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Appendix 3

Bible chronology

Many chronologies of the Bible have been drawn up but with different results. One of the most famous is Archbishop Usher's chronology from the 1600's, which has been recorded in *'The King James Version of the Bible'*. According to him the time from Adam to Christ was 4004 years. That it was not an even 4000 years, was because Jesus was born four years before our era.

Behind this chronology, there was an underlying concern about the timetable of God with humanity consisting of a week of millenniums (7x1000) of which the first 6000 years would end in 1996 AD (2000 minus 4 years). Then Christ would come back to establish his kingdom, which would become the seventh millennium – a time (realm) of millennial peace and Sabbath rest for all of creation. But if you carefully follow the times as the Bible itself says, it turns out that this theory of the regular 6000 years until 1996 is incorrect. In 2000 AD, we have exceeded that time by about 181 years. It will therefore be about 6181 years from Adam until year 2000 AD, according to the timetables of the Bible.*

Another well-known theologian Dr. W. Hales (1778-1821) made *'A New System of Chronology'*, in which he reached a year of 5311 from Adam to Christ's birth. He built the data on the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible text, known as the Septuagint translation. It is known to contain multiple manipulations of the basic text in which dates in several places are different from the original Hebrew text.

There are several major problems in the calculation of the Bible's chronology. A frequent mistake is a mistranslation or misunderstanding of Exodus 12:40: *"The Israelis had lived in Egypt for 430 years"*. The verse should instead read: *"Alien's time for the children of Israel, who lived in Egypt, was 430 years."* (The King James version: *"Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, WHO dwelt in Egypt, was 430 years"*). Many writers calculate the whole time of alienation to the time of slavery in Egypt, while it rightfully also should include the time of alienation of the Patriarchs in Canaan. The historian Josephus also has this view and indicate that the period from Abraham's calling to Jacob's removal to Egypt for 215 years and the time in Egypt until the Exodus to 215 years. That the period in Egypt was only 215 years is also confirmed by the fact that Moses was only the fourth generation of the patriarch Jacob. (Jacob's son, Levi, became the father of Kohath, Kohath became the father of Amran and Amran became the father of Moses and Aaron. Exodus 6:16-20). Here is what Josephus wrote about alien time of the patriarchs and the exodus from Egypt: *"They left Egypt in the month of Xantikus (April) on the fifteenth day. It was 430 years after their father Abraham's migration into Canaan and 215 years after Jacob's migration to Egypt."*

That the children of Israel were only 215 years in Egypt is also what Paul writes in Galatians 3:14-17: *"Now the promises were given to Abraham and his seed ... an order which God has already given the current force, can not by a law, published 430 years thereafter become void ..."* The promise to Abraham was 430 years before the law, therefore, must the 430 years of alienation be counted from the time (430) when Abraham received the promise at the age of 75. These 430 years of alienation and servitude includes both Abraham, his descendants, Isaac and Jacob, until the exodus.

*The Jewish chronology is based on Adam and count 5760 years in our year 2000 AD. But then the exile in Egypt and the time of the Babylonian captivity is not included. If included it will be 6045. The Jewish year, has only 360 days. In order not to come in fault with the seasons, they added months when necessary.

The time 400 years, which is set in Genesis 15:13 and Acts 7:6, **concerns only the descendants** (heirs) **of Abraham**. Isaac was born 25 years after that Abraham received the promise. Isaac was declared heir at the age of 5, when Ishmael was cast out, (25+5 = 30; 430-30 = 400), so that the time of sojourn and servitude of Abraham's descendants became 400 years (from when Isaac became heir) until the Exodus from Egypt.

Another major difficulty is the interpretation of the statement in 1 Kings 6:1, which says: *"In the 480th year from the Exodus from Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel... he began building the house to the Lord."* But when you add up the actual specified split times there will be 645 years between the Exodus to the time when Solomon began building the temple. (See timetable IV and V). The 480 years which is stated concerns only the time when there was a king that reigned in Israel. If we exclude the time at Sinai (1 year), the wandering in the desert (40 years), the time to occupy Canaan (10 years), the time of plagues and the time of the judges (111 years) plus the time of Judge Abimelech's anarchy, there remains 480 years of the reign of the kings. The phrase *"In the 480th year"* is therefore understood as: *"When someone reigned in Israel"*.

During the royal period, the reign of each king is always stated, with one exception, namely for King Saul. We find the time of his rule in the book of Acts. After the division of the two kingdoms into Judah and the Northern Kingdom (Israel), the time for the coronation of a new king is always stated in which year of reign in the other kingdom it took place.

