3/10 ephah flour + oil (x1) 2/10 ephah flour + oil (x1) 1/10 ephah flour + oil (x7) 1 male goat (sin) Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2
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Sixth Day of Feast of Booths Offering 8 bulls 2 rams 14 lambs 3/10 ephah flour + oil (x8) 2/10 ephah flour + oil (x2) 1/10 ephah flour + oil (x14) libations 1 male goat (sin) Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Seventh Day of Feast of Booths Offering 7 bulls 2 rams 14 lambs 3/10 ephah flour + oil (x7) 2/10 ephah flour + oil (x2) 1/10 ephah flour + oil (x14) libations 1 male goat (sin) Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Solemn Assembly (No Work) Eighth (final) Day of Feast of Booths Offering 1 bull 1 ram 7 lambs 3/10 ephah flour + oil (x1) 2/10 ephah flour + oil (x1) 1/10 ephah flour + oil (x7) libations 1 male goat (sin) Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Second Day of Feast of Booths Offering 12 bulls 2 rams 14 lambs 3/10 ephah flour + oil (x12) 2/10 ephah flour + oil (x2) 1/10 ephah flour + oil (x14) libations 1 male goat (sin) Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2	Daily Offering 2 lambs (1 AM, 1 PM) 1/10 ephah flour + 1/4 hin oil 1/4 hin libation x 2

EXPLANATIONS AND REFERENCES FOR OFFERINGS AND FEASTS

Daily or Continual Offering (described in Num. 28:1-8)

First established at Mt. Sinai in Ex. 29:38-42

One lamb to be offered in the morning and one in the evening EVERY DAY.

Lambs were to be one year old males without defect.

Offering made with flour, oil and wine in exactly prescribed amounts.

Sabbath Day Offering (described in Num. 28:9-10)

Two lambs with flour, oil and wine to be offered each Sabbath day.

Lambs were to be one year old males without defect.

To be offered in addition to the daily (continual) offering.

New Moon Offering (described in Num. 28:11-15)

Offering to be made the first day of each month.

Jewish months started on the first day of each new moon.

Two bulls, one ram and seven lambs to be offered with prescribed amounts of flour, oil and wine.

To be offered in addition to the daily (continual) offering.

To be one year old males without defects.

One male goat to be offered for a sin offering.

Passover Offerings (described in Num. 28:16-25)

Began on the 15th day of the first month.

Lasted for seven days.

Two bulls, one ram and seven lambs to be offered each day, again with prescribed amounts of flour, oil and wine (note that the prescribed amounts are always the same for a bull a ram and a lamb.)

To be offered in addition to the daily (continual) offering.

To be one year old males without defects.

First Fruits Offerings (described in Num. 28:26-31)

Two bulls, one ram and seven lambs to be offered with prescribed amounts of flour, oil and wine.

To be offered in addition to the daily (continual) offering.

To be one year old males without defects.

One male goat to be offered for atonement.

Feast of Trumpets Offerings (described in Num. 29:1-6)

Offering to be made on the first day of the seventh month.

One bull, one ram and seven lambs to be offered with prescribed amounts of flour, oil and wine.

To be offered in addition to the daily (continual) and new moon offerings.

To be one year old males without defects.

One male goat to be offered for atonement.

Day of Atonement Offerings (described in Num. 29:7-11)

Offering to be made on the tenth day of the seventh month.

One bull, one ram and seven lambs to be offered with prescribed amounts of flour, oil and wine.

To be offered in addition to the daily (continual) offering.

To be one year old males without defects.

One male goat to be offered for atonement.

Feast of Booths Offerings (described in Num. 29:12-38)

Offerings to be made on the 15th thru the 22nd days of the seventh month.

Two rams and 14 lambs to be offered each of seven days with prescribed amounts of flour, oil and wine.

13 Bulls to be offered on day one, one less each day thereafter thru the seventh day.

One bull, one ram and seven lambs to be offered on the eighth day.

To be offered in addition to the daily (continual) offering.

To be one year old males without defects.

One male goat to be offered for atonement each day.

The Jewish calendar is based upon the lunar month, i.e. each month begins with the new moon. Since there are approximately 29.5 days in a lunar month, then (roughly) every other month alternates between 29 and 30 days in length. Also, 12 months adds up to only 354 days so a year of months is 11 days short of a solar year (12 days in leap years). Because of this, every 2 or 3 yrs (7 times in 19 years) an extra month (Adar II) is added to the year. The months are as follows:

Nisan (also called Abib – Ex 13:4, 23:15, 34:18, etc)	30 days
Iyyar (called Ziv in 1 Kings 6:1, 6:37)	29 days
Sivan	30 days
Tammuz	29 days
Ab	30 days
Elul	29 days
Tishrei (called Ethanim in 1 Kings 8:2)	30 days
Heshvan	29 or 30 days
Kislev	29 or 30 days
Tebeth	29 days
Shebat	30 days
Adar I	30 days
Adar II	29 days

Nisan begins sometime from the end of March to beginning of April on our calendar. The ecclesiastical new year begins in Nisan per Exodus 12:2. However, the month of Tishrei is also considered the first of the year in civil matters.

CHRONOLOGY

OF

THE JUDGES

Chronology exactly as given in the book of Judges

<u>Description of time period</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Yrs</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Under rule of Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia	Judges 3:8	8	
Othniel judges Israel	Judges 3:9-11	40	(Land had rest.)
Under rule of Eglon, king of Moab	Judges 3:12-14	18	
Ehud and Shamgar judge Israel	Judges 3:15-31	80	(Land had rest.)
Under rule of Jabin, king of Canaan	Judges 4:1-3	20	
Deborah and Barak judge Israel	Judges 4:4 - 5:31	40	(Land had rest.)
Under oppression by the Midianites	Judges 6:1-6	7	
Gideon judges Israel	Judges 6:7 - 8:28	40	(Country was quiet.)
Rule of Abimelech	Judges 9:1-57 (v. 22)	3	
Tola judges Israel	Judges 10:1-2	23	
Jair judges Israel	Judges 10:3-5	22	
Oppressed by the Philistines and the Ammonites	Judges 10:6-9	18	
Jephthah judges Israel	Judges 10:10 - 12:7	6	(Jephthah says in 11:26 that Israel had possessed Amorites' land for 300 yrs - since Num 21:21-31) (Sum of reigns of Judges to this point is 254 years. Total sum of years is 319.)
Ibzan judges Israel	Judges 12:8-10	7	
Elon judges Israel	Judges 12:11-12	10	
Abdon judges Israel	Judges 12:13-15	8	
Under rule of the Philistines	Judges 13:1	40	
Samson judges Israel	Judges 13:2 - 16:31	20	Per Judges 15:20, this 20 yrs occurred during rule of Philistines (Judges 13:1). (Note that we are not told when Eli's time judging Israel begins relative to Samson's.)
Eli judges Israel	1 Sam 1:1 - 4:18	40	
Total number of years of oppression and rules of Judges:			450
Total number of years of oppression and rules of Judges:			(Paul's statement in Acts 13:20 - "about 450 years until Samuel the Prophet")

