

Genealogies of Genesis

The genealogies of Genesis provide the framework around which the Book of Genesis is structured. Beginning with Adam, genealogical material in Genesis 4, 5, 10, 11, 22, 25, 29-30, 35-36, and 46 move the narrative forward from the creation to the beginnings of Israel's existence as a people.

Adam's lineage in Genesis contains two branches: Chapter 4 giving the descendants of for Cain, and Chapter 5 that for Seth that is then continued in later chapters. Chapter 10 gives a Table of Nations that records the populating of the Earth by Noah's descendants, and is not strictly a genealogy but an ethnography. Genesis 5 and 11 include the age at which each patriarch had the progeny named as well as the number of years he lived thereafter. Many of the ages given in the text are implausibly long, but could have been considered modest in comparison to the ages given in other works (for instance, the Sumerian King List). The ages include patterns surrounding the numbers five and seven, for instance the 365 year life of Enoch (the same as the number of full calendar days in a solar year) and the 777 year life of Lamech (repetitional emphasis of the number seven). Overall, the ages display clear mathematical patterns, confirming that number symbolism was used to construct them. Nevertheless, since Genesis 5 and 11 provide the age of each patriarch at the birth of his named descendant, it also appears to present a gapless chronology from Adam to Abraham, even if the named descendant is not always a first-generation son.

Three versions of the Genesis genealogy exist: the Hebrew Masoretic Text, the Greek Septuagint, and the Samaritan Pentateuch. Translations from the Masoretic Text are preferred by Western Christians, including Roman Catholics and Protestants and by followers of Orthodox Judaism, whereas the Greek version is preferred by Eastern Christians, including Eastern Orthodox, Coptic, Ethiopic, Jacobite and Armenian. The Samaritan version of the Pentateuch is used mainly by the Samaritans.

Nearly all modern translations of Genesis are derived from the Masoretic (Hebrew) Text. But there are also two other versions of Genesis: the Samaritan (from a Hebrew script) and the Septuagint (a Greek translation of a Hebrew text). The numbers given in the text are usually similar but do vary between versions. The numbers in the Masoretic, Samaritan, and Lucianic Septuagint versions of Genesis are shown in this table:

The following table lists the patriarchs that appear in the Vulgate and the Septuagint, but their names are spelled as they appear in the King James Version of the Bible. Their year of birth differs according to the Vulgate or the Septuagint. Also given is each patriarch's age at the birth of his named son and the age of the patriarch's death. Cainan, born after the flood, is mentioned in the Septuagint but not the Vulgate. Methuselah survived the flood according to the Septuagint (but not the Vulgate), even though he was not on Noah's Ark.

The genealogies of Genesis contain a difficulty with regards to the birth of Arphaxad. One method of calculating places the birth of Arphaxad 600 years after the birth of Noah, while another places Arphaxad's birth 602 years after Noah. The table below uses the 602-year method; the 600 year method would decrease the date for Arphaxad and all the following figures by two years.

This chart counts year totals only. *Anno Mundi* (AM, or 'in the year of the world') can be calculated by adding **2** to any given value in either the "Birth" or "Death" columns. The result will give a corresponding date in AM. The epoch for this calendar system is 3761 BCE.

(Note: the numbers in green are consistent across all versions, while the numbers in yellow are contradicted in one other version and the numbers in red are contradicted by more than one of the other versions.)

Numerical Chart in Genealogies of Genesis

Patriarch	Masoretic & Vulgate					Samaritan Pentateuch					Septuagint (Lucian)				
	Birth	Son	Remain	Lived	Death	Birth	Son	Remain	Lived	Death	Birth	Son	Remain	Lived	Death
Adam	0	130	800	930	930	0	130	800	930	930	0	230	700	930	930
Seth	130	105	807	912	1042	130	105	807	912	1042	230	205	707	912	1142
Enosh	235	90	815	905	1140	235	90	815	905	1140	435	190	715	905	1340
Kenan	325	70	840	910	1235	325	70	840	910	1235	625	170	740	910	1535
Mahalalel	395	65	830	895	1290	395	65	830	895	1290	795	165	730	895	1690
Jared	460	162	800	962	1422	460	62	785	847	1307	960	162	800	962	1922
Enoch ¹	622	65	300	365	987	522	65	300	365	887	1122	165	200	365	1487
Methuselah	687	187	782	969	1656	587	67	653	720	1307	1287	167	802	969	2256
Lamech	874	182	595	777	1651	654	53	600	653	1307	1454	188	565	753	2207
Noah ²	1056	502	—	950	2006	707	502	—	950	1657	1642	502	—	950	2592
Shem	1558	100	500	600	2158	1209	100	500	600	1809	2144	100	500	600	2744
Arphaxad	1658	35	403	438	2096	1309	135	303	438	1747	2244	135	430	565	2809
Cainan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2379	130	330	460	2839
Salah	1693	30	403	433	2126	1444	130	303	433	1877	2509	130	330	460	2969
Eber	1723	34	430	464	2187	1574	134	270	404	1978	2639	134	270	404	3043
Peleg	1757	30	209	239	1996	1708	130	109	239	1947	2773	130	209	339	3112
Reu	1787	32	207	239	2026	1838	132	107	239	2077	2903	132	207	339	3242
Serug	1819	30	200	230	2049	1970	130	100	230	2200	3035	130	200	330	3365
Nahor	1849	29	119	148	1997	2100	79	69	148	2248	3165	179	125	304	3469
Terah	1878	70	145	205	2083	2179	70	75	145	2324	3344	70	205	275	3619
Abram	1948	100	—	175	2123	2249	100	—	175	2424	3414	100	—	175	3589