This means that it becomes a puzzle to get the exact dates because the time of a reign does not match the calendar year, but can begin anytime during the year. Therefore, no one with can certainty establish the exact chronology of the royal period. Moreover, there is some overlap of the time of government for example when King Jehoram was crowned king while his father Jehoshaphat was still alive, 2 Kings 8:16. Moreover, during Israel's King Jeroboam II's long time of reign, which lasted for 41 years, Judah was without a king between his 16th and 27th year of reign. These eleven years must be counted into the Kingdom of Judah's chronology.

Before I present my attempt to work out a Bible chronology, I would like to stress again that the difficulties are many and that the uncertainty therefore is large. In this chronology, I have started from the original Hebrew text known as *the massoretian* text. According to this, I have come to the conclusion that there will be about 4180 years from Adam to the birth of Christ. Here follows a comparison with Ussher's and Hales' chronology. Note that there are certain time periods completely overlapped in these three chronologies. If we add up the year's that are stated from Adam to Noah, the Flood will be in the year **1656**. From Abraham's calling to the Exodus from Egypt, there will be **430** years and from the destruction of Jerusalem until the birth of Christ, there will be **587** years.

	Ussher	Hales	N. Ibstedt
1. From Adam to the Flood (River)	1656	2156	1656
2. From the Flood to Abraham's calling	427	1077	428
3. From Abraham's calling to the Exodus	430	430	430
4. From Exodus to King Saul	396	588	561
5. Time of Kings	508	473	519
6. From the destruction of Jerusalem to the birth of Christ	587	587	587
	4004	5311	4181

THE BIBLICAL CHRONOLOGY

This chronology follows the dates in the original Hebrew text in the scriptures up to the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC. From Adam until 2000 AD, the total time will be about 6181 years.

• The time of Christ's birth is different from the data of world history by 3 to 7 years. In general, it is estimated that Christ was born four years before our era.

Fairly safe world historical dates:

1. The 1st caravan of captives to Babylon : 606 BC
2. Jerusalem's destruction at the time of king Zedekiah: 587 BC .*
3. Cyrus edict of freedom, when the 70-year of captivity ended and about 50 000 Jews returned to Jerusalem: 536 BC. (606-70 = 536).
4. Philip of Maced. defeated Darius III: 330 BC.
5. Rome took over the Greek Empire: 146 BC.
6. Jerusalem was captured by Pompeii in 63 BC.
7. Christ was born 4 BC.
8. Christ was crucified AD 30.
9. Titus destroyed Jerusalem AD 70.

I. From Adam to the Flood: 1656 years

The following time intervals are according to Genesis 5:1-29, which covers the period from Adam to the Noah-Flood:

	Years	BC
0. Adam was created in		4181
1. From Adam to Seth's birth	130	4051
2. From Set for Enos	105	3946
3. From Enos to Cainan	1990	3856
4. From Kenan of Mahalalel	70	3786
5. From Mahalalel to Jered	65	3721
6. From Jared to Enoch	162	3559
7. From Enoch to Methuselah	65	3494
8. From Methuselah to Lamech	187	3307
9. From Lamech to Noah	182	3125
10. From Noah's birth to the Flood	<u>600</u>	2525
Total years this period =		1656

The Flood will be **2525 BC** (= 3125-600)

When Noah was 500 years Shem, Ham and Japheth were born. Gen 5:32; Gen 7:11

II. From the Flood

to the call of Abraham = **428** years
Gen. 8:13: The Flood lasted 1year: 1 2524

Years BC

According to records in Gen 11:10-26:

1. Shem became father to Arphaxad 2 years after the flood	2	2522
2. From Arphaxad to Shelah's birth	35	2487
3. From Shelah to Eber	30	2457
4. From Eber to Peleg	34	2423
5. From Peleg to Reu	30	2393
6. From Reu of Serug	32	2361
7. From Serug of Nahor	30	2331
8. From Nahor to Terah		29 2302
9. From Terah to Abraham, Gen 12:4	130	2172
10. From Abraham's birth to his call	<u>75</u>	2097
Total for the period =		428

From Adam to Abraham's call: 2084 years

Abraham was called in the year 2097 BC.
**Abraham was born when Terah was 130 years.
Terah became 205 years and died before Abraham went to Canaan at the age of 75 (205-75 = 130).
Gen 11: 32; 12:4; Acts 7:4.