Difficulties with the chronology of the Judges

Reading of the book (e.g. "land had rest for") particularly 2:16-19 & Paul's statement in Acts 13:18-20 make it seem that the reigns of the Judges did not coincide with yrs of oppression (exception - Samson). This would lead one to the conclusion that the period of the judges extended for 430 years (accounting stated overlap of Samson w/Philistine rule).

However, 1 Kings 6:1 makes a 430 yr (i.e. "about 450 years") duration of Judges (+Eli) impossible:

1 Kings 6:1 (NKJV)

"And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord."

430 yrs of Judges plus 40 yr reigns of Saul and David plus 4 yrs of Solomon's reign equals 514 yrs.

The 514 years does not include the uncertain "long time" of Joshua 23:1 between the conquest of Canaan and Joshua's death - 20 yrs per Josephus. Nor does it include the uncertain time from Eli's death until Saul is king.

Additional problems with 430 yr duration of Judges (+Eli) arise when considering the genealogy of David (he is just the 5th generation after the Exodus) and Jephthah's statement in Judges 11:26 (see above).

Possible resolution:

Most chronologists now believe that the years of oppression in Judges are coincident with years given for when the judges ruled so the total duration can be obtained by adding just the years that the judges ruled.

Note that in Judges 15:20, it states that Samson's time as judge overlaps with 40 years of Philistine rule.

Note also that there is no indication that the 40 yrs of Philistine rule that began in Judges 13:1 ended with Samson's death and destruction of the Philistine temple in Judges 16.

The 40 yrs of Philistine rule may not have ended until 1 Samuel 7, after the Philistines had defeated Israel, captured the ark, returned it and it had remained at Kirjath-Jearim 20 yrs. Note words of 1 Sam 4:9.

1 Samuel 4:9 (NKJV)

Be strong and conduct yourselves like men, you Philistines, that you do not become servants of the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Conduct yourselves like men, and fight!"

1 Samuel 7:3 (NKJV)

Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

1 Samuel 7:13-14 (NKJV)

So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

This would have placed the events of 1 Sam chapters 4 through 7 as very shortly after Samson's death. It also makes Eli's time as High Priest coincident with Samson and Abdon as judges.

To ensure Paul's statement in Acts 13 is still accurate, assume he was including Moses and Joshua in the 450 yrs as judges over Israel (Ex. 18:13-26) - does not agree with exact wording of Acts 13 ("after that, afterward....")

<u>Description of time period</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Yrs</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Moses judges Israel	Ex 7:7, Deut 34:7	40	
Joshua judges Israel	Josh 23:1, 24:29	25	From Josephus Antiquities 5.1.29.
Othniel judges Israel	Judges 3:9-11	40	
Ehud and Shamgar judge Israel	Judges 3:15-31	80	
Deborah and Barak judge Israel	Judges 4:4 - 5:31	40	
Gideon judges Israel	Judges 6:7 - 8:28	40	
Rule of Abimelech	Judges 9:1-57 (v. 22)	3	
Tola judges Israel	Judges 10:1-2	23	
Jair judges Israel	Judges 10:3-5	22	
Jephthah judges Israel	Judges 10:10 - 12:7	6	(Add 1 -2 yrs from the death of Moses to when the Israelites possessed the Amorite's land and we have about 275 yrs to the beginning of Jephthah's time as a judge which could have been rounded to the even number of 300 yrs.)
Ibzan judges Israel	Judges 12:8-10	7	
Elon judges Israel	Judges 12:11-12	10	
Abdon judges Israel	Judges 12:13-15	8	
Under rule of the Philistines (judged by Samson, Eli and Samuel)	Judges 13:1 - 1 Sam 7:14	40	
Samuel as judge after ark returned to Israel, before Saul is king.	1 Sam 7:13 - 8:5	12	Inferred from other numbers.
Samuel as judge after Saul is king.	1 Sam 10:1 - 25:1	38	Estimated (Klassen uses this number in his book, "The Chronology of the Bible") - see notes below.
	Total of rule of Judges:	434	"about" 450 yrs
Saul as king.	Acts 13:21	40	
David as king.	2 Sam 5:4-5, 1 Kings 2:11	40	
First 4 yrs of Solomon's reign until temple construction begins.	1 Kings 6:1	4	
		84	
		434	
		+	
		84	
		-	
		38	
	Total yrs from Egypt to temple construction begins:	480	

Samuel as Judge over Israel:

We aren't told exactly how long Samuel judged Israel. We know the following:

Samuel still referred to as a boy (1 Sam 3:1) when Eli was already old enough that he was losing his eyesight.

Eli died at the same time the ark was taken by the Philistines (1 Sam 4)

The ark was with the Philistines for seven months (1 Sam 6:1)

The ark came back to Israel for 20 years before they repented and God granted them deliverance from the Philistines (1 Sam 7:2)

Samuel judged for some period of time after this until he was old (1 Sam 8:1) and anointed Saul as king (1 Sam 7:15 - 10:1)

Samuel continued to live through most of Saul's reign as he died during the time when Saul and David were at war and David was not even born until ten yrs into Saul's reign.

Chronology of Ruth (Ruth 4:18-22, Matt 1:3-6, 1 Chron 2:1-15)

Genealogy of Judah is as follows:

Judah

Perez (Perez's mother was Tamar, Judah's daughter-in-law)

Hezron

Ram

Aminadab

Nahshon (Leader of Judah during the Exodus from Egypt (Num 2:3))

Salmon (or Salma)

Boaz (Boaz's mother was Rahab)

Obed (Obed's mother was Ruth)

Jesse

David (30 yrs old when he became King of Judah (2 Sam 5:4) - after 40 yr reign of Saul (Acts 13:21))

Ruth takes place during lifetime of Boaz who was the grandson of Nahshon and son of Rahab. So Boaz was most likely born during the early period of the Judges.