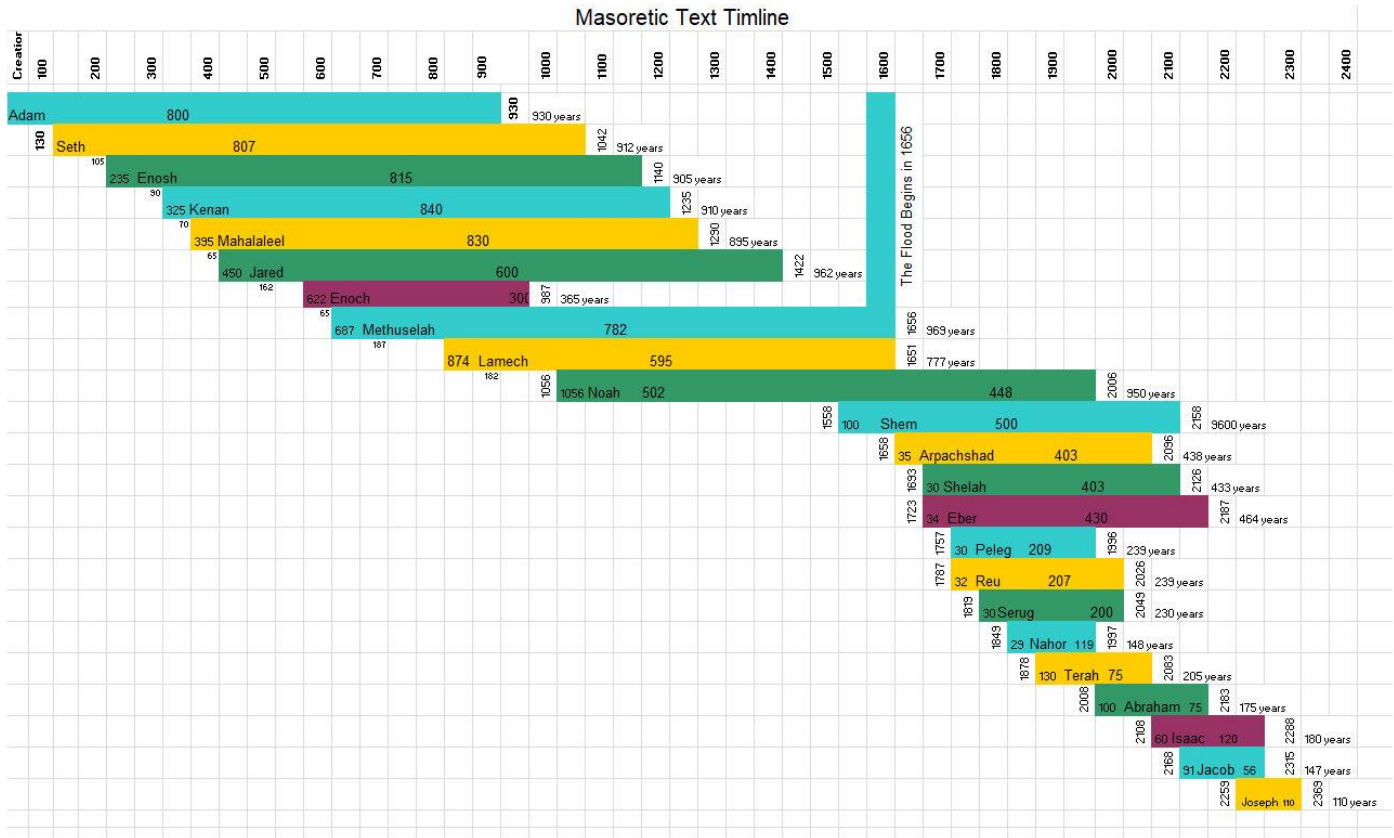
¹According to most interpretations, including the New Testament Epistle to the Hebrews, Enoch did not die, but was taken away by God (at an age of 365). Genesis states that Enoch "walked with God; and he [was] not; for God took him."

²On this chart Noah is listed as having lived 502 years when he begat Shem and this calculation is based on the birth year of Arphaxad. The extra-biblical Book of Jasher also mentions that Noah was 502 years old when his wife Naamah bore Shem.