III. From Abraham's call to the exodus from Egypt: 430 years

Gen 21:5; 25:26; 47: 9; 28, 50;
22.26; Gen 12: 40-41; Gal :3:14-17

Years BC

From Abr's call to the birth of Isaac,	25	2072
From Isaac's birth to Jacob's birth	60	2012
From Jacobs birth to exodus in Egypt	<u>130</u>	1882
		215
Jacob lived in Egypt until his death	17	1865
From Jacob's death to death of Joseph	54	1811
From Joseph's death to the Exodus	<u>144</u>	1667
		215

Total for the period = 430

From Adam to Exodus from Egypt: **2514** years
Exodus from Egypt = **1667** BC

Jacob was 91 years when Joseph was born after 14 years of marriage (1 Gen 30:22-34, 31:41).

Joseph was 39 years old when Jacob came to Egypt when Jacob was 130 years old.

When Jacob died when he was 147 years old, Joseph was then 56 years (39 + 17 = 56).

* Also the years 605 and 586 BC occurs.

** The age of promise of 430 years is divided into 215 years of sojourn *** in Canaan and 215 years in Egypt.

*** To live as strangers, eng: sojourn. Exodus 26:5, 17:7 Jdg

IV. 561 years from Exodus to King Saul:

	Years	BC
From Sinai to taking of Canaan		
Receiving the Law at Sinai	1	1666
The time in the desert	40	1626
Jos 14:7: Joshua's time in Canaan	<u>30</u>	1596
	71	

– Joshua was 40 when he became a scout, Jos 14:7; then he spent 40 years in the desert and died at 110, Jos 24:29 (110-40-40=30)

The Time of Judges

includes the time for 16 Judges and 7 plagues:

Judges 2:7-3:7 The time elders survived Joshua?*		
Judges 3:7-8, 1st plague	8	1588
Judges 3:9-11, 1st Judge Othniel	40	1548
Judges 3:12-14, 2nd plague	18	1530
Judges 3:15-20, 2nd Judge Ehud	80	1450
Judges 3:31, 3rd plague? *		
Judges 3:31, 3rd Judge Shamgar? *		
Judges 4:1-3, 4th plague	20	1430
Judges 4:4, 4th Judge Deborah	40	1390
Judges 5:31, 5th Judge Barak? *		
Judges 6:1-10, 5th plague	7	1383
Judges 6:11 to 8:32, 6th Judge Gideon	40	1343
Judges 8:33 to 9:57, 7th Judge Abim.	3	340
Judges 10:1-2, 8th Judge Tola	23	317
Judges 10:3-5, 9th Judge Jair	22	1295
Judges 10:6-18, sixth plague	18	1277
Judges 11:1-12-7, 10th Judge Jephthah	6	1271
Judges 12:8-10, 11th Judge Ibzan	7	1264
Judges 12:11-12, 12th Judge Elon	10	1254
Judges 12:13-15, 13th Judge Abdon	8	246
Judges 13:1, 7th plague	40	1206
Judges 13:2-16-31, 14th Judge Samson	20	1186
Judges 17:1-21:25 Civil war? *		
1 Sam 4:1, 15-18, 15th Judge: Eli	40	1146
1 Sam 7:2-15, 16th Judge: Samuel	40	1106
1 Sam 8:1 – Samuel's sons? *	<u>0</u>	
The time of Judges	490	

From the the entry into Canaan to king Saul: 71+ 490 = 561

The total of the period 561 years

From Adam to Saul: 3075 years

Saul became king in 1106 BC

From Exodus to Saul: 1667-561 = 1106 BC

• When there is no time interval given = (?), it can be a question of months. In that case, the time from the Exodus to Saul will be **561 years**.

V. 519 years from Saul to Jerusalem's destruction

Acts 13:21, Saul's reign: 40 years from 1106 to 1066
2 Sam 5:5, David's reign: 40 years from 1066 to 1026