My estimate is that the events of Ruth probably took place sometime during the latter part of the 80 yrs of Ehud & Shamgar as chronicled in Judges 3:15-31.

CHRONOLOGY
OF
KINGS of
JUDAH and ISRAEL

Kings of Israel before the Kingdom was Divided

	<u>Length of Reign</u>	<u>First Year of Reign</u>
Saul	40	1050 B.C.
David	40	1010 B.C.
Solomon	40	970 B.C.
Total:	120 yrs	930 B.C. Kingdom Split

Kings of Judah (Southern Kingdom)

<u>King</u>	<u>Length of Reign</u>	<u>Sync to Kings of North</u>	<u>Prophets</u>
Rehoboam	1 Kings 14:21, 2 Chron 12:13	17 (a)	930-913 B.C.
Abijam (Abijah)	1 Kings 15:1-2, 2 Chron 13:1-2	3 (a)	913-910 B.C.
Asa	1 Kings 15:9-10, 2 Chron 16:13	41 (a)	910-869 B.C.
Jehoshophat	1 Kings 22:41-42, 2 Chron 20:31	25 (a)	872-848 B.C.
Jehoram	2 Kings 8:16-17, 2 Chron 21:5	8 (na)	848-841 B.C.
Ahaziah	2 Kings 8:26, 2 Chron 22:2	1 (na)	841 B.C.
Athaliah	2 Kings 11:3, 2 Chron 22:12	6	841-835 B.C.
Joash	2 Kings 12:1, 2 Chron 24:1	40 (na)	835-796 B.C.
Amaziah	2 Kings 14:1-2, 2 Chron 25:1	29 (a)	796-767 B.C.
		Lived 15 yrs after death of Jehoash (2 Chr 25:25)	

<u>King</u>	<u>Length of Reign</u>	<u>Sync to Kings of North</u>	<u>Prophets</u>
Azariah (Uzziah)	2 Kings 15:1-2, 2 Chron 26:3	27th year of Jeroboam	Isaiah (1:1, 6:1), Hosea (1:1), Amos (1:1)
Jotham	2 Kings 15:32-33, 2 Chron 27:1	2nd year of Pekah	Isaiah (1:1), Hosea (1:1), Micah (1:1)
Ahaz	2 Kings 16:1-2, 2 Chron 28:1	17th year of Pekah	Isaiah (1:1), Hosea (1:1), Micah (1:1)
Hezekiah	2 Kings 18:1-2, 2 Chron 29:1	3rd year of Hoshea	Isaiah (1:1), Hosea (1:1), Micah (1:1)
Mannasseh	2 Kings 21:1, 2 Chron 33:1		
Amon	2 Kings 21:19, 2 Chron 33:21		
Josiah	2 Kings 22:1, 2 Chron 34:1		Jeremiah (1:1), Zephaniah (1:1), Nahum (3:8)
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 23:31, 2 Chron 36:2		Jeremiah (1:1)
Jehoiakim (Eliakim)	2 Kings 23:36, 2 Chron 36:5		Jeremiah (1:1)
Jehoiachin	2 Kings 24:8, 2 Chron 36:9		Jeremiah (1:1)
Zedekiah (Mattaniah)	2 Kings 24:18, 2 Chron 36:11		Jeremiah (1:1), Ezekiel (1:2)
Total duration of Southern Kingdom:			586 B.C. Fall of Jerusalem
			344

Kings of Israel (Northern Kingdom)

<u>King</u>		<u>Length of Reign</u>	<u>Sync to Kings of South</u>	
Jeroboam	1 Kings 14:20	22 (na)		930-909 B.C.
Nadab	1 Kings 15:25	2 (na)	2nd year of Asa	909-908 B.C.
Baasha	1 Kings 15:33	24 (na)	3rd year of Asa	908-886 B.C.
Elah	1 Kings 16:8	2 (na)	26th year of Asa	886-885 B.C.
Zimri	1 Kings 16:15	0	7 day reign, 27th yr of Asa	885 B.C.
Omri	1 Kings 16:23	12 (na)		885-874 B.C.
Ahab	1 Kings 16:29	22 (na)	38th year of Asa	874-853 B.C. Elijah (1 Kings 17 - 2 Kings 2)
Ahaziah	1 Kings 22:51	2 (na)	17th yr of Jehoshophat	853-852 B.C. Elijah taken to heaven, Elisha takes his place (2 Kings 2)
Joram	2 Kings 3:1	12 (na)	18th yr of Jehoshophat	852-841 B.C.
Jehu	2 Kings 10:36	28 (na)		841-814 B.C.
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 13:1	17 (na)	23rd year of Jehoash	814-798 B.C.
Jehoash	2 Kings 13:6	16 (a)	37th year of Joash	798-782 B.C. Elisha dies (2 Kings 13:14)
Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14:23	41 (a)	15th year of Amaziah	793-753 B.C. Amos (1:1), Hosea (1:1), Jonah (2 Kings 14:25)
Zechariah	2 Kings 15:8	0.5	38th year of Azariah (Uzziah)	753 B.C.
Shallum	2 Kings 15:13	0.08	One month reign	752 B.C.
Menahem	2 Kings 15:17	10 (a)	39th year of Azariah (Uzziah)	752-742 B.C.

