“Genesis by the Numbers”

*The Different Worlds*

*of*

*Adam to Abraham*

A Booklet Analysis

by

Marc W. Andersen, Ph.D.

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ABSTRACT

[This analysis](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_76" \o "This booklet focusses mostly on the impact of the different numbering in Genesis 5 & 11. For those unfamiliar with the terms Masoretic or Septuagint, and\/or to review the origins and [other] differences between Masoretic, Septuagint, and other ancient Old testaments, the reader is directed to first read 'The Old Testaments'. ) addresses the impact of the different genealogy numbers for the Patriarchs Adam to Abraham found in Genesis 5 & 11 in the modern Catholic and King James Bible, the so-called “Hebrew Masoretic Text”, completed in 600-900 AD, and the earlier Septuagint [Greek translation] of the Hebrew Bible in 300-200 BC. The Septuagint Old Testament is claimed to be the main bible used in the time of Jesus and in the early Catholic church until the Masoretic text became the preferred source and is also the bible still used by the Eastern Orthodox church. As we will show the difference in the Genesis numbering results in “two” possible periods, one being a “Masoretic” world where events and figures play out in a 2000 BC Mesopotamia, and the other where the flood and Noah’s decedents occur some 1000 years earlier in a 3000 BC world; a ‘first 2000 years’ v. a ‘first 3000 year’ history of Adam to Abraham. In addition to tabular presentation a Chart is provided depicting the two “Septuagint” and “Masoretic” eras alongside extra biblical Mesopotamian history followed by selected topics for a comparative analysis, such as the Flood, Nimrod, and the Tower of Babel. This analysis also addressees the question of whether Abraham co-existed with Noah or Shem or any other of his ancestors. Three answers are provided which differ depending on your bible and faith. In the Judaic interpretation Noah lived with and knew Abraham and would die when Abraham was 58 years old. In the Christian accepted tradition, Noah would die two years before Abram was born thus could not have known his ancestor.

1. THE DIFFERENT NUMBERS IN GENESIS 5 & 11

The Septuagint Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible displays different numbers in Genesis 5 & 11 for the begetting ages of the patriarchs than the numbers found in our current day bibles based on the Masoretic Hebrew Text. In the Masoretic version Adam is 130 years old when he has Seth whereas he is 230 years old in the Septuagint, a difference of 100 years. This “100 year” difference is repeated for another 11 patriarchs in the Septuagint version. Table 1 provides a summary of the different

[numbers](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_48" \o "Other differences between the two versions include the patriarch’s age at death. Finally the Septuagint has an additional Patriach, Cainan , listed which is not present in the Masoretic Text. ) for the 20 patriarchs from Adam to Abraham, along with the year the patriarch was born and died. The years are given in *Anno Mundi* (

[AM](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_87" \o "The Year AM is not an actual date ‘BC’. AM is a relative number and only gives us the years passed from Creation. The bible does not ever provide actual 'Dates' only ‘periods’ we can string together from AM 1. To assign a date to Creation (AM 1) as we will see in our later calculations we need to correlate a biblical event to a verified extra biblical historical date. For a [fictional] example if we found an artifact that documents a battle and the Bible mentions this same battle and that Abraham was 50 at this battle then we know from the bible the battle was 2058 AM (or 2058 years since creation). If we now dated this artifact archeologically to say 3000 BC we can now calculate an actual date for creation which would be: 3000 BC (year BC of artifact when Abram is 50) + 2058 AM (years back to year 0\/1) = Date of Creation = 5058 BC. Note mathematically the relationships: Date of Creation = Date BC + AM or Year AM= Creation Date – Date BC or Date BC = Creation Date – AMThus we need at least two of the three variables to calculate any of the three and right now we have only AM which is years passed since creation thus we know Abraham was born 2008 years after Creation or AM 1.)) meaning “years from Adam” or “years from creation”, thus ‘Masoretic’ Adam is born at the start of creation in AM 0 and has son Seth at age 130 in 130 AM. Seth then has Enosh at age 105 in 235 AM [130+105]. If we continue this process from creation to the birth of Abraham we get

[1948 AM](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_77" \o "Note that two birth years are given for Abram’s birth year, 1948 AM, and 2008 AM. The different results are due to the different ages assigned to Terah when he had Abraham. In Hebrew tradition Terah is age 70 when he has Abraham which is the same year the bible states.  In Christian tradition, for example that which is based on the King James Bible, Terah is assigned an age of 130, resulting in a 60 year difference so we get 2008 AM. Note Noah died in 2006 AM thus the ‘Hebrew’ Abraham born in 1948 AM would have known Noah for 2006-1948=58 years of his life whereas the ‘Christian\/Ussher’ version Noah dies two years before Abraham is born in 2008 AM. More can be found on this topic in the discussion provided later in this booklet. ) for the Masoretic and

[3334 AM](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_3" \o "Or 3334 AM if we use the Terah begetting age of 70. So long as we are consistent in applying his begetting age we get the same difference of 1386 years. ) for the Septuagint numbers, a 1386 year difference between the two bible versions. In the subsequent sections we will illustrate the impacts of these two very different chronologies on the biblical dates for creation as well as the timing of early biblical events and figures.

**Table 1: The Patriarch Chronology in Genesis 5 & 11: Masoretic v. Septuagint**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Patriarch** | **MASORETIC** | **SEPTUAGINT** |
| **Born (AM)** | **Died (AM)** | **Son (Age)** | **Died (Age)** | **Born (AM)** | **Died (AM)** | **Son (Age)** | **Died (Age)** |
| **Adam** | 0 | 930 | 130 | 930 | 0 | 930 | 230 | 930 |
| **Seth** | 130 | 1042 | 105 | 912 | 230 | 1142 | 205 | 912 |
| **Enosh** | 235 | 1140 | 90 | 905 | 435 | 1340 | 190 | 905 |
| **Kenan** | 325 | 1235 | 70 | 910 | 625 | 1535 | 170 | 910 |
| **Mahalalel** | 395 | 1190 | 65 | 895 | 795 | 1690 | 165 | 895 |
| **Jared** | 460 | 1422 | 162 | 962 | 960 | 1922 | 162 | 962 |
| **Enoch** | 622 | 987 | 65 | 365 | 1122 | 1487 | 165 | 365 |
| **Methuselah** | 687 | 1656 | 187 | 969 | 1287 | 2256 | 187 | 969 |
| **Lamech** | 874 | 1651 | 182 | 777 | 1474 | 2227 | 188 | *753* |
| **Noah** | 1056 | 2006 | 502a | 950 | 1662 | 2612 | 5022 | 950 |
| **Flood** | **1656 AM** | **2262 AM** |
| **Shem** | 1558 | 2158 | 100 | 600 | 2164 | 2764 | 100 | 600 |
| **Arphaxad** | 1658 | 2096 | 35 | 438 | 2264 | 2829 | 135 | *565* |
| **Cainanc** | — | — | — | — | 2399 | 2859 | 130 | 460 |
| **Salah** | 1693 | 2126 | 30 | 433 | 2529 | 2989 | 130 | *460* |
| **Eber** | 1723 | 2187 | 34 | 464 | 2659 | 3063 | 134 | *404* |
| **Peleg** | 1757 | 1996 | 30 | 239 | 2793 | 3132 | 130 | *339* |
| **Reu** | 1787 | 2026 | 32 | 239 | 2923 | 3262 | 132 | *339* |
| **Serug** | 1819 | 2049 | 30 | 230 | 3055 | 3385 | 130 | *330* |
| **Nahor** | 1849 | 1997 | 29 | 148 | 3185 | 3489 | 79 | *304* |
| **Terah** | 1878 | 2083 | 70 | 205 | 3264 | 3639 | *70* | 275 |
| 130 |
| **Abraham** | 1948 | 2123 | 100 | 175 | 3334 | 3509 | 100 | 175 |
| 2008d | 2183 | 3394d | 3569 |

a This Table uses a Noah begetting age for Shem of

[502](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_141" \o "5-32: ‘After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth’. We know Noah had three children Shem, Ham, Japheth beginning when was 500 9-24: ‘When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son (Ham) had done to him.’We now know Ham was youngest10-21: ‘Sons were also born to Shem, whose older brother was Japheth; Shem was the ancestor of all the sons of Eber.’We knew Ham was youngest now we know Japheth is oldest making Shem the middle childNote while above is interesting we only need two verses shown below to determine Noah was 502 not 500 when he had Shem:7-6: ‘Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth.’11-10: ‘Two years after the flood, when Shem was 100 years old, he became the father of Arphaxad.’So Noah was 602 two years after the flood when Shem was 100 thefore Noah [must have] had Shem when he was 502. We are not sure of Ham’s exact age in Scripture, but he had to be born after Shem. ) whereas others may use the bible given age of 500.
b Noah is 600 when flood happens. Note the “Septuagint” Methuselah dies 14 years after the flood which can not be true since only Noah and his 3 sons and wives are on the Ark and survive the flood.
c Cainan is not included in the Masoretic text and only appears in the Septuagint version.
d There are two begetting ages in the table for Terah. One is the bible given number age 70 used in Hebrew tradition which results in Abraham being born in 1948 AM. The other is age 130 as originally put forth by Bishop James Ussher which results in Abraham being born 60 years later in 2008 AM and is the date accepted by most Christians and used in the King James Bible.