I Kings 11:42 Solomon's reign, 40 years: 1026 to 986

Kings in Judah: Years of reign BC

1 Kings 14:21, Rehoboam's reign, 17 years 986-969

1 Kings 15:2, Abiam's reign, 3 969-966

1 Kings 15:10, Asa's reign, 41 966-925

1 Kings 22:41-42, Jehoshaphat's reign, 25 925-900

2 Kings 8:17, Jehoram's reign, 8 * 904-896

2 Kings 8:26, Ahaziah's reign, 1 896

2 Kings 11:3, Athaliah's reign, 6 895-890

2 Kings 12:1, Joash's, reign, 40 889-850

2 Kings 14:1-2, Amaziah's reign, 29 * 850-821

2 Kings 14, Judah is without any king, 11 822-811

2 Kings 15:1-2, Azariah's (Uzziah) reign, 52 811-759

2 Kings 15:32, Jotham's, reign 16 759-743

2 Kings 16:1-2, Ahaz's reign, 16 743-727

2 Kings 18:1-2, Hezekiah's, reign 29 728-699

The fall of Samaria in 722

2 Kings 21:1 Manasseh's reign, 55 698-643

2 Kings 21:19 Amon's reign, 2 642-640

2 Kings 22:1 Josiah's reign, 31 640-609

2 Kings 23:31, Jehoahaz's reign, (3 months) 609

2 Kings 23:36 Jehoiakim's reign, 11 609-598

The first captivity caravan (in King Jehoiakim's fourth year of reign,) 605

2 Kings 24:8, Jehoiachin's reign, (3 months) 598

2 Kings 24:18, Zedekiah's reign, 11 598-587

Total time of reign = **513 years**

+ 11 years without a king minus 5 years when the times of the reign coincided (overlapped) with the previous ruler

(*Joram = 4 years, *Amaziah = 1 year),

= **513 +11 -5 = 519.**

The total for the period = 519 years

Destruction of Jerusalem, Zedekiah 11th reign, 587

From Adam to the destr. of Jerusalem: 3594 years

COMPILATION

I From Adam to the Flood = 1656 years

The Flood was **2525 BC**

II From the Flood to Abraham's call = 428 years

From Adam to Abraham' call = 2084 years

Abraham was called in the year **2097 BC**

III Fr Abraham's call to Exodus = 430 years

From Adam to Exodus = 2514 years

Exodus from Egypt = **1667 BC**

IV From Exodus to Saul 561 years

From Adam to Saul = 3075 years

Saul became king in **1106 BC**

V From Saul to destr. of Jerusalem = 519 years

From Adam to destr. of Jerusalem = 3594 years

From Adam to the birth of Christ 4181 years

6500 years?

The most significant research results from 1997 have finally emerged in the media. Researchers investigating the human genetic make-up (genome) has made a discovery that shows that man has hardly been in existence for more than about 6500 years. How can they reach such a conclusion?

The majority of human genes are in the cell nuclei, as a string in which four different colored "pearls" can be described in different words, all composed of three letters. Such a code, the DNA molecule, can disclose enormous amounts of information.

By comparison, the Morse code can convey any information using only two symbols. Computers have only two symbols at their disposal.

Each cell in humans contains so much text, as if it were printed in book form would fill 3500 bands, each with one million characters. If we should put all the cellular strings from one human in a single chain would it reach from earth to the sun and back 30 times. The information density of "the string pearls" is so vast, that all information in the world's all libraries could be stored in one cubic millimeter DNA.

When the cell divides, it copies "letter by letter" all the "3500 bands" in a few minutes. Cell nucleus proofing system ensures that the copying generates accurate copies by proofreading the text. In spite of this there will come up errors in the copying process. Of three and a half billion "letters", there is an average of one that gets copied incorrectly. But the result is nevertheless so good that life can continue, at least for some time.

Mitochondria

But there is a weak link that threatens the survival of life. In the cell's power plants, the mitochondria, which is located outside the nucleus, there is a small database, which is not good enough to correct the copying errors.

In the mitochondria, we can calculate the copy errors that have been accumulated over thousands of years. The errors are accumulating at a rate of one thousand times higher speed than any correction can be made to the text. The cell can not get rid of the errors that arise here, as it does with misprint errors in the cells nucleus. Therefore all the print errors will be accumulated.

It is assumed that the aging process depends on this fact. Man's power is weakened gradually and the consequence is death. The same problems can threaten the entire existence of life on our planet. Energy production may simply die out.

New mutations in the mitochondrial DNA shows up with a fairly constant rate over time. Therefore,

the amount of "print" errors in the mitochondria can be used to calculate the time when there should not have been any "misprintings".



The DNA alphabet consists of four letters: Every DNA word consists of three letters. Every word is the code for an amino acid. There are 64 different possibilities. Amino acids can also occur in flip variants, "right- and lefthanded". It offers 128 varieties, but only 20 of the first type are used. These 20 amino acids then build the proteins that constitute the actual participants in the bodily processes. (Fig.: Vorel / EO.)