<u>King</u>		<u>Length of Reign</u>	<u>Sync to Kings of South</u>	
Pekahiah	2 Kings 15:23	2 (a)	50th year of Azariah (Uzziah)	742-740 B.C.
Pekah	2 Kings 15:27	20 (a)	52nd year of Azariah (Uzziah)	752-732 B.C.
Hoshea	2 Kings 17:1	9 (a)	12th year of Ahaz	732-723 B.C.
Total duration of Northern Kingdom:		207		723 B.C. Fall of Northern Kingdom

Establishing dates in the tables of the kings of Judah and Israel:

Synchronizing the dates between the kings of Judah and Israel based upon the lengths of reigns and the synchronizing information given in the Bible is extremely difficult. So difficult that many have simply concluded that there are errors in the Bible. The dates in this section are taken from “The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings” by Edwin R. Thiele which was first published in 1951 and has two later revisions. His approach was to assume that the data in the Bible is **correct** and the difficulties could be resolved by a more complete understanding of what the numbers mean. His approach, in brief, is as follows:

First of all, recognize that there are several sources of information available to us in the Bible:

- The lengths of reigns for the kings of Judah from 2 Chronicles
- The lengths of reigns for the kings of Israel and Judah from 1 and 2 Kings
- Synchronism between the kings of Israel and Judah from 1 and 2 Kings
- Synchronism between the kings of Israel and Judah from 2 Chronicles

At first, a comparison between these four sources seems to yield nothing but contradictions. However, an in-depth study of this available data allows one to determine the following key information:

- What type of system was in place for determining the lengths of reigns and the synchronisms between the two kingdoms. Two methods were in practice during this time: accession year and non-accession year dating.
- Understanding where dual dating was being used to describe co-regencies – periods of time where two kings ruled simultaneously.

Finally, assigning dates (B.C.) to the reigns requires synchronism between key events of the divided kingdom and events in secular history for which reliable dates are available. In particular, many lists of Assyrian eponyms are available which have been pieced together to provide what is regarded as a complete and accurate dating system for the period of time of the divided kingdom. Thiele points to two events, in particular, that are critical to establishing the dates in these tables: The first is an Assyrian record that lists Ahab as one of the kings who joined forces against Assyria in the battle of Qarqar which has been determined to have taken place in 853 B.C. (the sixth year of Shalmeneser III). Secondly, there is an Assyrian record of Jehu paying tribute in the 18th year of Shalmeneser III. The two kings between Ahab and Jehu, Ahaziah and Joram, have reigns of 2 years and 12 years, respectively. Therefore, the only way to reconcile the reigns of the kings of Israel with the Assyrian record is if Ahab fought in the battle at Qarqar in the last year of his reign and Jehu paid tribute in the first year of his reign. Additionally, this could only be if a nonaccession-year dating system was in place in Israel at the time. This locks in the last year of Ahab’s reign as 853 B.C. and the first year of Jehu’s reign as 841 B.C. and allows non-accession year dating to be applied to the kings of Israel, at least during this time period.

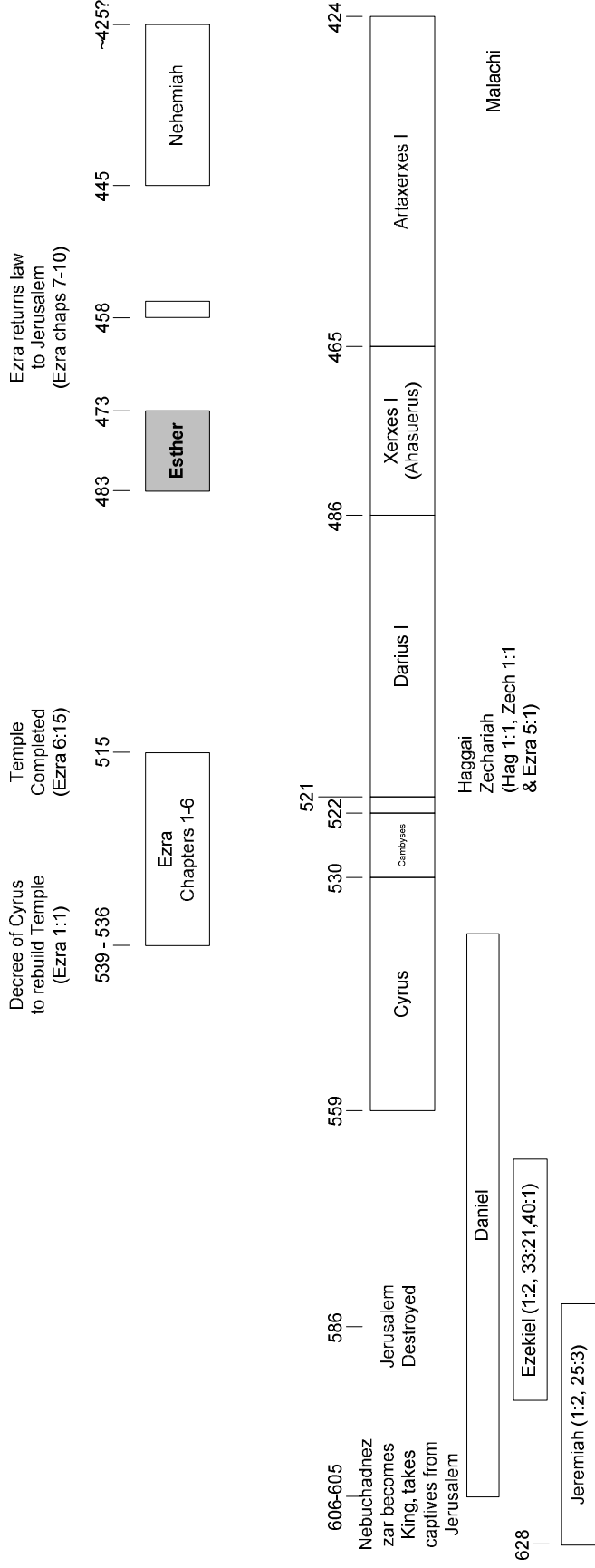
Kings of Assyria

Adad-nirari II	912–891 BC
Tukulti-Ninurta II	891–884 BC
Ashur-nasir-pal II	884–859 BC
Shalmaneser III	859–824 BC
Shamshi-Adad V	822–811 BC
Adad-nirari III	811–783 BC
Shalmaneser IV	783–773 BC
Ashur-Dan III	773–755 BC
Ashur-nirari V	755–745 BC
Tiglath-Pileser III	745–727 BC
Shalmaneser V	727–722 BC
Sargon II	722–705 BC
Sennacherib	705–681 BC
Esarhaddon	681–669 BC
Ashurbanipal	669–between 631 and 627 BC
Ashur-etil-ilani	ca. 631–627 BC
Sin-shumu-lishir	626 BC
Sin-shar-ishkun	ca. 627–612 BC
In 612 BC, Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, fell to the Medes and Babylonians.	
Ashur-uballit II	612 BC–ca. 609 BC

CHRONOLOGY

OF

BABYLONIAN
CAPTIVITY



Key Verses for Dating Esther:
 1:3 – King Ahasuerus has feast in Shushan in third year of his reign.
 2:16 – Esther taken to Ahasuerus in tenth month of seventh year of his reign.
 3:7 – Haman casts lots to determine day/month to destroy Jews in first month of 12th year of King Ahasuerus.
 9:1 – Jews overpowered enemies on 13th day of 12th month of 12th year of King Ahasuerus.
 9:18 – First celebration of Purim on 15th day of 12th month of 12th year of King Ahasuerus.