[Hover Note](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_63" \o "For full discussion see Section 5.2 and Table 2. In short the Masoretic begetting age of Terah as 70 [as written the bible] is the age accepted by Judaism resulting in Abraham being born 1948 AM whereas a different Masoretic age for Terah 130 as put forth originally by James Ussher is the [predominant] interpretation of Christians, Catholics, and Protestants of their Old Testament. As we show later this makes the Creation date for Judaism  60 years different [2008-1948] than that of the Christian calculation which use the 130 year age for Terah. ).

The numbers in the table are in [relative] years calculated from “0” or “creation” in “AM”. In order to illustrate how ancient and current scholars use these genealogies to calculate creation dates in actual calendar “BC” dates we present some example calculations of the process.

1. **A MASORETIC CREATION DATE c. 4000 BC**

In this section we provide example calculations for the date of creation using Masoretic Genesis 5 & 11 numbering. The first example is based on the method used by Bishop James Ussher resulting in a creation date of 4004 BC, the date adopted in the King James Bible. The second example is based upon the date from the Hebrew calendar resulting in a creation date of 3761 BC, the date accepted in Judaic tradition.

* 1. The James Ussher Creation Date of 4004 BC

The date of Creation of

[4004 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_2" \o "Actually he calculated to the year and day and time as it is written: '4004 BC: Sunday, October 23, in the middle of which God created light. The first day of creation started at 6 pm the evening before. 'And there was evening and there was morning, the first day' (Gen. 1:5b, English Standard Version).) as detailed in

[Annales](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_91" \o "What has made his [Annales and resulting date] work so enduring is that Ussher was ‘no man of one book’ rather was broadly educated. James Barr, MA, DD summarizes his contribution best in his 'Why the World was Created in 4004 B.C. Archbishop Ussher and Biblical Chronology'. 'His [Ussher’s] work actually includes more Persian, Greek, and Roman history than bible events. It is a great mistake [therefore] to assume Ussher’s sole focus was working out the date of creation as this was only one point in a scheme of many where the bible touches outside history. Of its total volume only about one sixth or less is actual biblical material'. What follows is a high level presentation to illustrate the main conclusions of Ussher’s detailed chronicles and use of his assigned historical dates. The interested reader should read the actual ‘Annales’. )by James Ussher in the late 16th century and his assumptions leading to this date remains as the accepted date by Catholics, Western Christians, Protestants, and as the date used in The King James Bible. To arrive at Ussher’s number of 4004 BC we begin as others before him with the begetting ages from Genesis 5 & 11 we showed in Table 1 [Masoretic text] to count the years from Creation (Adam) to the birth of Abraham resulting in

[2008 AM](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_43" \o "Per James Ussher Terah was 130 not age 70 when he had Abram which gives us 2008 AM. Judaism accepts the bible value given of 70 as the age when Terah has Abram resulting in 1948 AM a difference of 60 years. Note also this Table uses begetting age of 502 for Shem whereas Ussher used age 500 in the bible which is 2006 AM instead of 2008 AM or we sometimes see 2007 AM since Ussher and others start in AM 1 instead of AM 0 as our table 1 does.). To proceed further Ussher then applies Exodus 12:40 which states “…the [total time] the Israelites had lived in Egypt [

[and Canaan](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_61" \o "The Samaritan Pentateuch and the Septuagint add the words 'and Canaan' after Egypt and Ussher in this case prefers to use their wording where the verse now reads 'the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt and Canaan was 430 years.' ) ] was four hundred and thirty years” which Ussher interprets as beginning in the year Abraham arrived in Canaan at age 75 [from Haran]. The next bible clue Ussher uses comes from Kgs. 6:1, 37; 2 Chr. 3:2 which states “480 years pass between [the] Exodus and the [first] year of

[Solomon’s Temple](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_6" \o "Solomon's Temple, the First Temple, believed to have existed between the 10th and 6th centuries BC. Most scholars agree that a temple had existed in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount until being destroyed during the Siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar II of the Neo-Babylonian Empire in 587 BC. Aside from the biblical claims, the identity of its builder and its construction date are strongly debated. Religious and political sensitivities preclude archaeological excavations. Per midrash, Seder Olam Rabbah [140-160 AD], the First Temple stood 410 years, was constructed in 832 BC, and destroyed in 422 BC (3338 AM) 165 years later than secular estimates. The Jewish historian Josephus says; 'the temple was burnt 470 years after it was built' and 'Solomon began to build the temple in the fourth year of his reign, 592 years after the exodus out of Egypt, 1020 years from Abraham's coming out of Mesopotamia into Canaan, 1440 years after the deluge, and 3000 years from Adam.). While this gets us the total Years from Creation to Solomon’s Temple =

[2993 years or “in the year 2993 AM](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_45" \o "Ussher also notes here it is another thousand years from the completion of the Solomon’s Temple to the coming Christ [0 BC\/1 AM] thus again the 4000 year creation chronology.)” it does not provide us with any dates in BC.Ussher does this by assigning that construction of Solomon’s temple began in

[1012 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_49" \o "Note the bible can only provide the total years since creation or 'AM' and in order to convert AM value to an actual historical date BC one needs to assign a historical date to a biblical event. As we previously covered in the hover note for Solomon's Temple while no conclusive archaeology exists that can correlate Solomon and his temple to a universally accepted date, Ussher works backwards and forward in time to ensure correlations with past and future events supporting his chosen date. Ussher uses history all the way to 70 AD to correlate biblical events. In the end through all his touches to history through 2nd Temple period, Alexander, and the Romans tend to lock in and assure the earlier Solomon Temple date. Note however the Hebrews will assign the year 832 BC [instead of Ussher 1012 BC] for the temple which as we will show results in a shift of some 180 years for their proposed creation date.). This actual date now combined with the total elapsed years give us his date of creation 4004 BC as shown below:

Adam to Abraham Birth ► 2008 AM
Abraham enters Canaan age 75 ► + 75
Time Hebrews in Canaan & Egypt ► + 430
Time from Exodus to Solomon’s Temple ► + 480
Total Years from AM 1 (Creation) to Solomon’s Temple ►

[2993 AM](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_45" \o "Ussher also notes here it is another thousand years from the completion of the Solomon’s Temple to the coming Christ [0 BC\/1 AM] thus again the 4000 year creation chronology.)

Solomon’s Temple Started ► *1012 BC*

Date Creation (Ussher) ►

[4004 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_4" \o "NOTE:  My math above gives us 4005. James Ussher in his Annales assigns Abraham’s birth as 2007 AM which would get us to the correct year I am just not sure how he arrives at this number.  I do use Hebrew accepted age of Noah as 500 whereas ussher uses 502 but that is a two year difference. Perhpas it is a BC\/AM correction of 1 year. In any event I am using his number!)

Other Christian proposed dates of creation based on the *Masoretic* Genesis 5 & 11 numbering from famous scholars, philosophers, historians, and scientists, from the 10th to 18th century include, Isaac Newton (3998 BC), Johannes Kepler (April 27, 3977 BC), Martin Luther (3961 BC) plus many more not listed here.

* 1. The Hebrew Creation Date of 3761 BC

While the Hebrew calculation uses the same [Masoretic Text] source numbers in Table 1 for Adam to Abraham Hebrew tradition places creation at 3761 BC versus the more accepted Christian date from Ussher of 4004 BC. The difference can be accounted for by the different assumptions used in Judaism v. Christian/Ussher.

* Rabbinic Judaism assigns the First temple date as 832 BC instead of 1012 BC used by Ussher ►180 years
* Ussher chooses 130 for Terah’s begetting of Abraham and Jewish tradition uses age 70 ► 60 years difference.
* The Jews interpret Ex. 12:40-41 430 years to start when Abraham left Ur at age 70 not when he left Haran for Canaan at age 75 ► 5 years difference.

These ‘some’ 245 years differences are shown below using Ussher’s numbers for comparison.

