

# INTRODUCTION

The bible contains a literal mountain of chronological data on ages, years, eras, kings, prophets and prophecy. In no single place will you find it all explained. However, this is the most thorough and complete book on the subject to be composed. All this information is organized and logically laid out in over 100 pages of charts. There are also 80 figures detailing various sub chronologies.

There are several different ways to use the book. For one, it is very handy for looking up the exact date of just about any dated event in the bible. The charts give a precise temporal map of the bible. If you are a home school student, then you can memorize the dates backward and forward. You can also easily verify the dates and assure yourself that the dates will never be obsolete.

For those interested in mathematics, there are plenty of numbers to compute. There are tables and charts showing how this is accomplished. One can add up the components of the 480 years of 1 Kings 6:1, or the 390 sin years of Israel. One can divide a year number by 7 to see if the remainder is zero. If it is, then the year is sabbatical. There are also some interesting sections applying probability studies to the sabbatical and jubilee years. Did I also say there were a few equations to work? Try  $279 + X = 300$ .

If your interest is archaeology, then you will find the dating of Jericho's destruction quite useful, and quite in line with archaeological beliefs. Consider the Middle Bronze Age problem solved. The various horizons will now agree with the bible.

The dates of David and Solomon will prove equally useful for Jerusalem archaeology and the expected horizons. In addition, Joseph will be found right in line with the Egyptian Middle Kingdom where they have been saying he belongs all along, and the neat thing is that the accepted Middle Kingdom dates do not have to be revised: the Middle Kingdom Sothic date fits just right.

Amateur Astronomers can use their own software to double check the astronomical synchronisms in given years. Key dates have already been reproduced on two or three different software platforms. I started these calculations before the desktop planetarium was made accessible. For truly ancient dates, one had to rely on tables produced by universities and government institutions such as the Naval Observatory. Also of interest will be the VAT and Saros synchronizations.

If anything, I hope this book increases your appreciation and respect for that book called the Bible. There is none like it on earth, and no other ancient book contains so many numbers. You will see that all these numbers have a completely unified explanation.

Many will be interested in the sections that deal with prophecy. The chart of Daniel 9 (page 210) explains the prediction of Messiah's first coming.<sup>29</sup> The End of Days chart shows how Revelation is an extension of Daniel's prophecies (page 209).

There are sections, tables, figures, and power point slides that deal with the biblical calendar throughout and how it is computed.

One unique feature that prophecy aficionados will discover is that the seven-year tribulation is synchronized with the *historical* Sabbatical and Jubilee cycles.

Why study the past? Why study prophecy? There is a saying that those who are ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it. Nothing is more illustrative of this than the Jubilee cycle and the Kondratieff wave in the following articles. If you are interested in some economic predictions, then see page 77.

If you study chronology, here you will find the *solution* to just about every problem left unsolved by James Ussher, Martin Anstey, David Cooper, Edwin Thiele, E.W. Faulstich, Jack Finegan, or Floyd Jones, and many others. If you want gold, here it is just waiting to be mined.

Did you wonder where all those **390** years in Ezekiel 4:5 should go, or where the **40** years are placed? The **70**-year exile of Judah was based on seventy sabbatical years, which are all located and numbered in the charts.

The sections also contain a complete discussion of historical sabbatical years from the Apocrypha to the Revolt of Bar Kokhba, with an analysis of Zuckermann's and Wacholder's Sabbatical cycles.

Why is this chronology better? There are two types of chronologies for the bible in print. There are the popular versions found in the back of bibles and flip chart books<sup>30</sup> or printed on laminated cards. These are always imprecise approximations, or are based on theories, now obsolete, influenced by redaction critics and modernist higher criticism.

<sup>29</sup> The actual sabbatical cycle is used in the proof, an idea found in *Seder Olam* (252.50), and used in a solution proposed by Robert C. Newman, *Daniel's Seventy Weeks And The Old Testament Sabbath-Year Cycle* (253.87).

<sup>30</sup> Such as *Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Time Lines* (253.103).

Then there are the scholarly chronologies, which were sidelined a century ago by biblical revisionists. However, not one of them comes close to providing a complete series of charts that covers the whole.<sup>31</sup> They are very outdated, and there is much astronomical, archaeological, and historical research to be considered without having to revise or doubt the biblical chronology. This chronology answers the need for a complete, accurate, and thorough in-depth presentation.

This chronology is the most readable also. Other chronologies use line sketches filled in with numbers. For the common person, they are unreadable, and for the scholar considerable effort has to be applied to understand them. Trying to work out the consequences of other's assumptions beyond the boundaries of a limited chart is a headache inducing exercise that often exposes a glaring inconsistency that the author nowhere addresses!

This chronology is the only one *bar none* that quotes in full every relevant chronological text next to its point in the timeline and connects the text to the grid with an arrow. It is the only chronology in print to list every year of every king, and to color code or shade every era and reign for good contrast.

Twenty-seven years went into harmonizing this chronology with all the biblical data, using computerized spreadsheets to try numerous different hypothesis and theories until the right ones were discovered or confirmed.

Chronological theories are like weather. A butterfly that flaps its wings in Beijing causes a hurricane in the Caribbean; A small mistake can have enormous consequences. Yet, when all the data are aligned correctly, the cloudy focus suddenly becomes clear, and the image sharp.

The authors of the bible were concerned about history as much as religion, and because they never sacrificed historical accuracy for religious reasons, it stands to reason that its chronology can be consistently and completely explained.



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<sup>31</sup> *The Romance of Bible Chronology* (Martin Anstey 251.6) comes the closest, but his theory of the Persian Period was incorrect.