Kings of Medo-Persian Empire

Cyrus II (the Great)	559 - 530 B.C.	550 B.C. - defeated Astyages, King of the Medes, marking the beginning of the Medo-Persian empire. 539 B.C. - Babylon falls to Cyrus who appoints Darius the Mede (Gubaru) as governor over Babylon (Dan 5:31). Cyrus issues decree to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1, 2 Chron 36:22-23). By all accounts one of the truly great leaders of all time known for benevolent treatment of subject peoples. Isaiah prophesied of Cyrus, by name, more than a century before in Isaiah 44:28 - 45:7.
Cambyses II	530 - 522 B.C.	Conquered Egypt for the Persian empire. Died under mysterious circumstances while still in Egypt around the time that Gaumata took the throne. Cambyses II is probably the Ahasuerus of Ezra 4:6 who received a letter protesting the work on the temple.
Smerdis (Gaumata)	521 B.C.	Usurped the throne while Cambyses was in Egypt, claiming to be the brother of Cambyses (Bardiya) whom Cambyses had secretly had killed. Reigned for only 7 months before being assassinated by a group of Persian leaders who made Darius I (who was not a descendant of Cyrus but was from a different branch of the Achaemenid family) king. Smerdis is probably the Artaxerxes of Ezra chapter 4.
Darius I (the Great)	521 - 486 B.C.	The Persian empire reached its zenith under Darius. Great organizer, builder and leader who early on put down rebellions throughout the empire then reorganized the empire, introduced new system of taxation, introduced coinage, built many roads (including a 1500 mile road from Sardis to Susa), established a mail courier system akin to our "Pony Express," finished a canal linking the Nile to the Red Sea (and thus the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf 2500 years before the construction of the Suez Canal). Initiated the Greek-Persian wars (494 to 449 B.C.) and took control of parts of Greece (Thrace, Ionia, etc.) but was turned back from conquering Athens by a much smaller Greek army in the famous battle on the plains of Marathon in 490 B.C.
Xerxes I	486 - 465 B.C.	Issued decree in Ezra 6 to continue building the temple. Referenced in Haggai & Zechariah who both wrote early in his reign. The temple was completed in the sixth year of the reign of Darius.
Artaxerxes I (Longimanus)	465 - 424 B.C.	This is the Ahasuerus of Esther. He was the son of Darius I and grandson of Cyrus the Great. Put down revolts in Egypt and Babylon and led a massive campaign against Greece (prophesied of in Daniel 11:2) and even temporarily conquered Athens but was eventually turned back from advancing the Persian empire into Greece. Assassinated by Artabanus, captain of the royal guard, in 465 B.C. His 18 year old son, Artaxerxes Longimanus, is made king in his place.
Xerxes II	424 B.C.	Sent Ezra to Jerusalem to "beautify" the temple (Ezra 7:27) in the seventh year of his reign (Ezra 7:7).
Sogdianus	424 B.C.	Sent Nehemiah, who was his cupbearer (Nehemiah 1:11), to rebuild the city of Jerusalem in the twentieth year of his reign (Nehemiah 2).
Darius II (Ochus)	424 - 404 B.C.	Reigned 45 days before being assassinated by his half-brother, Sogdianus.
Artaxerxes II (Memnon)	404 - 358 B.C.	Ruled 6 1/2 months before being killed by Ochus (Darius II).
Artaxerxes III	358 - 338 B.C.	
Arses	338 - 336 B.C.	
Darius III (Codomannus)	336 - 330 B.C.	Killed by one of his satraps, Bessus, after being defeated in battle by Alexander the Great, marking the end of the Persian empire.

SEVENTY YEARS PROPHECY

Scriptural References to Seventy Years Babylonian Captivity

Jeremiah 25:11-12 (NKJV)

And this whole land shall be a desolation *and* an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, *that* I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.

Jeremiah 29:10 (NKJV)

For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.

2 Chronicles 36:17-21 (NKJV)

Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave *them* all into his hand. ¹⁸ And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all *these* he took to Babylon. ¹⁹ Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions. ²⁰ And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, ²¹ to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

The following is referring to Darius the Mede (not Darius the Great, the Persian king) who was put in charge of Babylon, "the realm of the Chaldeans," when Cyrus the Great conquered it (see Dan 5:31) in 539 B.C.:

Daniel 9:1-2 (NKJV)

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— ² in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years *specified* by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

From the second year of Darius (the Great):

Zechariah 1:12 (NKJV)

Then the Angel of the LORD answered and said, "O LORD of hosts, how long will You not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which You were angry these seventy years?"

In the fourth year of Darius (the Great), the following was written:

Zechariah 7:5 (NKJV)

"Say to all the people of the land, and to the priests: 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh *months* during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me—for Me?'

Timeline for Seventy Years

- 609 B.C. Josiah killed in battle with King of Egypt. From this point, Jerusalem ceases to be an independent power and its kings become vassals of first Egypt and then Babylon. (2 Kings 23:29-34)
- 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, defeats Assyria completely at Carchemish and drives Egypt back as they seize control of the region including Jerusalem. It is at this time that Nebuchadnezzar besieges Jerusalem for the first time and takes captive Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego and others among the most talented of Judah's young men. (2 Kings 24:1, Daniel 1:1-4)
- 597 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar comes against Jerusalem and besieges it for the second time. Many are taken captive, including Jehoiachin and his family and possibly Ezekiel. (2 Kings 24:10-16, Ezekiel 1:2)
- 586 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar comes against Jerusalem for the final time, breaks down the walls, destroys the temple and the city. (2 Kings 25:1-10)
- 539 B.C. Cyrus, king of the Medo-Persian empire, takes Babylon and puts Darius the Mede in charge of what had been the realm of the Chaldeans. In this year, he issues the decree to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem. (Dan 5:26-31, Ezra 1:1-4, Ezra 5:13-14)
- 516 B.C. After many delays, detailed in Ezra and Haggai, the temple is finally completed and dedicated in the sixth year of Darius (the Great). (Ezra 6:15)

Explanation of Seventy Years Prophecy

Given the above timeline, there are two possibilities for the beginning and ending of the 70 year prophecy:

- 1.) It could be taken from 609 B.C., when Jerusalem began to be under the control of foreign powers, until 539 B.C., when the decree is made to return and rebuild the temple.
- 2.) It could be from when Jerusalem (and the temple) is destroyed in 586 B.C. until 516 B.C. when the second temple is completed.