Creation to Abraham Birth ► ~~2008 AM~~

[1948 AM](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_41" \o "60 year difference- Judaic tradition uses the biblical given number of 70 as Terah's begetting when he has Abram in 1948 AM instead of Ussher who assigned instead the age 130 when Terah had Abram resulting in 2008 AM.)
Abraham Leaves ~~Haran~~ Ur at age ~~75~~ 70 ► + 70
Exodus is 430 years after Abraham leaves Haran ► + 430
Exodus to Solomon’s Temple ► + 480
Total Years from Creation to Solomon’s Temple ►

[2928 AM](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_45" \o "Ussher also notes here it is another thousand years from the completion of the Solomon’s Temple to the coming Christ [0 BC\/1 AM] thus again the 4000 year creation chronology.)

Solomon’s Temple Built ► ~~1012 BC~~ 832 BC

Creation (Ussher) ► 3761 BC\*

\*NOTE: My math gives me

[3760 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_52" \o "The math gives 3760 but the official hebrew date is 3761 BC not 3760 BC. Must have to do with Hebrew calendar counting. If I put 3760 BC into an online calendar I get -1\/0 AM. If I put  3761 BC I get 0\/1 AM. ) but the most common Judaic date I find is 3761 AM.

*Creation dates using the Hebrew Masoretic Text [Genesis 5 & 11 ages shown in Table 1] tend to center on c. 4000 BC.*

1. **A SEPTUAGINT CREATION DATE c. 5500 BC**

As Table 1 shows the Septuagint Genesis 5 &11 chronology of Adam to Abraham is 3334 AM versus 1948 AM for the Masoretic, a difference of 1386 years. If we use similar assumptions as those in our Masoretic creation date calculations, and replace 1948 AM in the calculation with 3394 AM, we might expect a Septuagint creation date of

[5390 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_8" \o "Note we could have just as easily used the Hebrew creation date of 3761 BC + 1386=5147 BC.) [1386 + 4004]. In reality we find most of the scholarly [Septuagint-based] dates center on c. 5500 BC.

Other proposed Christian dates of creation based on the *Septuagint bible numbering* from famous scholars, philosophers, historians, and scientists, from the 10th to 18th century include; Clement of Alexandria (5592 BC), Theophilus of Antioch (5529 BC), Sextus Julius Africanus (5501 BC), Hippolytus of Rome (5500 BC), Panodorus of Alexandria (5493 BC), Maximus the Confessor (5493 BC), George Syncellus (5492 BC), Sulpicius Severus (5469 BC), Isidore of Seville (5336 BC) and Gregory of Tours (5200 BC). The Byzantine calendar has traditionally dated the creation of the world to September 1, 5509 BC.

*Creation dates using the Septuagint [Genesis 5 & 11 chronology shown in Table 1] tend to center on c. 5500 BC.*

[Figure 1](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_99" \o " In the example shown we assume a 4000 BC Masoretic-like creation date. To convert the Table 1 1656 AM flood date to an actual BC flood date we subtract it from the creation date, 4000 BC - 1656 AM = 2344 BC Masoretic flood date. For the Septuagint case using same approach we get 5500 BC – 2262 AM = 3238 BC Septuagint flood date, a difference of 894 years [3238-2344]. Note however if we use instead the Hebrew creation date of 3761 BC [instead of 4000 BC] we get 3761 BC – 1656 AM = 2105 BC Masoretic flood date which is now an 1,100 year difference from the septuagint case [3238 BC v. 2105 BC]. No matter how we calculate we see the difference is c. 900-1100 years between the two versions. ) below provides a pictorial comparison of a ‘

[typical’](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_59" \o "For our illustratuive purpose here we arbitrarily chose to use a Hebrew based date of 3761 BC. The Ussher date of 4004 shrinks the 292 year differecne betwwen Abraham's birth making the Septuagint and masoretic Abram birth dates closer in time [Ussher ) Masoretic “4000 BC” and Septuagint “5500 BC” showing both “BC” and “AM” values. For our illustrative purpose we arbitrarily chose to use a Hebrew based date of 3761 BC. The main take-away from the chart is:

*The Septuagint 3238 BC flood and post- flood timeline for Noah to Abraham occurs in c. 3000 BC whereas the Masoretic*

*[2105 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_142" \o " The Ussher flood date would be instead 4004 BC – 1656 AM (flood date) = 2348 BC.) flood and post-flood chronology would occur some 1000 years later in a c. 2000 BC Mesopotamia.*

Figure 1: Creation Timelines: *Masoretic v. Septuagint*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Creation  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Flood | Abraham |
|  |  |  |  | Adam to Noah (10 Patriarchs) |  |  | 3761 BC |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2105 BC |  | **1813 BC** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **↓** |  |  |  | Masoretic Timeline |  |  |  | **↓** |  |  |  | **↓** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Noah to Shem (10 Patriarchs) |  |  |  |  | 1656 Years |  |  | 292 Years |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **↑** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **↑** |  |  |  |  | **↑** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **0 AM** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **1656 AM** |  |  | **1948 AM** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **5500 BC** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **3238 BC** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **2166 BC** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **↓** |  |  |  | Septuagint Timeline |  |  |  | **↓** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **↓** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 2262 years |  |  | 1072 Years | ←353 Years→ |  |  |
|  |  | **↑** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **↑** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **↑** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0 AM |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2262 AM |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3334 AM |  |  |  |  |  |
| Creation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Flood |  |  |  |  |  |  | Abraham |  |  |  |  |

* 1. **Which is the Original Version of Genesis 5 & 11?**

Up until now we have not addressed the obvious question of “which” of the two versions of Genesis 5 & 11 is most likely the “original” or “correct” one. If the Septuagint [bible translation] predates the Masoretic text by almost a thousand years *why* do we [mostly] follow the Masoretic derived numbers of ‘4000 BC’ for creation and not the Septuagint version of ‘5500 BC’? In his article “The Case for the Septuagint’s Chronology in Genesis 5 and 11”, Henry B. Smith Jr. makes a very compelling case for the Septuagint text as being the “original” authentic version. Using ancient scholars and their work as proof Smith provides compelling evidence that the proto [pre] Masoretic version used to translate into the Septuagint did in fact contain the longer Septuagint-like chronology.

[Josephus](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_71" \o "Josephus’ [37-100 AD] quotes seem to match the Septuagint version not Masoretic suggesting the Hebrew bible he was using at this time in history matched a Septuagint chronology. He uses the number 27 as the day of the month when the Ark came to rest and the time period of 2656 years from Adam: ‘Now he says that this flood began on the 27th day of the aforementioned month; and this was 2656 years from Adam’ (Josephus, Antiquities 1.81-82). The Masoretic text states in the same 3 verses uses the 7th [not 27th] and the years from Adam to flood using Table 1 is 1656 years and the Septuagint timer period given in Table 1 from Adam to the flood is 2262 years. NOTE: While this number of total years may be closer to LXX than MT the 2656-2262 = 362 year difference from Adam to Noah for 10 patriarchs indicate Josephus clealry was not using the 'exact' same Septuagint  we showed in Table 1].  ) (90 AD), Demetrius (220 BC), Eupolemus (160 BC), Pseudo-Philo’s Liber Antiquitatum Biblicarum (1st century AD), all list the longer Septuagint-like 5500 year creation date [versus Masoretic 4000 years] suggesting that the versions they were reading must have had the longer [+1386 year] Adam to Abraham chronology. He adds that Josephus’ calculations also match Septuagint-like dating and that Josephus read Hebrew and would have had [and provides evidence he did have] a Hebrew copy of the bible he was working from. All these arguments support that the early pre-Masoretic Hebrew bible [

[may have](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_79" \o "While Smith and others  helped popularize the concept that the pre-Masoretic Hebrew bible scrolls may have had the Septuagint Genesis 5 & 11 numbering for the patriarchs and thus the Septuagint is the original and correct version of the Hebrew bible, the prevailing opinion of scholars appears to support the claim that the current day Masoretic Hebrew text is the accurate version and thus also reflects the ancient [pre] Masoretic versions. Rather than engage ad nauseum in the arguments on either side of this my focus here is instead to accept the fact that two versions already exist and compare them both versus biblical and extra biblical history. Note for example the Dead Sea scrolls, dating from 100 BC to 70 AD, thus pre-dating the Masoretic Hebrew version by some 800 years, would have nicely resolved this issue however while many ancient copies of Genesis were found, none were in good enough condition to decipher the numbers in Chapters 5 & 11 to see if these ancient versions matched the Septuagint or [current day] Masoretic Hebrew version.) ] been closer to the Septuagint than Masoretic chronology thus making the Septuagint Genesis 5 & 11 numbers [or

[similar](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_30" \o "It is beyond the scope here to discuss the collective Old testament bibles and further nuances in the numbers. The Samaritan Pentateuch is an ancient source as well and older than the Masoretic text and while it shares the longer chronology shows different numbers than the Septuagint. The interested reader is directed to Smith’s work on the topic previously referenced. Suffice to say we may never know exactly 'which' numbers are the ‘original’. As we discuss later in the Dead Sea Scrolls summary a newer theory [based on all the copies of individual chapters found in DSS and their differences] that it is possible many copies were in existence at the same time and it was not until the standardization of the text by the Masoretes and later the ability to mass print copies for the public that the numbered were ‘fixed’, correct or not. ) numbers] the correct and “original” numbers.

