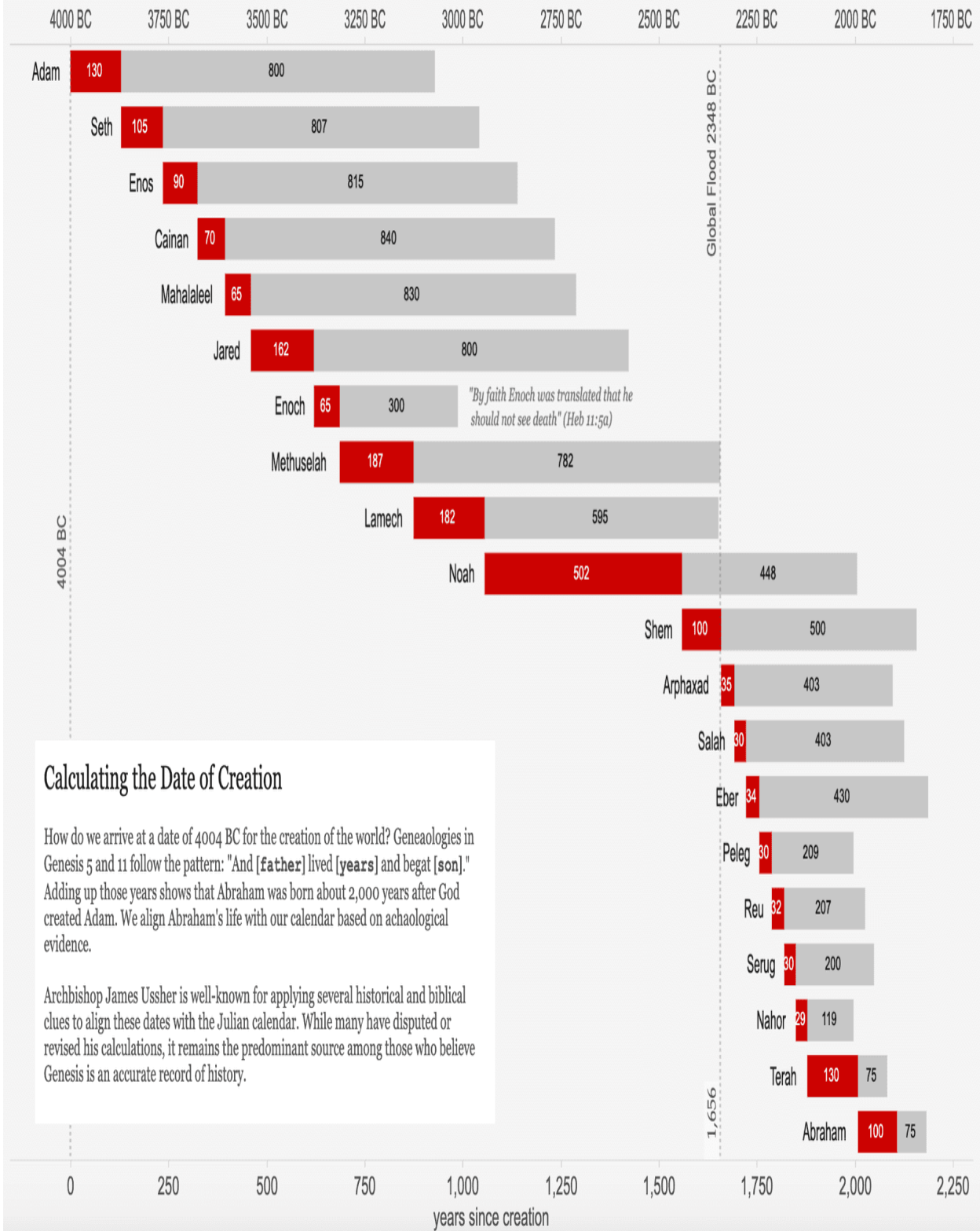


Approximate timeline!

Genesis Timeline from Adam to Abraham



Calculating the Date of Creation

How do we arrive at a date of 4004 BC for the creation of the world? Genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 follow the pattern: "And [father] lived [years] and begat [son]." Adding up those years shows that Abraham was born about 2,000 years after God created Adam. We align Abraham's life with our calendar based on archaeological evidence.

Archbishop James Ussher is well-known for applying several historical and biblical clues to align these dates with the Julian calendar. While many have disputed or revised his calculations, it remains the predominant source among those who believe Genesis is an accurate record of history.

CREATION HAPPENED, BECAUSE OF GOD!
GENESIS CH1:1

ILLUSTRATION

What is the order of the planets from the sun? **Sun - Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto!**

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE TEMPERATURES ON THOSE PLANETS?