CHRONOLOGY

Between

OLD and NEW

TESTAMENTS

Daniel 10:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision *refers to many days yet to come.*”

Daniel 11:2 (NKJV)

² And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than *them* all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

The time of this writing was sometime between 539 B.C. and 530 B.C. – after Babylon has fallen to the Medo-Persians under Cyrus but while Cyrus is still king of the Medo-Persia empire (more commonly known as simply Persia). (Note that Cyrus was prophesied of in Isaiah 44, 45 and that he is the one who issued the first decree to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem in Ezra 1.) Three more kings would arise – Cambyses II (530 – 522), Smerdis (521) and Darius (521-486). (Note that Darius issued the decree in Ezra 6 to continue building the temple and that he is mentioned in both Zechariah and Haggai.) The fourth king was Xerxes I (486-465 B.C.). This is the Ahasureus of Esther. As prophesied here, he led a massive campaign against Greece that was largely successful, even to the point of temporarily conquering Athens, but ultimately fell short of extending the Persian empire into Greece. One thing, however, that made this important was that it left the Greeks with a deep animosity and desire for revenge against Persia with whom they had been at war at times since Darius had also tried without success to conquer Athens, being turned back in the famous battle of Marathon. This was instilled in the mind of Alexander.

Daniel 11:3-4 (NKJV)

³ Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

⁴ And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, even for others besides these.

The “mighty king” is Alexander King of Macedon (a.k.a. Alexander the Great (born 356, reigned 336-323)). See also Daniel 8:1-8 for more clarification. Alexander did not leave a heir. His only son was not yet born when Alexander died at the age of 33. These passages tell us that his kingdom would be divided into four parts. Will Durant names five initial divisions of the empire, as follows: Macedonia/Greece to Antipater, Thrace to Lysimachus, Asia Minor to Antigonus, Babylonia to Seleucia and Egypt to Ptolemy. However, several years of wars followed (Wars of the Diadochi) until the empire was basically settled after the Battle of Ipsus in 301 B.C. with four major kings left standing: Lysimachus, Ptolemy, Cassander and Seleucus. At this time, the region of Judea was under the rule of Ptolemy who ruled Egypt.

Alexander’s legacy was to bring Greek culture to the world. This influence extended to Jewish life, also, as many Jews became “Hellenized” even to the point of abandoning God in favor of the Greek idols. Alexander also established the city of Alexandria in Egypt which is mentioned a few times in the book of Acts, including as the home town of Apollos.

The remainder of Daniel 11 is a prophecy of what is now referred to as the Syrian Wars which lasted from about 274 B.C. to 168 B.C. The kings of the North and South are basically referring to the successors of Seleucus (North) and Ptolemy (Egypt). The region including Judea (often called Coele-Syria) was located right in the middle between these two kingdoms and so was caught up in these wars. There were six Syrian Wars in all. The latter part of this chapter I

believe also includes references to Rome and Carthage as Rome was a rising power and was beginning to be involved in these conflicts.

Ptolemy II may be the prince of Dan 6:6. He spent lavishly to build Alexandria into a great city. The library in Alexandria, in particular, was the largest library in the ancient world and Ptolemy II is generally credited with building this library. It was also during the time of Ptolemy II that the Torah (the books of Moses) were translated into Greek in Alexandria, the beginning of the Septuagint. Ptolemy's daughter, Berenice Syra, married the king of Seleucia. When the king of Seleucia (Antiochus II) died, a competition for the throne ensued between Berenice and Laodice, Antiochus II's first wife, each of which had borne sons to Antiochus II. Berenice sent to her brother, Ptolemy III – now king of Egypt since Ptolemy II had died, for help but he arrived to find her and her son assassinated. This led to the Third Syrian War where Ptolemy III advances against Seleucia to the point of occupying Antioch (one of the capital cities of Seleucia) and even Babylon for a time. I believe these are the events described in Dan 11:6-8.

These battles continue back and forth as described in Dan 11 until we come to Antiochus IV Epiphanes, described in vs. 21-45. He ruled the Seleucid empire from 175 to 164 B.C. Some notable events in the reign of Antiochus IV Epiphanes were that in 175 B.C. he launched an attack against Egypt, conquered everything except Alexandria and captured King Ptolemy. He launched a second attack on Egypt in 168 B.C. and also sent ships to capture Cyprus. He was stopped, however, by a Roman general who ordered him to withdraw his armies from Cyprus and Egypt, drew a line around him in the sand (hence the well-known phrase) and told him to give an answer for the Roman Senate before he stepped over the line. Antiochus IV Epiphanes wisely conceded to Rome's demands. (Note Dan 11:29-30 in regards to this.)

As prophesied in Daniel 11, Antiochus IV Epiphanes took out his rage on Jerusalem. In 167 B.C. he forced the Jews to abandon their worship (Sabbaths and feasts were banned, circumcision outlawed, etc.) and to worship the Greek Gods and he set up an image of Zeus on the altar in the temple (the abomination of desolation – Dan 11:31).

Mattathias, a Hasmonean priest, killed a Hellenistic Jew who was about to offer a sacrifice to a Greek idol. He and his five sons fled to the wilderness to hide. Mattathias died a year later but his son Judah Maccabee led a revolt against the Seleucids. They succeeded in liberating Jerusalem in 165 B.C. which led to a period of Jewish self-rule until the Roman general Pompey conquered Jerusalem in 63 B.C. Hannukah, an 8 day Jewish festival, was instituted to commemorate the re-dedication of the Temple after the Maccabean revolt. This period was known as the Hasmonean period (or Hasmonean dynasty) because the descendants of Judith Maccabee, Hasmonean priests, ruled as High Priest and king during this time.