* 1. **A 1000 years is a big difference**

Our working hypothesis is that two possible realities exist for the early events and biblical figures which differ by about a

[1000 years](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_44" \o "Note that the actual difference between Masoretic and Septuagint chronologies is greatest at the start of creation then the gap slowly closes. In our chart below we chose to use the Hebrew creation date of 3761 BC. If we instead used Ussher we would see some ‘4000-3761=240 years ‘less’ of a difference at the onset. By the time we get to Abraham the gap is 353 years most of this is reflected in the initial 270 year difference between the Hebrew 3761 BC and Ussher 4000 BC assigned dates thus if we instead chose Ussher date as creation by Abraham we have only an 83 difference [353-270] between Masoretic and Septuagint chronologies. In short it is just the earlier years say of Noah, Shem, Nimrod that the difference in time and thus the analysis is warranted. ) resulting in a “3000 BC” “Septuagint” versus a “2000 BC” Masoretic world. Most historians largely agree that by 2000 BC great city-states existed in Mesopotamia such as the Akadian Sargon I empire, whereas a thousand years prior the region was mostly decentralized cities under Sumer control. The very first “

[recorde](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_18" \o "meaning 'historical' king as opposed to mythological kings where not evidence exists )d“ king of a united Sumer

[Etana of Kish](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_51" \o "Legendary King of Kish who reigned after the Mesopotamian flood [not to be confused with Noah's flood.) appeared in 2800 BC. Writing is said to have first emerged in Mesopotamia in c. 3400–3100 BC and Egypt in c. 3250 BC. The great pyramids were not built until about 2600 BC. A ‘Septuagint’ flood in

[3238 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_5" \o "The reader can begin referring to thecolored Chart data shown below.) therefore would come ‘before’ recorded and verifiable history and pyramids whereas a ‘Masoretic’ flood in

[2105 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_11" \o "This is the hebrew Judaic tradtional date. The Christian James Ussher date is 2348 BC.) would take place in a world after the pyramids and ‘during’ recorded history and reigns of kings. The same metrics apply to Noah and his sons and ancestors. They

[either](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_86" \o "A quick look at the chart shows the age born and lived in both potential ‘S’ or ‘M’ worlds for Noah, his sons Shem, Ham, Japheth. Note Ham's son Cush and his sons Nimrod and Mizraim go on to found Egypt and cities in Mesopotamia like Babel and Akkad [Uruk] respectively) lived in a ‘2000 BC’ or a ‘3000 BC’ world, not both. In short:

*The different Septuagint and Masoretic Genesis Chapter 5 & 11 numbers result in two different periods for the lives of Noah to Abraham and associated biblical events, one centered on c. 2000 BC, where writing and history was established, the other in c. 3000 BC Mesopotamia, when much less is known or can be proven.*

In the next section we provide an interactive “Chart” depicting the two ‘parallel’ realities for the Septuagint and Masoretic versions for creation, the flood, the Tower of Babel, and the lives of the Patriarchs, along with contemporaneous extra biblical history and archeological periods local to Mesopotamia where the bible events take place. Following the chart, and within the chart in form of hover notes, we provide analyses of a Septuagint or Masoretic chronology.

1. **CHART OF ADAM TO ABRAHAM- THE MASORTEIC & SEPTUAGINT WORLDS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Event**  | [Masoretic Text](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_140" \o "For the Masoretic creation date, I initially chose 4004 BC that of James Ussher but as discussed under ‘Nimrod’ Ussher’s linking of the Tower of Babel to Peleg’s era would cause one to reject Judaic tradition and the Book of Jasher and Syriac Cave of Treasures so I thusly chose the Hebrew version as it provided the most substantiation, albite not ‘scripture’ or ‘canon’ rather apocrypha and pseudepigrapha sources. At any time in the below chronology, we can consider instead of the given Hebrew Masoretic date an Ussher date by simply adjusting the date back in time by 244 years [4004-3761]. For the Septuagint a minimum of ± 300 years seems a likely error margin.) **a** | [Septuagint LXX](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_16" \o "To my knowledge there are no well vetted broadly accepted detailed accounts of a Septuagint creation chronology similar to James Ussher’s 4004 BC ‘Annales’ or the Hebrew calendar 3761 BC so I chose the more commonly reported number of 5500 years as the Septuagint anchor date. )  |
| **Creation** | 3761 BC | 5500 BC |
| **Flood** | 2105 BC | 3238 BC |
| **Tower Babel** | 1765 BC | 2707 BC |

