

# Bible Genealogies

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In the days of Jesus, every Israelite could trace his genealogy back to Abraham.

1 Chronicles 9:1 "So all Israel were reckoned by genealogies." Ezra 2:1, 2 Even in captivity the genealogies were preserved.

Leviticus 25:23, 24 An Israelite's only title to his farm and home was his genealogy. Land could not be permanently sold.

Josephus, gives his lineage for several generations, then says "Thus have I set down the genealogy of my family, as I find it described in the public records." The Life of Flavius Josephus, page 1.

John 8:33, 39 "We be Abraham's seed." "Abraham is our father."

The only way they could prove this, was by their genealogies. These genealogies existed in the days of Jesus and could be referred to, to settle any question. Jewish genealogies have now utterly perished. They were all destroyed at the destruction of Jerusalem. No Jew today can ever tell to which tribe he belongs.

No Jew could today claim to be the Messiah - the Christ. No one can now prove he is a son of David. It is worthy to note that no Jewish priest or ruler found fault with Jesus' claim to be of the line of David. They had the genealogies before them. If they could have found a flaw they would have been justified in condemning Christ to Calvary. The genealogies are of vital importance.

Shallow students of the Word ask why are we given these long catalogues of names, and because of difficulties they even at times have been known to maintain that they are all mixed up.

Hence the genealogies, like many other wonders of the Bible, are sadly neglected. If there could have been the slightest doubt in these genealogies the Pharisees, would have quickly used them against Christ.

## CHRONOLOGY

One of the many wonders of our wonderful Bible is not only that like a golden thread the line of Christ runs from Adam, Abraham and David to our Lord, but that line is chronologically given. That is it is given by the count of years.

Embedded in the Bible record is a continuous line of dated episodes which begin with Adam and reach across the forty centuries of time, "unto the Messiah, the Prince."

Human histories, even of the greatest nations have no beginning. They merely immerse gradually from the fog of fables, myths and legends. What a striking contrast we find in the Scriptures. The first 3000 years and more are given clearly and with accuracy.

Genesis chapter 5. For instance this chapter is pure chronology. It is definite and complete from beginning to end. It is simple arithmetic.

Event	After Creation	B.C.
Adam created	0	4046
Adam's age at the birth of Seth (130)	130	3916
Seth's age at birth of Enos (105)	235	3811
Enos' age at birth of Cainan (90)	325	3721
Cainan's age at birth of Mahalaleel (70)	395	3651
Mahalaleel's age at birth of Jared (65)	460	3586
Jared's age at birth of Enoch (162)	622	3424
Enoch's age at birth of Methuselah (65)	687	3359
Methuselah's age at birth of Lamech (187)	874	3172
Lamech's age at birth of Noah (182)	1056	2990
Noah's age at the time of the flood (600)	1656	2390

If Genesis 5 was not in the Bible, and was found on an Egyptian or Babylonian tablet, it would be hailed as the most wonderful and valuable tablet ever discovered.

Genesis chapter 11. Here again we have a similar chronological table to the birth of Abraham.

Event	After Creation	B.C.
The Flood	1656	2390
Add two years to birth of Arphaxad	1658	2388
Add age of Arphaxad at birth of Salah (35)	1693	2353
Add age of Salah at birth of Eber (30)	1723	2323
Add age of Eber at birth of Peleg (34)	1757	2289
Add age of Peleg at birth of Reu (30)	1787	2259
Add age of Reu at birth of Serug (32)	1819	2227
Add age of Serug at birth of Nahor (30)	1849	2197
Add age of Nahor at birth of Terah (29)	1878	2168
Abram born	2008	2038

A fact of great importance should be noted. The count of years is bound closely with one definite subject - the line of descent along which the promised Redeemer was to come. Think for a moment of the millions of lines that could have been taken, from the ever widening circle of the sons of Adam.

One line and one line only stands out and that line leads to "Messiah the Prince." The chronological tables of Genesis 5 goes no further than the Flood. Genesis 11 stops at Abraham. The line of Matthew 1 and Luke 3 shows the purpose, as they lead to, and stop with the Messiah.

## **ONLY ONE LINE IS CHRONOLOGICALLY GIVEN.**

Genesis 4:16-24 The line of Cain is given, but note there is no age given.

Genesis 5:3-32 In the line of Seth, the years are given. They are given with such regularity and with such precautions that they show chronology was a vitally important matter in the mind of the Author.

Exodus 6:16-23 Even when it comes to such important persons as Aaron or Moses there is no chronology given.

One line and one line only exists in the divine record, in which the line gives the father's age when that particular son was born, through whom the Messiah's line was to continue. Yet the same father's age is never given at the birth of any other son. It is not the oldest son that is given in many cases. For instance Seth was not the oldest son of Adam, nor Shem of Noah, nor Abraham of Terah, nor Isaac of Abraham, nor Jacob of Isaac, nor Judah of Jacob, nor David of Jesse. This is remarkable, particularly in view of the importance given by the Israelites to the first born.