During the time of the Hasmonean dynasty, the Sadducees emerged as the group that aligned itself with the High Priest and other high-ranking people. The Pharisees (means "separate") also developed in opposition to the Sadducees during this time. The Pharisees consisted of scribes and sages (who would later be called "rabbi") who were known for their knowledge of the law and were very prominent among the common people. The contention between Pharisees and Sadducees was sharp and sometimes even bloody.

After Roman rule began in 63 B.C. the Herod dynasty was established.

In 57 B.C. the Roman Proconsul Cabineus established 5 regional synhedria (the Sanhedrin) to regulate Jewish internal affairs. The Sanhedrin** was a council of 71 Jewish elders, chaired by the high priest, that interpreted Jewish law.

The origins of synagogue worship date back to the Babylonian captivity. This period also saw the beginning of the Talmud, Jewish rules and regulations which are still followed today and were frequently criticized by Jesus as the doctrines of men.

CHRONOLOGY

Of the

LIFE OF CHRIST

From the command to restore and build Jerusalem until the Messiah...

Daniel 9:20-27 70 week prophesy: 7 weeks + 62 weeks plus one week cut short.

Four possible starting points (i.e. command to restore and build Jerusalem)

- Ezra 1 Proclamation of Cyrus to rebuild temple at Jerusalem (~539 B.C.)
- Ezra 6 Darius issues decree to resume rebuilding of temple (~516 B.C.)
- Ezra 7 Artaxerxes (in the first year of his reign) issues decree for Ezra and all other Jews who volunteer to return to Jerusalem with the law and with money for the house of God (~458 B.C.).
- Neh 1 Artaxerxes (in 20th year of his reign) issues letters authorizing Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls (~438 B.C.)

I believe that this is where we should mark the beginning of the 70 weeks prophesy. 69 weeks = 483 days (i.e. 483 yrs) which puts the end of the 69 weeks at ~A.D. 25.

On the date of Jesus' birth

There is no way to be exactly certain as to the year of Jesus' birth (much less the day). People have estimated from 6 or 7 B.C. to 6 or 7 A.D. It is probably closer to the earlier end of this range in order to be consistent with the date given later for the beginning of John's ministry.

Luke 1:5

Herod was king of Judea from 37 B.C. until his death in 4 B.C.

Luke 2:1

Decree from Caesar Augustus for census of the whole world

Augustus was emperor of Rome from 27 B.C. until his death in A.D. 14

This passage causes some difficulty because most put the date of this census as around A.D. 6 or 7.
 Some possible explanations: Quirinius may have been governor on more than one occasion - it does appear certain that Quirinius held official positions in this area for some time prior to A.D. 6. A census may have been ordered near the time of Herod the Great's death (Josephus). There is evidence that a census of Egypt was taken in 4-3 B.C. and this could have been extended to Judea, given the problems near the end of Herod the Great's reign. Augustus Caesar was known to have conducted a census of the Roman empire on several occasions - these would have taken place over a period of time throughout the various territories of the Roman empire making it difficult to know with certainty the exact date when the census would have been carried out in any given territory.

It seems likely this happened in the last year of Herod's life (4 B.C.) and is consistent with his other actions near the end of his reign. Sometime after 4 B.C. (date of Herod's death).

Augustus was emperor of Rome from A.D. 14 until his death in A.D. 37 so this would have been around A.D. 28/29

We can't know for sure when this began. If we take Jesus' birth year as 4 B.C. then he would have been 30 yrs old in A.D. 26 but Luke says "about 30 years old." To have shortly followed the beginning of John's ministry would put this somewhere around A.D. 29 or 30. The 70 weeks prophecy would put the beginning of Jesus' ministry around A.D. 25. All of these dates are very close and probably within the best accuracy we can expect to have available with these dates.

Stays in Jerusalem & Judea for some time.

Luke 2:2 Decree first happened when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Matt. 2:13-18 Joseph & Mary flee to Egypt to escape Herod the Great.
 Matt. 2:19 Return from Egypt to Nazareth

Other events of Jesus' life:

Luke 2:42 Went to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12 years old

Luke 3:1 John begins ministry in 15th year of Tiberius Caesar

Luke 3:23 "About 30 years of age" when he began his ministry (most likely begins at his baptism - Luke 3:21-22)

John is primary source of determining the 3 1/2 years of Jesus' ministry.

John 2:1-11 First miracle in Cana of Galilee
 John 2:13 Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover

John 4	Leaves Judea, passes through Samaria on way back to Galilee	Jesus remains in this vicinity - Bethany, Judea where John baptized until his final entry to Jerusalem.
John 5:1	Jesus again goes up to Jerusalem for a feast (probably the 2nd Passover) There is another Passover taking place but Jesus is in Galilee because they were seeking to kill him in Judea (see John 7:1)	Lord's Supper instituted on Thursday evening, Jesus crucified on Friday, raised from the dead on Sunday.
John 6	Feast of Tabernacles (Autumn of year) and Jesus' brothers taunt him about going. Jesus goes in secret but then speaks boldly in the temple and remains in the area of Judea.	
John 7	Jesus still in Jerusalem at Feast of Dedication in the winter.	
John 10:22	Jesus' final entry to Jerusalem 5 days before the Passover (on a Sunday).	
John 12:12		

CHRONOLOGY

Of ACTS

And the

EPISTLES

Notes on Chronology of the Letters

Letters

References for Events

Dates

Events in Acts

29 A.D.	Jesus appeared to disciples and many others for 40 days after his resurrection.	Acts 1:3, 1 Cor 15:6-7, etc. Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, Acts 1:9-11	
29 A.D.	Ascension		
29 A.D.	Apostles wait 10 days in Jerusalem. Matthias selected to replace Judas Iscariot.	Acts 1:13-26	
29-35 A.D.	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2	
36 A.D.	Church grows in Jerusalem. Stephen stoned to death. Church persecuted and scattered after death of Stephen. Those that were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.	Acts 3-6 Acts 7	
36 A.D.	Conversion of Saul.	Acts 8:1-4	
37 A.D.	Paul spent many days in Damascus after his conversion - then escaped to Arabia and then returned to Damascus	Acts 9	
37 A.D.	Three years after his conversion, Paul finally goes to Jerusalem to meet w/Peter	Acts 9:23, Gal 1:17	
40 A.D.	Paul sent from Jerusalem to Caesarea and then to Tarsus	Gal 1:18	
40 A.D.	Gentiles converted.	Acts 10-11	
41 A.D.	Paul worked in the regions of Syria (where Antioch is located) and Cilicia (where Tarsus is located) - note also Acts 15:41 when Paul returned to this area w/Silas at beginning of second journey	Gal 1:21	
40-43 A.D.	Barnabus goes to Tarsus to find Paul	Acts 11:25	
43 A.D.	Barnabus finds Paul and he brings him to Antioch for one year	Acts 11:26	