Neptune	-200	degrees	Celsius
Uranus	-195	“	“
Saturn	-140	“	“
Jupiter	-110	“	“
Mercury	167	“	“
Venus	464	“	“
Earth	15	“	“

CREATOR!

“Something is there – an immense, intricate, and orderly something. It was there before we were, for we cannot even imagine our existence without it. But how did it get there? And how did it get to be as we detect it?” (Genesis Volume 1, Creation and Fall, James Montgomery Boice, 2006, pg 15)

Genesis Ch1:1 is the answer to these questions. It tells us that “In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.”

According to R. Kent Hughes “As we now consider the opening lines of Genesis, we must carefully note that Israel had just escaped the oppressive polytheism (the belief in or worship of more than one god) of Egypt's temples and pyramids with its solar and lunar gods. In Egypt, the pagan mythologies had opposed Israel's monotheism (the doctrine or belief that there is only one God). In opposition to a single creator, the Egyptians taught pantheism (the worship or tolerance of many gods) and shored up beliefs with elaborate myths of love affairs and reproduction among the gods, of warfare marking out the heavens and the earth” (Genesis, R. Kent Hughes, pg17-18).

Moses takes his people, in light of the false teaching of the Egyptians, right back to the “Beginning” and teaches them Truth, God's truth!

What wonderful words (10 in total) Moses uses to start the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." They teach us, that all of creation had a “beginning” and that God made everything apart from one thing! Himself, as everything else had/has a beginning, apart from God! This “beginning” was joyfully celebrated (Psalm 102:25 + Isaiah Ch40:21)

We all have a “beginning”, the time when we were born and we will all have an end date (unless Jesus Christ comes back during our life-time). In fact, everything on earth (including earth), has a beginning and an end!

According to the Bible we are now living in the 7th Millennium, with approximately 4000 years passing before the first coming of Jesus Christ and 2000 years having passed since His crucifixion on the cross! Therefore, the Book of Genesis is around 3500 years old (2000 years from the cross and 1500 years from the cross back to Moses, who wrote it). Genesis covers a period of over 2000 years of human history, and we are encouraged by

Scripture to “By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible” - Hebrews Ch11:3.

The New Testament ascribes Moses as the writer of the first five Books of the Bible (the Pentateuch – Exodus Ch17:14; Deuteronomy Ch31:24; Joshua Ch8:31; 2 Kings Ch14:6; John Ch1:17, Ch5:46, Ch7:19, 23; Romans Ch10:5; 2 Corinthians Ch3:15). The account opens with a clear statement about the Creator and the Creation. Its simplicity belies the depth of its content. These ten words are the **foundation** of all that is to follow in the Bible. The purpose of the statement is threefold:

1. to identify the creator
2. to explain the origin of the world
3. to tie the work of God in the past to the work of God in the future.

Elohim is the Hebrew word for God that appears in the very first sentence of the Bible, Genesis Ch1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." It literally says, "In the beginning Elohim, Elohim created the heavens and the earth." The term "Elohim" means “supreme one” or “mighty one.”

The Creator is identified as “God” that is “Elohim”, “supreme one” or “mighty one”, and we will see a more personal name of God used in Ch2:4 “Yahweh”, Lord! ***“The noun “God” is plural in the Hebrew text, but the verb “created” is singular in the Hebrew text. The Bible clearly teaches that God is one being, a unity (Deut Ch6:4; 1st Cor Ch8:4). At the same time, the Bible just as clearly teaches that the one God exists in three persons and is therefore also a trinity (Matt Ch28:19; 2nd Cor Ch13:14)” (The Book of Genesis, R. F. Youngblood, pg 23).***

Whereas we are totally dependent on God for everything, God is not dependent on anyone or anything - ***“To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of His might and because He is strong in power, not one is missing”*** (Isaiah Ch40:25-26).

“First, when Genesis begins with the words “In the beginning God,” it is telling us that God is self-existent. This is not true of anything else. Everything else depends on some other thing or person and ultimately on God. Without these prior causes, the thing would not exist. We recognise this truth when we speak of the laws of “cause and effect.” Every effect must have an adequate cause. But God is the ultimate cause and is Himself uncaused. God has no origins; this means: first, that as He is in Himself He is unknowable, and second, that He is answerable to no-one.

Because God is sufficient we may begin by resting in that sufficiency and so work effectively for Him. God does not need us but the joy of coming to know Him is in learning that He nevertheless stoops to work in and through His children” (Genesis Volume 1, Creation and Fall, James Montgomery Boice, 2006, pg 15).

CREATION!