The Bible stands out as a book of chronology, but it is chronology of a very special and exceptional kind. For chronology in general, it shows little, if no regard. One particular line is revealed. Around that line the whole Bible clusters. With care and great regard the Bible begins with creation and the first eleven chapters cover a great stretch of time, almost equal to the time covered by the rest of Scripture. This divine record is composed largely of two elements namely genealogy and chronology.

## **"UNTO MESSIAH THE PRINCE"**

Here end genealogies. They end at Jesus and go no further. God writes up the chronicle from creation to the Redeemer, from the beginning of time to:

Galatians 4:4 "The fullness of time". "Unto Messiah the Prince".

This reveals the goal to which genealogies and the chronological line of Scripture point.

## PERIOD BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

Event	B. C.
Palestine under Persian rule	538-332
Palestine surrenders to Alexander the Great	332
Ptolemy Soter captures Jerusalem and subjugates Palestine	320
Palestine subject to Syria	314
Palestine reverts to Egypt	301
Completion of Septuagint Translation of Scriptures into Greek	227
Antiochus the Great subjugates Palestine	198
Tyranny of Antiochus Epiphanes	170
Palestine under the leadership of the Maccabees	167-163
Jews and Romans form alliance	161
First mention of Pharisees and Sadducees	109
Pompey subjugates Judea, which becomes a Roman Province	63
Herod the Great captures Jerusalem and is appointed King of the Jews	37
Reign of Augustus Caesar begins (Luke 3:1)	31
Herod begins re-building the Temple	19
Herod dies at Jericho soon after the birth of Christ	4

## CHRONLOGY OF NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY

HISTORICAL EVENT	BIBLE REFERENCE	BC	AD
The birth of John the Baptist	Luke 1:57-64	5	
Birth of Christ	Luke 2:4-7	4	
Archelaus, Ethnarch of Judea and Samaria	Matthew 2:22	4	6
Herod Antipas, Tetrarch of Galilee	Luke 3:1	4	39
Judea under Procurators		6	4
Jesus visits the Temple	Luke 2:42		9
Reign of Tiberius Caesar	Luke 3:1		14
Public ministry of John the Baptist	Luke 3:1-18		26
Pontius Pilate	Luke 3:1		26
Christ's baptism	Matthew 3:13-17		27
Public ministry of Christ	Matthew 4:17		27
John the Baptist beheaded	Matthew 14:1-12		29
The Crucifixion	Matthew 27:22		31
The Ascension	Acts 1:9-11		31
Pentecost	Acts 1:1-41		31
The martyrdom of Stephen	Acts 7:1-60		34
The Gospel first preached in other lands	Acts 8:1-5; 11:19, 20		34
Conversion of Paul	Acts 9:1-22		35
Reign of Herod Agrippa	Acts 12:1, 20		41
Reign of Claudius Caesar	Acts 11:28		41
Antioch becomes a Christian center	Acts 11:26		42
The martyrdom of James	Acts 12:1, 2		44
Death of Herod Agrippa I	Acts 12:23		44
Paul and Barnabas on first missionary tour	Acts 13:1-4		46
Conference at Jerusalem	Acts 15:1-30		48
Paul starts on second missionary tour	Acts 15:40, 41		49
Paul in Macedonia	Acts 16:9-40		49
Paul at Corinth	Acts 18:1-17		50
Paul writes Epistles to the Thessalonians	Thessalonians		50
Reign of Herod Agrippa II (King of Galilee)	Acts 25:26		50
Paul visits Jerusalem and Antioch	Acts 18:21-22		52
Begins his third missionary tour	Acts 18:23		53
Evangelism at Ephesus	Acts 19:1-41		54
Reign of Nero	Philippians 4:22		54
Paul writes Epistles to the Corinthians	Corinthians		58
Paul Visits Greece	Acts 20:2		59
Paul writes Epistles to the Romans	Acts 20:2		59
Paul writes Epistles to the Galatians	Acts 20:2		59
Arrested in the Temple at Jerusalem	Acts 21:27-22:29		60
Paul before Felix	Acts 24:1-25		60
The Epistle of James	James		60
The First Epistle of Peter	1 Peter		60
Paul before Festus and Agrippa	Acts 25 and 26		62
The voyage to Rome	Acts 27-28		62
Paul writes Epistle to the Philippians	Philippians		63
Paul writes Epistle to Colossians	Colossians		63

<b>HISTORICAL EVENT</b>	<b>BIBLE REFERENCE</b>	<b>BC</b>	<b>AD</b>
Paul writes Epistle to Ephesians	Ephesians		63
Paul writes Epistle to Philemon	Philemon		63
Paul writes Epistles to Titus and Timothy	1 Timothy		63
Paul is tried and released			64
Paul evidently visits Greece and Asia			64
The Epistle to the Hebrews	Hebrews		64
Burning of Rome			64
The persecution of Christians			64
Paul's second trial before Nero			66
Writes the second Epistle to Timothy	2 Timothy		66
Paul's martyrdom	2 Timothy 4:6		66
The second Epistle of Peter	2 Peter		66
The Epistle of Jude	Jude		66
Destruction of Jerusalem			70
The three Epistles of John	1, 2, 3 John		96
John in exile at island of Patmos	Revelation 1		96
The Book of Revelation	Revelation 1		96