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Events in Acts</u>	<u>References for Events</u>	<u>Letters</u>	<u>Notes on Chronology of the Letters</u>
*44 A.D.	Death of Herod Agrippa I Barnabas and Paul begin first journey	Acts 12:23 Acts 13:3 Acts 14:26	James?	Estimates on when James was written are all over the place. Some think that James is the oldest of the epistles and was written in Jerusalem around 44 to 46 A.D. Note that letter is written specifically to the Jews. Others think it was written much later (around 62 A.D.). There's not really anything in the letter that makes it clear.
45 A.D.	End of first journey			
47 A.D.	After return to Antioch, Paul & Barnabas spend "a long time" with the disciples there.			
47-50 A.D.	After 14 yrs (from his conversion) Paul goes to Jerusalem.	Acts 14:26-28	Galatians?	No way to tell for sure when Galatians was written. Many believe it was Paul's first epistle written around 48 A.D. Others place it sometime after Paul's second journey.
50 A.D.	Begin Paul's second journey	Acts 15, Gal 2:1 Acts 15:40		
50 A.D.	Paul travels and preaches throughout Phrygia, Galatia, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens	Acts 16, 17		
52-53 A.D.	Paul spends one and a half years in Corinth, meets Priscilla & Aquila, who had recently been expelled from Rome by Claudius I who reigned from A.D. 41 to A.D. 54.	Acts 18	I Thessalonians II Thessalonians	See I Thess 2:11 and 3:1-2,6 with Acts 17:13-16 and 18:1,5. II Thessalonians is thought to have been written shortly after I Thessalonians.
54 A.D.	Leaves Priscilla & Aquila in Ephesus.	Acts 18:18-28		
54 A.D.	End of Paul's second journey	Acts 18:22		
54 A.D.	Begin Paul's third journey	Acts 19:1		
54-57 A.D.	Pauls spends three years in Ephesus	Acts 19:8, 10 & Acts 20:31	I Corinthians	Note chronology of Apollos - Aquila & Priscilla teach him in Ephesus (Acts 18:24) and then he is in Corinth in Acts 19:1 when Paul begins his third journey and spends three yrs in Ephesus - and then note mentions of Apollos as influential teacher in Corinth in early part of I Corinthians. Written from Macedonia. See 2 Cor. 1:8-10 with Acts 19:21-20:1 and 2 Cor 1:15-16, 2:12-13, 8:1-6 and 9:1-5.
57 A.D.	Paul leaves Timothy in Ephesus and travels to Macedonia.	Acts 20:1, I Timothy 1:3	II Corinthians	

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Events in Acts</u>	<u>References for Events</u>	<u>Letters</u>	<u>Notes on Chronology of the Letters</u>
57-58 A.D.	Paul spends three months in Greece (inc Corinth) End of Paul's third journey as he travels to Jerusalem where he is arrested and charged by the Jews who plot to kill him. He is sent to Caesarea for protection.	Acts 20:2-3	Romans	See Rom 1:10 (Paul has never been to Rome), 16:3 (Aquila & Priscilla have returned to Rome). See also Acts 19:21 with Rom 15:22-26 and 2 Cor 8-9.
58 A.D.	Paul spends 2 yrs imprisoned in Caesarea	Acts 21-23.		
58-60 A.D.	Marcus Antonius Felix (a.k.a Claudius Felix) succeeded by Porcius Festus.	Acts 24:27		
60 A.D.	Paul travels to Rome.	Acts 24:27 Acts 27-28.		
61-63 A.D.	Paul imprisoned in Rome for two years.	Acts 28:30	Ephesians Philippians Colossians Philemon	All four of these letters mention Paul as being in prison or in chains (Eph 6:20, Philippians 1:13-14, Col 4:18 and Philemon 1, 10). The letters to the church at Colosse and to Philemon were probably sent together (Col 4:8-10).
64 A.D.			I Timothy	Thought to have been written from Macedonia (see 1 Tim 1:3) sometime shortly after Paul released from first imprisonment. Also thought to have been written between Paul's imprisonments. Paul is clearly free when he wrote this (Titus 3:12). Note that no mention is made in Acts of Paul visiting Crete but Titus 1:5 mentions that Paul had left Titus in Crete so this was probably a trip made after Paul's release from prison. Also note that we know from Acts that both Titus and Apollos (Titus 3:13) are otherwise occupied for most of the time leading up to Paul's first imprisonment.
64 A.D.			Titus	I Peter 5:13 indicates this letter was written from Rome. No mention is made of Paul so it is thought this may have been sometime after Paul's first imprisonment but before his second imprisonment.
64 A.D.			I Peter	No way to tell for sure when Hebrews was written.
65 A.D.			Hebrews?	The Reese Chronological Bible places it here.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Events in Acts</u>	<u>References for Events</u>	<u>Letters</u>	<u>Notes on Chronology of the Letters</u>
67 A.D.			II Peter	Written near the end of Peter's life (2 Pet 1:13-14). Peter is believed to have been killed around the same time as Paul, during the persecution by Nero, around 68 A.D.
67 A.D.			Jude	No way to tell for sure when Jude was written. The Reese Chronological Bible places it here.
67 A.D.			II Timothy	Written near the end of Paul's life (2 Tim 4:6-8). It is believed that Paul was imprisoned around 67 A.D. and killed around 68 A.D. in Rome.
95 A.D.			I John	No way to know for sure when the letters of John were written but it is believed that it was much later than the other writings of the New Testament. The Reese Chronological Bible gives this date and other sources are close to this.
96 A.D.			II John	
			III John	
			Revelation	

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