“Create” is a special verb in the Old Testament. It always has God as its subject: ***it is never used of human activity.*** You and I may make or form or fashion, but only God creates. ***In Genesis 1 the verb “create” is used sparingly, reserved for the most crucial item's in God's plan: the universe (1:1), animate (brought to life) life (1:21), and man (1:27).*** And even more God created everything out of nothing. It is correct to

say that the verb “bara” - meaning “create something from nothing.” It contains the idea that God's creation work was completely “effortless”, making something from nothing!

The heavens and the earth, include not only our solar system, the galaxy in which our solar system is, but all of the known galaxies that exist in our universe. It is believed that there are some hundred thousand million galaxies, with each galaxy having some hundred thousand million stars!

Our galaxy probably contains **100 to 400 billion stars**, and is about 100,000 light-years across. That sounds huge, and it is, at least until we start comparing it to other galaxies. Our neighbouring Andromeda Galaxy, for example, is some 220,000 light-years wide.

Designed for us but not by us!

CONTEMPLATION!

“THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD; THE SKIES PROCLAIM THE WORK OF HIS HANDS. DAY AFTER DAY THEY POUR FORTH SPEECH; NIGHT AFTER NIGHT THEY DISPLAY KNOWLEDGE. THERE IS NO SPEECH OR LANGUAGE WHERE THEIR VOICE IS NOT HEARD. THEIR VOICE GOES OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD” - PSALM 19:1-4

Creation's beginning is celebrated in God's Word – Job 38, Psalm 33, 136, Isaiah Ch40 + 45 and Revelation Ch4:11

“But we may be missing something at this point. We are arguing for the Christian view of origins, which is not at all unimportant. But in the very act of arguing we are likely to miss a true wonder at God's creation, which is what a proper contemplation of these themes should cause. Biblical writers never fall into this pit! Consequently, when they look at creation they inevitably end up praising God, and when they praise God, one of the things they praise Him for is creation.

Can we not do that too? Our text tells us that God created “The Heavens and the Earth.” As we contemplate these great canvases of God's work, are we not led to praise Him?

How vast the Heavens are! When we look up into the sky on a clear night we see perhaps 10,000 points of light. A few of these are the planets of our solar system that shine by reflected light. Thousands belong to the special grouping of stars known as the Milky Way, to which our sun belongs. Other thousands are entire galaxies, which shine as one point because they are so distant we say 10,000 points because that is what we can see with unaided eyes. But these 10,000 are only the tiniest fraction of the existing stars. A typical galaxy contains billions of individual stars – our galaxy alone contains 200 billion stars. It's form is of a giant spiral rotating majestically in space, its glowing arms trailing behind it like the distended points of a pin wheel. Our sun is in one arm of the spiral. It makes a complete rotation in 250 million years. These figures are staggering. But this is only our galaxy. There are thousands of others visible to the naked eye and billions more within range of the 200 – inch telescope on California's Palomar Mountain.

The Andromeda Galaxy is the galaxy closest to our own Milky Way. It is separated from us by 2 million light – years. This means that the light coming to us now from Andromeda has taken 2 million years to get here. Put in other terms, it means that when we look at Andromeda what we see is the galaxy as it existed, not a moment ago, but 2 million years in the past.

Moreover, the galaxies are not fixed in space but rather are moving away from each other at tremendous speeds. Vesto Melvin Slipher, the first to discover this fact, found that the galaxies he could observe were moving away from the Earth at several million miles per hour. His scientific followers, Milton, Humason, Edwin and Hubble showed that the most distant galaxies were retreating from us at the rate of 100 million miles per hour. Moreover, everything is retreating from everything. Nothing is coming toward us, nor is anything coming to any other galaxy. This means that the Universe is expanding.

And what of the Earth? We need not consider the Earth and its marvels fully at this point. We have looked at the heavens carefully since this is the last point in Genesis at which the heavens are mentioned for themselves. From this point the chapter passes on to consider God's acts of creation on earth. The sun, moon, and stars are mentioned only in regard to their giving light to the earth. In a sense everything that occurs from this point on is about the earth. But we can note in passing that the marvels of the macrocosm (the world of large things) are repeated in the microcosm (the world of small things). Here we are confronted with electrons, protons, neutrons, neutrinos, and a seemingly endless variety of particles barely understood. The distances between these particles, proportionate to their size, are comparable to some of the distances involved in the solar system. If we were to take the simplest of atoms, the hydrogen atom, and blow it up billion upon billions of times to where the proton at its centre would now be the size of a ten- soccer ball, the electron that circles this nucleus would now be the size of a golf ball and would be circling the proton at a distance of 5 miles. There would be nothing else in the circle" (Genesis Volume 1, Creation and Fall, James Montgomery Boice, 2006, pg 15).

APPLICATION

It is estimated that there are **between 200 billion (2×10^{11}) to 2 trillion** galaxies in the observable universe.

How have these verses impacted on you?

How has it changed your view of God?