There are up to 10 000 mitochondria in each cell. Mitochondria are inherited in principle, only from the mother, because the sperm's mitochondria, which are in the tail of the sperm, almost always are left outside of the egg at fertilization.

The mitochondria have become a major problem for proponents of evolution, also because they use a language that is different than the language in DNA of the nucleus. It has been interpreted as a "design-signal" from a creator. (Scherer-Junker, "Evolution – ein kritisches Lehrbuch" 1998. Weyel Lehrmittelverlag, Giessen).

Mitochondrial Mutations

A group of medical students recently studied the deterioration of data from one generation to the next that are taking place in the mitochondrial databank. They found that the data base degenerates much faster than commonly thought. In their first estimate, the occurrence of "misprints" could be twenty times larger than they first thought. In September 2000 they wrote in a new article stating that the mutation rate is perhaps even greater – 100 times larger than assumed before. (29 Sept. 2000, Science, vol 289, p. 2342-2344).

This research result from empirical science suggests that the modern man only has existed for about 6,500 years.

The recent mapping of the human DNA has found that we have approximately 99.9% common DNA. This again shows that we have emerged relatively recently, because we have had very little time for variation. There is in this result no genetic basis for different races, but we are all members of one big family. The prevailing perception of the human race advanced age has been based on pure speculation.

Mitochondrial Eve

A few years ago mitochondrial research showed that all people have a common first mother, who was called Mitochondrial Eve. Then it was assumed that this "Eve" had lived in North Africa for about 200 000 years ago. But now we understand that "Eva" really should have lived for about 6500 years ago.

In addition to the copying errors that occur in every body cell's nuclei, about 5000's daily mutations also appear due to radiation, ultraviolet radiation, environmental toxins, etc... It makes it very difficult to understand why humans have not died out if they have been here several hundred thousand years!

Y-chromosomal Adam

How is it with Adam? Age determination also fits him. Recently, it was concluded, by comparing the Y chromosomes from men, that all men most likely have the same first father. The differences between men from different nationalities are very small, but the differences relative to chimpanzees and gorillas are so large that one can not talk about relationships. It is often stated that there are only 1-2% difference between human and chimpanzee. When making such comparison, they don't tell us that they have only used such DNA sequences that are most similar to each other. Then of course they get the desired result. (Source: <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~jonmarks/DNAhyb.html>). For example, the difference between the brain size in humans and chimpanzees is one cubic decimetre. This difference can not be explained away as 1-2% different DNA.

The gene pool of the cell nucleus

The human genetic make-up (genome) in the nucleus has already collected more than 6,000 errors that cause disease, and we are constantly finding

new diseases. This also is consistent with the Biblical story of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, after which God's perfect work of creation began to degenerate.

SUMMARY

Recent research suggests that humans have existed for a short time, and that we have a common first mother and first father. The similarity between human DNA also indicates that the human race has gone through a "bottleneck", where only a few individuals have survived (Noah's Flood). This and much more we can read in our cells' data library when they open up before our eyes.

We can see that God's revelation about the origin of man in the Bible as in good agreement with the facts that science discovers.

PEKKA Reinikainen

Source: *Parsons, Thomas J., et al., A high observed substitution rate in the human mitochondrial DNA control region, Nature Genetics, vol 15, April 1997, p. 363-367. – See also the website www.crs.c.org and arn.org.*

This article appeared in the magazine Genesis number 1, 1998. By courtesy of Pekka Reinikainen and the paper's editor Erik Östlund, I have been able to introduce these article by Reinikainen in a revised form for this book as a supplement to the study of Biblical chronology.

CONCLUSION

The author's chronology is not based on any archaeological discoveries, but only on the dates contained in the original Hebrew.

My approach has been to start from a secure and recognized historical dates, namely the destruction of Jerusalem 587 years BC.

Then I counted backwards the lists of Kings in Judah (519 years). After that I continued with the time of the judges and the Israelites wandering in the desert (561 years), their stay as slaves in Egypt (215 years) and the Patriarchal alienation in Canaan after Abraham's call (215 years). Then comes the time between Abraham and the Noa-Flood (428 years) and finally from the Flood to Adam (1656 years).

A total of 4181 years from Adam to the birth of Christ. The result differs from Usshers chronology by 177 years and is in line with the English scientist David Rohl's archaeological discoveries that have brought new datings to the Old Testament time.