aDating in BC secular year taken from [www.Chabad.org](http://www.Chabad.org) which agrees with AM dating provided in Table 1, Abraham born 1948 AM.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **[MESOPOTAMIA](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_32" \o "Except for the periods that are named after city states, the periods are archeological periods based on findings in pottery and other and layers not based on city states.)** | [CITY-STATE](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_26" \o "Sumer is the earliest known civilization located in southern Mesopotamia (south Iraq). Pre-deluge Eridu and Shuruppak=Sumerian Noah were the oldest. The Sumerians established the first city-states such as Ur and Uruk. Reliable historical\/legendary records begin with Enmebaragesi ‘King of Kish’ (2900-2600 BC) the first to rule after deluge. The Epic of Gilgamesh originates from this period. Like Elam it is one of the cradles of civilization along with Egypt. Living along the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers Sumerian farmers grew grain a surplus which enabled them to form urban settlements and begin trade and leisure ‘culture’ activities. Sumerians [and later Akkadians] referred to themselves as ‘Black-Headed People’. Sumerian civilization took it’s first form in the Uruk period.  Sargon the Great conquered the Sumerian city-states and established the first Akkadian Empire around 2270 BC.) | **BC** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **5500** | **Creation** |  | [Adam](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_36" \o "The Bible uses the word adam  as ‘mankind’, in the first creation narrative Genesis 1:27, a ‘man’ then in second version Genesis 2:7 it is gender nonspecific ‘man and woman’, Genesis 5:1–2, and male Genesis 2:23–24. God took dust from all four corners of the earth (red for the blood, black for the bowels, white for the bones and veins, and green for the pale skin), created Adam. In Islam it explains why the peoples of the world are of different colors. The Archangel Michael attended Adam's death, together with Eve and his son Seth, still living at that time, and he was buried together with his murdered son Abel. Interesting note that the name Eve appears in the bible before Adam.)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **5400** |  **5500 BC** |  | 5500 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [UBAID](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_34" \o "The Ubaid period (c. 5500–3700 BC) is a prehistoric period of Mesopotamia. The name derives from Tell al-'Ubaid where the earliest large excavation of Ubaid period material was conducted initially in 1919 by Henry Hall and later by Leonard Woolley. In the south it has a very long duration between about 5500 and 3800 BC then replaced by the Uruk period. In Northern Mesopotamia the period runs only between about 5300 and 4300 BC. During the late Ubaid period around 4500–4000 BC, there was some increase in social polarization with central houses in the settlements becoming bigger but there were no real cities until the later Uruk period. There is some evidence of warfare during the Ubaid period although it is extremely rare. ) |  | **5300** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 230 | [Seth](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_92" \o "Seth was born when Adam was 230 (LXX) or 130 (MT) years old and is the son of Adam. Seth is the father of Enosh who he had along with ‘many sons and daughters’, according to Aggadah, 33 sons and 23 daughters, grandfather of Kenan, and grandson of God. Seth had brothers Abel and Cain. Seth married unknown and died at age 912. Eve believed Seth to be a replacement for Abel who Cain killed. Islam, Judaism, Christianity trace mankind back to Seth since Abel left no heirs and Cain's heirs were destroyed by the Great Flood. Eve alluded to the Messiah, who would descend from Seth through Ruth the Moabite (Gen. R. 23. 7). Islamic literature holds that Adam appointed Seth as guide to his people and holds wisdom; knowledge of time, prophecy of the future Great Flood. Some traditions locate Seth's tomb in the village of Al-Nabi Shayth (lit. ‘The Prophet Seth’) in the mountains above the Beqaa Valley in Lebanon, where there is a mosque named after him. )  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **[Eridu](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_33" \o "Eridu is known as one of the oldest cities in the world and listed as first in the Sumerian Kings List (SKL) dated to c. 5400 BC in southern Mesopotamia=Sumer=Babylonia=close to the Persian Gulf and mouth of the Euphrates River and is still known today. Eridu was home of temple of Enki, god of deep waters. Inanna went to Eridu to get Enki to switch power over to her in Uruk. Some have proposed Eridu and the incomplete ziggurat found is the Biblical tower itself. Occupation increased in the Early Dynastic period with a monumental 100 meter by 100 meter palace being constructed. An inscription of Elulu, a ruler of the 1st Dynasty of Ur (c. 2600 BC) was found at Eridu.] On a statue of Early Dynastic ruler of Lagash, Enmetena (c. 2400 BC), it reads ... he built Ab-zupasira for Enki, king of Eridu ...Eridu was active during the Ur III dynasty. Ur-Nammu from his ziggurat marked Ur-Nammu, king of Ur, the one who built the temple of the god Enki in Eridu. Three Ur III rulers used Names based on priests of the temple of Enki in Eridu. )**  | **5200** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5270 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **5100** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 205 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **5000** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | [Enosh](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_101" \o "Enosh or Enos was born when Seth was 205 (LXX) or 105 (MT) years old. Enosh is the son of Seth and father of Kenan who he had along with ‘many sons and daughters’, grandfather of Kenan, and grandson of Adam. Enosh had a sister named No’am who he married. Enosh died at age 905 when Noah was aged 84. According to Christianity, Enosh is part of the genealogy of Jesus. Islamic historians include Enos in the genealogy of Muhammad. ‘During the times of Enos, mankind made a great mistake’ interpreted as possible idol worshiping of the sun and stars.)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **4900** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5065 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **4800** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 190 | [Kenan](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_102" \o "Kenan is the son of Enosh, the father of Jared who he had along with ‘many sons and daughters’, the grandfather of Jared, and grandson of Seth. Kenan married unknown and died at age 910. Kenan is also mentioned in the Genealogy of Jesus.)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **4700** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4075 | [Mahalalel](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_83" \o "Mahalalel is the son of Kenan, the father of Jared who he had at 65 along with ‘many sons and daughters’, grandfather of Enoch, and grandson of Enosh. Mahalel married Dinah, the daughter of his paternal uncle Barakiel, when he was aged 54-60. Mahalalel died at age 895 when Noah was aged 234. The period of Mahalelel is when the Watchers ‘descended on the earth’ (Watchers or 'messengers' were fallen angels who bred with Humans daughters and spawned Nephilim giants and are covered later). At the age of 227, he became a grandfather to Jared's son Enoch (Genesis 5:18), who was born through Baraka, the daughter of Mahalalel's brother Râsûjâl (Jubilees 4:16). )  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **4600** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 930 |  |  | 170 | 4705 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **4500** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 165 | [Jared](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_103" \o "Jared is the son of Mehalalel, the father of Enoch who he had along with ‘many sons and daughters’, grandfather of Methuselah, and grandson of Kenan. Jared married Bereka, Baraka, and Barakah. Jared died at age 962 making Jared the second-oldest person mentioned in the Hebrew Bible and the Septuagint. In terms of the documentary hypothesis, the passage about the descendants of Adam (Genesis 5:1-32) is attributed to the Priestly ‘P’ source. A parallel passage (Genesis 4:17-22) which contains a genealogy of the descendants of Cain, is attributed to the Jahwist or ‘J’ author, another ancient version of the same original genealogy. The two genealogies contain seven similar names, and the Jahwist's version of the genealogy has Irad in the place of Jared.)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **4400** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 912 |  |  |  | 4540 | [Enoch](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_104" \o "Enoch is the son of Jared, father of Methuselah, who he with 'many other sons and daughters', grandfather of Lamech, grandson of Mahalalel.  Enoch married unknown and did not 'die' as all other patriarchs rather at the age 365 Enoch 'walked with God: and he was no more; for God took him' or is said to 'not see death' (Hebrews 11:5). Enoch is the subject of much extra biblical sources. Enmeduranki was an ancient Sumerian pre-dynastic king some consider a Mesopotamian model for Enoch: Both appear as the seventh- Sumerian King List and patriarchs in Genesis. Both of them were also said to have been taken up into heaven. Sippar, the city of Enmeduranki, is associated with sun worship, while the 365 years that Enoch's age 365 may be linked to the number of days in the solar calendar. In the Catholic Church, Eastern and Oriental Orthodoxy, Enoch is venerated as a saint. In Islam, Enoch is identified as a prophet.)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **4300** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 162 | 4370 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **4200** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 905 |  |  |  | 165 | [Methuselah](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_105" \o "Methuselah is the son of Enoch and the father of Lamech. He was grandfather of Noah and grandson of Jared. Methuselah married Edna. Methuselah died at age 969 the longest living person in the bible. The 17th century midrashic Sefer haYashar (‘Book of Jasher’) describes Methuselah with his grandson Noah (600 years old) attempting to persuade the people of the earth to return to godliness. Methuselah is also mentioned in Islam which say he was an ancestor of Noah. Furthermore, early Islamic writers always included his name in the genealogy of Muhammad. Some versions of the Sumerian King List mention a character named Ubara-Tutu who seems almost identical to Methuselah. He was the son of En-men-dur-ana, a Sumerian mythological figure often compared to Enoch- see Enoch- as he entered heaven without dying. Although the ages of Methuselah and Ubara-Tutu are different they both died in a Great Flood.  )  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **4100** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4213 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [URUCK](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_67" \o "Uruck Period 4000-2900 named after city biblical Erech, ‘second city of Nimrod’ or Asshur gave rise to name ‘Iraq’. Inanna -ancient Sumerian goddess of love, sensuality, fertility tricked her father and switched seat of power from Eridu to Uruck. Eridu more rural but Uruck was the first ‘city’ in world. By 3800 BC was political ‘center’ south later moved to Kish then Ur. Located in south 58 miles northwest of Ur \/ edge Persian Gulf along Euphrates. Founded by Enmerkar 3400-2900 BC and center of life and action in the Gilgamesh epic who built walls and defeated Kish. Gilgamesh was the rival of King Enmebaragesi and his son Aga [of Kish] dated to 2900-2700 BC by archelogy. Uruck is the origin of [cuneiform] writing. First ziggurat ‘Anu’ later built over by White Temple ziggurat. By the final phase of the Uruk period around 3100 BC may have had 40,000 residents. In myth the deluge ended the Uruk period and by 2900 BC Uruck was under control from Kish then later Ur. ) | [Uruk 0](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_68" \o "Archeologists discovered multiple cities of Uruk built atop each from the Eridu period c. 5000 BC ‘founding’ to 3400–3100 BC. The city had administrative Eanna and priestly Anu district dedicated to sky god Anu. The rest of the city was courtyard houses penetrated by a canal system described as ‘Venice in the desert’. Sometime in 3100-2900 BC the massive White Temple was built atop an existing ‘mound’ which was the old temple. Also known as 'Ur-Nammu Ziggurat' for its re-builder c. 2000 BC. The architecture of Eanna in 3100-2900 BC was very different from previous corresponding to Early Dynastic period, a time of great social upheaval when the dominance of Uruk was eclipsed by competing city-states. The fortress-like architecture is a reflection of that turmoil. Not until c. 3400 BC do we have writing, cuniform tablets, first kings, Enmerkar. The 'Temple\" in this period was likely a stone building not reaching prominance until later White temple phase in c. 3100 BC. The 'walls of uruk' built by Gilgamesh come later c. 2600 BC- see Uruk I.)  | **4000** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 910 | 895 |  | 365 | 187 | [Lamech](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_106" \o "Lamech is the son of Methuselah, the father of Noah who he had along with ‘many sons and daughters’, and grandson of Enoch. Lamech married unknown and died at age 777. Lamech also mentioned in Islam in the various collections of tales of the prophets who preceded Muhammad, which mentions him in an identical manner. And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed. Very little information besides this is provided for the father of Noah.)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | [Kish 0](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_70" \o "Kish near modern Tell al-Uhaymir is an important archaeological site 12 km (7.5 mi) east of ancient Babylon. Occupied from the Ubaid period c.5300–4300 BC did not gain prominence as a power until the Early Dynastic Period c. 2900 BC. Some identified Kish as the earliest East Semitic culture however the concept has been challenged. Of the 21 kings listed in the SKL Enmebaragesi is the first confirmed by archaeological finds est. 2900-2600 BC. He is also known through literary content where he and his son Aga of Kish are portrayed as contemporary rivals of Dumuzid and Gilgamesh, early rulers of Uruk c. 2600 BC- See Ur I and Uruk I. After its early supremacy, Kish declined but retained a strong political and symbolic significance as far west as Ebla near the Mediterranean Sea. Just as with Nippur to the south, control of Kish was key to dominance over the north of Mesopotamia. Because of the city's symbolic value rulers later claimed title ‘King of Kish’ even if they were from Akkad, Ur, Assyria, Isin, Larsa or Babylon. )  | **3900** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4026 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | [Ur 0](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_69" \o "Ur an important Sumerian city-state in ancient Mesopotamia, located at the site of modern Tell el-Muqayyar. Ur was once a coastal city near the mouth of the Euphrates on the Persian Gulf, the coastline has shifted and the city is now well inland. The city dates from the Ubaid period circa 3800 BC and is recorded in written history as a city-state 2500-2600 Bc era. The city's patron deity was Nanna (in Akkadian, Sin), the Sumerian and Akkadian moon god, and the name of the city is in origin derived from the god's name, UNUGKI, literally ‘the abode (UNUG) of Nanna’. The site is marked by the partially restored ruins of the Ziggurat of Ur built in c. 2100 BC during the reign of Ur-Nammu. While it may have been founded early in Uruk period no significance history or architecture is described in modern literature until Early Dynastic period- see Ur I.)  | **3800** | **[Creation](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_139" \o "This is the Judaic traditionally accepted date for creation of 3761 BC different than the Christian date of 4004 BC based on Bishop James Ussher- see main body discussion. )** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 188 | [Noah](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_107" \o "Noah is the son of Lamech and father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, who he had along with no other sons and daughters. Noah was the grandson of Methuselah and died at age 950. Noah is best known for the Genesis flood event where God returns Earth to its pre-Creation flooded state because of man’s misdeeds. The Ark contained Noah, his wife Naama, his three sons and wives, and animals to repopulate the earth. The event parallels Mesopotamian Epic of (King) Gilgamesh of approximately 2700 BC. The (Hurrian) Gilgamesh tale follows ‘point by point and in the same order’ and from the same area Abraham had his roots. The discovery of artifacts has lent credibility to the existence of Gilgamesh. Noah has been compared to Greek Deucalion who is warned of flood by Zeus and Poseidon, builds an ark with creatures, and (also) sends a pigeon out that returns with an olive branch. Noah's three sons are the founders of three known continents; Japheth (Europe), Shem (Israel\/Asia), and Ham (Canaan\/Africa). )  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **[Nippur](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_81" \o "Nippur, located about 96 KM southeast of ancient Babylon, was an important religious city being the  seat of the Sumerian god Enlil, the ‘Lord Wind’, ruler of the cosmos. Occupation at the site extended back to the Ubaid, Uruk, and the Jemdet Nasr period. Nippur never enjoyed political hegemony in its own right but its control was crucial as it conferred overall ‘kingship’ from other city-states. Enmebaragesi c. 2900-2600 BC, early ruler of Kish, verified by archeology, was the first to build up this temple. Also associated with Nippur is Aga of Kish, Gilgamesh of Uruk, and much later Ur-Nammu of Ur III. Inscriptions of Lugal-Zage-Si and Lugal-kigub-nidudu, kings of Uruk and Ur respectively, and other rulers, on door-sockets and stone vases, show the veneration in which the ancient shrine was then held. Nippur was conquered by the rulers of Akkad who retained it as a religious sanctuary. With later Hammurabi the religious as well as the political center of influence was transferred to Babylon.)** | **3700** |  **3761 BC** |  | 3761 |  |  |  |  |  | 3838 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **3600** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 130 | 3631 |  |  |  | 962 |  |  |  | 502 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **3500** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 105 | 3526 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **3400** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 90 | 3436 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **[Bad-tibira](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_135" \o "Bad-tibira in Sumer is the 2nd antediluvian [pre-flood] city after Eridu in Sumer in SKL. The kings were En-men-lu-ana, En-men-gal-ana and Dumuzid. Goddess Inanna dissuaded demons from the netherworld from taking Lulal, patron of Bad-tibira, who was living in squalor. )** | **3300** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 70 | 3366 |  |  |  |  |  | [Shem](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_108" \o "Shem is the son of Noah and the father of Arphaxad who he had along with Elam, Ashur, Lud and Aram and ‘many sons and daughters’. Shem is grandson of Lamech. Shem had brothers Ham and Japheth who all together make up the table of nations-see separate discussion ’70 nations’ in link section at top of page. Ham begot Cush and Cush Nimrod. See also here in this chart separate bars for Ham-Cush-Nimrod in both LXX and MT chrononology. Shem married unknown and died at age 600.  Shem would be the eldest son based on sequence but in Rabbinical Literature he is the youngest and listed first as being the most important. The Rabbis identify Shem with Melchizedek, King of Salem who came to meet Abraham after the latter had defeated the four kings led by Chedorlaomer (see Gen. xiv)-see ‘Battle of Siddim’ discussion in Chapter 14. According to Midrash Shem with Eber is supposed to have established a school (‘bet ha-midrash’) in which the Torah was studied and among which was Jacob thus reason Esau was afraid to kill Jacob. Early Islamic historians like Ibn Ishaq and Ibn Hisham always included Shem's name in the genealogy of Muhammad.)  |  |  |  |  | [Ham](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_123" \o "Ham (Son Noah) ►Mizraim (Egypt), Cush (Ethiopia, Mesopotamia), Put (Libya), Canaan (Canaan \/ Phoenicia)Ham, second son of Noah and second in the table of the nations (Gen. x. 6). Ham is reported to have four chief branches: Cush (Ethiopians) settled in Ethiopia south of Egypt, some of them also migrated to an area north of the Persian Gulf (Mesopotamia). Mizraim (The Egyptians) the bible name for Egypt, settled in northeastern Africa.  