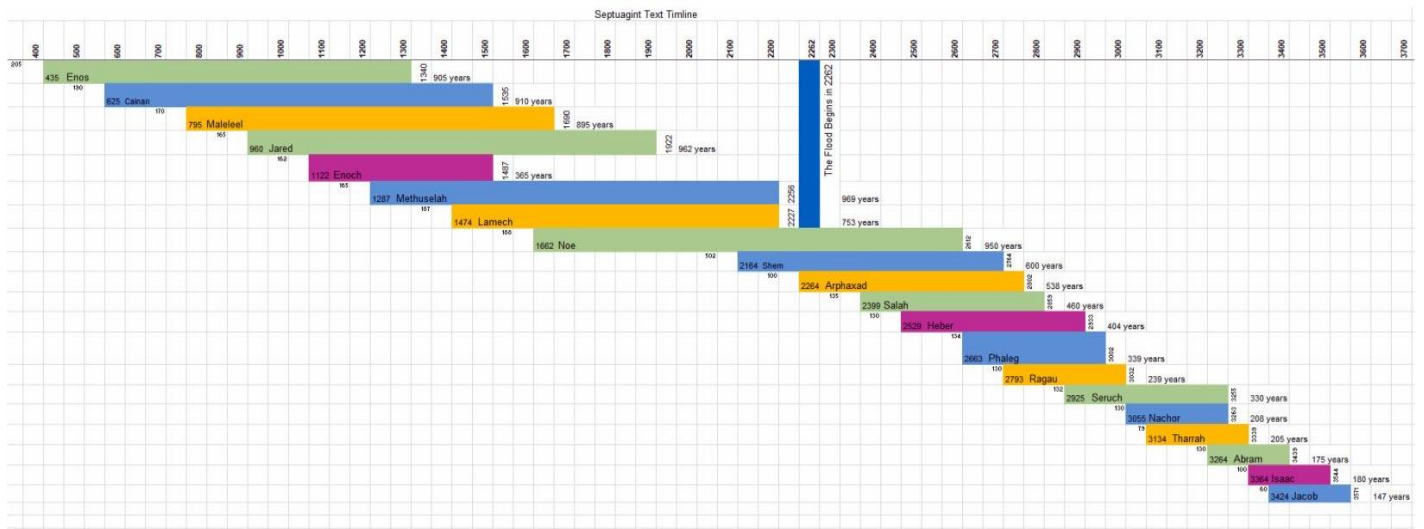
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genealogies_of_Genesis

A Critical Flaw by Larry and June Acheson

For those of you who like to compare charts, we put together a couple of Bible timelines, first for the Masoretic Text, then for the Septuagint translation. Here's the [Masoretic Text timeline](#):



Here's the timeline based on the [Septuagint translation](#):



We realize the above charts are too small to read here, so if you click on the images/links above you can access larger JPGs posted online for a closer look.

Source: <http://www.ponderscripture.org/PDF%20Files/Evolutionist%20Exposes%20Flaw%20in%20oHebrew%20Bible.pdf>

Which Came First, the Pyramids or the Flood?

The charts below are drawn from an extensive article by Alden Bass* in *Apologetics Press* online and demonstrate some of the difficulties involved in synchronizing timetables found in the different Masoretic Text and the Septuagint source manuscripts.

Patriarch	Masoretic		Septuagint	
	Begat	Died	Begat	Died
Adam	130	930	230	930
Seth	105	912	205	912
Enos	90	905	190	905
Cainan	70	910	170	910
Mahalaleel	65	895	165	895
Jared	162	962	162	962
Enoch	65	365	165	365
Methuselah	187	969	187	969
Lamech	182	777	188	753
Noah	502	950	502	950

Table 3 — Comparison of dates of biblical patriarchs in the Masoretic Text and the Septuagint

Period	Summary	
	Masoretic	Septuagint
From Creation to Flood	1656	2262
From Flood to Birth of Abraham	352	1232
Total: Creation to Birth of Abraham	2008	3494

Table 4 — Comparison of dates from Creation to the birth of Abraham, as presented in the Masoretic Text and the Septuagint

*APOLOGETICS PRESS EDITOR'S NOTE: On occasion, we publish articles authored by one or more of the interns who work with us during the summer. This article was written by one of those interns, Alden Bass, who spent his fourth year with us during the summer of 2003. At the time Alden was a junior religious studies major at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. I think you will find his article on Egyptian versus Biblical chronology absolutely fascinating, and that it will offer you a real insight into the quality of the young men who serve as our interns. I unreservedly commend it, and him, to you.

Source: <http://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=56&article=92>

Other Resources:

Were the Pyramids Built Before the Flood? (Masoretic Text vs. Original Hebrew). An engaging 30-minute video presentation by Nathan Hoffman with many interesting links listed with it.

Watch on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VI1yRTC6kGE>

CMI's response to Hoffman video: <https://creation.com/pyramids-before-flood>