Phut or Put (The Libyans) settled in northern Africa.  Canaan (The Canaanites) settled above Africa east of the Mediterranean and was later taken over by the Hebrews. The descendants of Cush (son Mizraim) being both Africa as well as Mesopotamia; the Babylonians, Accadians, and Assyrians thus same domain as Shem’s descendants. The exact basis of this classification is not clear and is a debated topic.)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **[Larak](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_134" \o "Larak in the SKL as either the 3rd or 4th antediluvian [pre-flood] city. Believed to be close to Isin there is no archaeological support.  According to myth the ruler of Shuruppak, Ubara-Tutu, came from Larak. Only one ruler, is En-sipad-zid-ana, is mentioned in the SKL (ruling for 288.800 years) before rulership moved on to the next city. )** | **3200** | [Flood](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_13" \o "Septuagint flood date: The Masoretic v. Septuagint flood dates have their own discussion below. The Septuagint Noah flood does approximate the date for the flood in mesopotamia- see 'Deluge'. That said really if we are to accept a flood took place in Mesopotamia and\/or in Egypt and\/or in the whole world we almost need to focus on the earlier Septuagint timeline. It is the only period where science and archeology would [almost] allow scientifically such an occurrence and recovery time- for a more complete discssion of a flood, see booklet 'Noah’s Flood' in links at top of web page.)  |  |  |  |  |  | 65 | 3301 |  | 969 | 753 |  | 3336 | [Arpachshad](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_109" \o "Arpachshad was one of 5 sons of Shem - the oldest- and grandson of Enoch. Arpachshad had Shelah except in the Septuagint LXX version, where his son is Kainan, Shelah being Arpachshad's grandson. Kainan is also identified as Arpachshad's son in Luke 3:36 and in the non-canonical book of Jubilees 8:1. Arpachshad lived until 535 in LXX and 438 in MT dating and had brothers Elam, Asshur, Lud and Aram.  According to Jubilees, Arpachshad married Rasu'aya, a granddaughter of Shem's older son Elam. He is one of the names of the genealogy of Adam to Abraham. Beginning with Adam nine pre-flood names are given then came Noah and the Flood, then nine post flood beginning with Noah's eldest son Shem and ending with Terah, father of Abraham. Some ancient Jewish sources, particularly Jubilees, point to Arpachshad as the immediate progenitor of Ur of the Chaldees or ‘Ur’ ancient city Mesopotamia (where from Abram left with Terah and Lot and Sarai headed to Haran) on the west bank of the Euphrates (Jubilees 9:4; 11:1–7). )  |  | [Mizraim](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_124" \o "Mizraim (Son of Ham) ► EgyptMizraim son of Ham younger brother of Cush and elder brother of Phut whose families together made up the Hamite branch of Noah's descendants of Egypt. According to Islamic historians the pyramids had been built by the wicked races before the Deluge and Noah's descendant Mizraim (Masar or Mesr) was later entrusted with reoccupying the region. This Islamic claim fits the MT dating shown where the pyramids were built some 200 years before Cush-Mizraim. Mentuhotep II [2088-1957 BC] Egypt's 11th dynasty is written to have conquered 'Kush' further anchoring the MT dating. The Septuagint shows Cush-Mizraim ~ 3200 BC over a thousand years earlier thus fits from perspective it leaves plenty of time to establish Egypt and build pyramids too. If one is to believe the Mentuhotep II \“Kush\” is the same as Ham’s Cush then LXX can not be correct. In short MT dating supports pyramids were before Mizraim\/Egypt and before flood.)  | 3336 | [Cush](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_122" \o "Cush (Son of Ham) ► Unclear \/ Sudan or Ethiopia or BabyloniaNo age given for Cush so we us Shem and assume he begets at age 100 like and lives to 600. Cush, son of Ham, grandson of Noah, brother of Mizraim, Phut, and Canaan, father of Nimrod. In rabbinical literature ‘land of Cush’ is Ethiopia. The wife of Moses, ‘the Cushite’ Queen of Ethiopia is [also] defined by Talmud as ‘black’ ‘negro’ race. Other literature places Cush more north in Nubia (Meroë) along east bank Nile in Northern Sudan. The verses where Ham’s descendants cover Africa, Arabia, and Babylonia present a much debated problem. Recall ‘garden of Eden’ where one of the 4 rivers [along with Tigris and Euphrates] ‘the Gihon compasseth the whole land of Cush’. If this river is the Nile [Africa] it can not also belong to the system of Euphrates and Tigris. Babylonian Cush has been explained by the Kashshi as a nation from the Median Mountains who conquered Babylonia in the 17th century B.C. and ruled over it for several centuries. )  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **[Shuruppag](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_133" \o "Shuruppak, south of Nippur, north of Uruk on banks of the Euphrates in SKL is the last city before flood and home of King Utnapishtim [Mesopotamian Noah] who survives the flood by making a boat. The report of the 1930s excavation mentions a layer of flood deposits at Shuruppak at the end of Jemdet Nasr [3100-2900 BC] period. The city was greatest at the end of the Early Dynastic III period (2600 BC to 2350 BC) when it covered about 100 hectares. )** | **3100** |  [3238 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_13" \o "Septuagint flood date: The Masoretic v. Septuagint flood dates have their own discussion below. The Septuagint Noah flood does approximate the date for the flood in mesopotamia- see 'Deluge'. That said really if we are to accept a flood took place in Mesopotamia and\/or in Egypt and\/or in the whole world we almost need to focus on the earlier Septuagint timeline. It is the only period where science and archeology would [almost] allow scientifically such an occurrence and recovery time- for a more complete discssion of a flood, see booklet 'Noah’s Flood' in links at top of web page.) |  |  |  |  |  |  | 162 | 3139 |  |  |  | 100 | 3236 | [Kainan](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_110" \o "Kainan or Cainan is mentioned only in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Book of Genesis, in the Book of Jubilees and the genealogy of Jesus given in Luke 3:36 in the New Testament. Cainan does not appear in the (Proto-) Masoretic Text, the most common Hebrew version of Genesis, and thus KJV, where his name is skipped. He is also omitted from the writings of the Jewish historian Josephus. Some have argued the omission from the Masoretic text is deliberate. Despite his name being omitted there is a substantial number of traditions about this other Cainan in literature: According to the Book of Jubilees, Cainan found an inscriptionon rocks preserving the science of astrology as taught by the Watchers who had rebelled from God before the deluge. The Alexandrine Chronicle [389-392 AD] said that the Samaritans [from the east] came from Cainan and that he invented astronomy. The founding of the city of Harran in Mesopotamia is also attributed to him.)  |  |  |  | 3226 |  | 3226 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [JEMET-](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_40" \o "Jemdet Nasr Period is named after an archaeology site in southern Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) Tell Jemdet Nasr similar to the same period Shuruppak (Tell Fara) and other sites.  Older scientific literature often used 3200–3000 BC. The period but is nowadays dated from 3100 to 2900 BC based on radiocarbon dating.  It comes after Uruk and before Early Dynastic (ED) I period however there is overlap. Nevertheless, it is generally believed that the Jemdet Nasr Period is sufficiently distinct to be recognized as a separate period. Apart from the distinctive pottery, the period is known as one of the formative stages in the development of the cuneiform script. While the language cannot be identified with certainty it is thought to have been Sumerian. The economy seems to have been based on agriculture and sheep-and-goat pastoralism and small-scale trade. Very few precious stones or exotic trade goods have been found at sites of this period. ) | **[Deluge](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_132" \o "The alluvial layer in Shuruppak dates from around 2900 BC. The deluge ended the Uruk period. Afterwards, kingship passed to Kish at the beginning of the Early Dynastic period (2900–2800 BC). This period is sometimes called the Golden Age. Utnapishtim, Ziusudra, Shuruppak (after his city), and Uta-napishtim = Mesoptamian NoahSon of Ubara-Tutu [from Larag] and the 8th and last King of the pre-flood era. He would have lived around 2900 BC corresponding to the flood deposit at Shuruppak. In the stories he is tasked by the god Enki (Ea) to create a giant ship for a giant flood. The story has comparisons to Noah and he is sometimes known as the ‘Mesopotamian Noah’. See separate topic ‘Noah’s Flood’ which covers the Mesopotamian aspect.)** | **3000** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 65 | 3074 |  |  |  | 135 | 3101 | [Shelah](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_111" \o "Shelah or Selah or Salah or Sala is an ancestor of the Israelites (Abraham) and Ishmaelites (Ishmael) is in the ancestral line from Noah to Abraham. He is the son of Arpachshad (Masoretic Text and Samaritan Pentateuch) or Cainan (Septuagint) and the father of Eber. Shelah had son Eber age 30. )  |  |  |  |  | [250](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_78" \o "We aritrarily here assign the same numbers as used for the masoretic Nimrod thus Cush is born same year as Arphaxad and has Nimrod 'in old age' we assign as age 250 same as we did in masoretic case giving a Septuagint birth year for Nimrod of 2976 BC)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **[Lagash 0](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_137" \o "Lagash while not as ancient as Eridu, uruk, or Ur, lagash was a well documented powerful political city state starting in the early dynastic period. The ancient site of Nina (Tell Zurghul) is around 10 km (6.2 mi) east of modern site east of Uruk. Nearby Girsu (Telloh) was the religious center. The main temple was the E-ninnu at Girsu dedicated to the god Ningirsu. The Lagash state incorporated the ancient cities of Lagash, Girsu, Nina. Though some Uruk period pottery shards were found significant occupation did not begin until after 2900 BC reaching a peak of about 500 hectares in c. 2500–2334 BC- see Lagash I. Lagash then came under Sargon I Akkadian Empire for several centuries then 3rd Dynasty of Ur. The dynasties of Lagash are not found on SKL. Verified rulers through other sources include c. 10 king some of more famous are Ur-Nanshe (2500 BC), Eannatum (2450 BC), Entemena (2400 BC)-see Lagash I for details. The last ruler of Lagash was defeated by Lugalzagesi, ruler of  Uruk I  bringing the end.)** | **2900** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 930 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 187 | 2887 |  |  |  | 130 | 2971 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [ED I](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_35" \o "The Early Dynastic period 2900–2350 is divided into ED I, II, and IIIa,b and is limited to Lower Mesopotamia [Sumer]. The ED period saw the development of writing and the formation of the first cities and states. A city was governed by a ‘lugal’ (king) and\/or an ‘ensi’ (priest) and rule could be transferred from one city to another. In the south, Sumerian cities such as Uruk, Ur, Lagash, Umma, and Nippur were powerful. In the north Semitic cities such as Kish, Mari, Nagar, and Ebla. ED I is poorly known and it overlaps and shares characteristics with the final stretches of the Uruk (c. 3300–3100 BC) and Jemdet Nasr (c. 3100–2900 BC) periods. ED II (2700-2600 BC) is defined by legendary figures king Gilgamesh of Uruk [south] and his adversaries Enmebaragesi and Aga of Kish [north]. ED IIIa had the Ur I dynasty and after its fall to Persia  IIIb brought in a turbulent time of frequent power exchanges involving Kish, Uruk, Lagash, Adab, Ur, Adab, Akshak as well as outside ‘Iraq’ involving the north and west states Mari and Ebla, and Assur. ) | **[Kish I](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_56" \o "The first dynasty of Kish was c. 2900-2600 B and was first city to rule after deluge. Kish the north Sumer Babylon city known from Ubaid era to Alexander. Today is archelogy site 50 mi south of Baghdad and 7.5 mi east of the ancient city of Babylon. First city after deluge is important we will see power shift many times between Kish, Uruck. Title ‘King of Kish’ used often.  Of 20 Kings in SKL:Enmebaragesi: 2900-2600 BC-First to rule after deluge-dating subject of great debate most say 2600 BC-Contemporary of Gilgamesh- Known for conquering Elam [Iran]-Confirmed by archaeology.Aga of Kish: 2900-2700 BC- 23rd and last king in the first dynasty of Kish [Kish I]-son of Enmebaragesi.- Summerian Poem records Aga’s siege of Uruk and Gilgamesh of URUCK defeating him leading to transfer of power from Kish to Uruck.-Aga is in the SKL and Tummal Inscription and Stele of Ushumgal and the Gem of King Aga.)** | **2800** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 912 |  |  |  |  | 365 |  | 182 | 950 | 600 |  |  | 130 | [Eber](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_112" \o "Eber was the father of Peleg and son of Shelah. Eber died at the age of 504 (LXX) or 464 (MT). Considering that other names for descendants of Shem (and his brothers Ham and japheth) also stand for places, Eber can be considered as perhaps near Assyria. Mediaeval scholars held the view that the Hebrews received their name from Eber which in ‘Hebrew’ meant ‘those who cross’ in reference to those who crossed the Euphrates river with Abram from Ur to Haran (Ur is on west side Euphrates and Haran east), and then to the land of Canaan. The 13th-century Muslim historian Abu al-Fida notes that Eber (great-grandson of Shem) refused to help with the building of the Tower of Babel so that his language was not confused when it was abandoned. He and his family alone retained the original Hebrew a language named after Eber. Eber is sometimes referred to in Islamic writings as the ‘father’ of the ‘prehistoric, original Arabs’ who lived in the Arabian Peninsula after the Deluge. Eber is later credited with having a school where he teaches Torah.)  |  |  |  |  | [Nimrod](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_98" \o "See Masoretic 'Nimrod' for biography and full discussion on Nimrod below chart.There is no well accepted date to assign a Tower of Babel date in the Septuagint chronology. Usher states ‘in the time of Peleg’. Judaic [Masoretic] tradition uses the same year as Peleg’s death. Either way a Nimrod existing in same era as Abraham can only be achieved if we move Nimrod [and his associated Cush-Ham genealogy] far down in chart.  How far? If we assume Judaic tradition that Nimrod is 40 years older than Abraham then: LXX Birth Abraham=2166 BC + 40 = 2206 BC= LXX birth Nimrod. This however is 1020 years after a predicted birth of Cush [see chart assumptions]. In summary I can’t see how to get a Septuagint Nimrod to i) been part of Tower build [and keeping Tower linked to Peleg's time], ii) live same time as Abraham, and iii) die by Esau. If we say Nimrod never knew Abraham and lived and died before him then is possible.)  |  |  |  |
| **[ED II](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_65" \o "ED II 2700–2600 BCED II was the time of the legendary mythical kings such as Lugalbanda, Enmerkar, Gilgamesh, and Aga-see city state ‘Uruck I’. Writings found c. 2000 BC including Sumerian heroic works and SKL suggest an age dominated by two major powers, Uruk in Sumer, and Kish in the more northern Semitic country. However, the existence of the kings of this ‘heroic age’ remains controversial. Only for the end of the ED III period are contemporary texts available from which a political history can be reconstructed. In summary not much actual history can be confirmed ‘yet’)** | **[Uruk I](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_57" \o "The first dynasty of Uruk ruled about the same era as Kish I c. 2900-2600 BC. Kish defeated kingship taken [south] to Uruk. In 3100 BC had 40,000 residents largest in world. Today important archeology site. Power will switch many times between Kish and Uruck. Per SKL Uruk I had 13 kings:Enmerkar   c.3100-2900 BC-1st King of Uruck, son of Goddess Inanna, may be grandfather of Gilgamesh.-inventor of writing, agriculture, and conquests in Arrat (Elam).-claimed by some as Nimrod Bible ruler of Erech (Uruk).Lugalbanda:    3100-2900 BC-Gilgamesh calls himself the son of Lugalbanda and NinsunDumuzid or Tamuz:-Historicity doubted possible addition by Ur III period.- God of agriculture and lover of goddess Inanna (Ishtar).-Tamuz also word for July in Iraqi, Arabic, Assyrian, and Jewish.- Bible Tamuz is queen- ‘The Song of Songs’ similar to love poems of Inanna and Dumuzi- Later basis for the Greek Aphrodite and Adonis.Gilgamesh: 2900-2700 BC-Contemporary of Aga and Enmebaragesi of Kish.-Artifacts and dating of the latter two lends credibility to existence of Gilgamesh.)**  | **2700** |  |  | 905 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2841 | [Peleg](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_113" \o "Peleg is one of two sons of Eber. Peleg's son was Reu. According to the Septuagint, Phaleg (Peleg) lived to an age of 339 years and per masoretic text 239 years of age. According to Genesis 10 and 1 Chronicles 1 it was during the time of Peleg that the earth was divided meaning just before, during, or after the Tower of Babel, whose construction was traditionally attributed to Nimrod or alternatively can refer to the division of the earth among the three sons of Noah Shem, Japheth, and Ham (see ‘70 Nations’). Some Creationists interpret this verse to refer to the continent of Pangaea being split into the modern continents. The Judaic tradition uses the year of peleg's DEATH as the Tower of Babel dispersion date. Christian [Ussher] really does not specifiy. )  |  |  |  | 2976 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[ED III:](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_64" \o "ED III 2600–2350 BC ED III saw a huge increase in volume in information and history. The era saw larger political entities developing in Upper Mesopotamia and southwestern Iran and witnessed the consolidation of city-states like Ur, Uruk, and Lagash, each ruled by monarchs who centralized power. ED III is usually further subdivided into the ED IIIa and ED IIIb as we do here. The Royal Cemetery at Ur – see Ur I - date back to ED IIIa. The ED IIIb is especially well known through the archelogy archives of Girsu (part of Lagash) in Iraq and Ebla in Syria. Religious beliefs evolved with temples gaining prominence.  Ziggurats appeared serving as temple platforms for worship, ceremonies, and administrative functions. Prominent examples include the Ziggurat of Ur and the White Temple of Uruk. The end of the ED III is not defined archaeologically but rather politically. The conquests of Sargon and his successors upset the political equilibrium throughout Iraq, Syria, and Iran. )** |  | **2600** |  |  |  | 910 | 895 |  |  |  |  | 2705 |  | 565 | 460 |  | 134 | 2707 | [Rue](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_114" \o "Reu was the son of Peleg and the father of Serug thus being Abraham's great-great-grandfather and the ancestor of the Israelites and Ishmaelites. In the Book of Jubilees his wife is Ora, daughter of Ur, son of Kesed, presumably the offspring of Arpachshad. According to the Masoretic text (Genesis 11:20), Reu was 32 when Serug was born and lived to the age of 239 (when Abraham was either 18 or 78 (Hebrew patriarch ages and AM dating 60 years less than Masoretic text from Christian - see ‘Terah Age Problem’ in next chapter discussion to fully understand this 60 year difference). His attained age in LXX was 339 years old.)  |  |  | [2761](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_121" \o "See full discussion in main body under Nimrod. Here we arbitrarily assign same years as for masoretic. Book of Jasher states he dies at age 215 and is born to Cush in 'old age' which we assumed to be 250 years old.)  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[ED IIIa](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_62" \o "ED IIIa  2600–2500 BCThe texts from Shuruppak, dating to ED IIIa, seem to confirm the existence of a league. Member cities of the alliance included Umma, Lagash, Uruk, Nippur, and Adab. Kish may have had a leading position whereas Shuruppak may have been the administrative center. This alliance seems to have focused on economic and military collaboration, as each city would dispatch soldiers to the league. The primacy of Kish is illustrated by the fact that its ruler Mesilim (c. 2500 BC) acted as arbitrator in a conflict between Lagash and Umma. However, it is not certain whether Kish held this elevated position during the entire period. Later, rulers from other cities would use the title 'King of Kish' to strengthen their hegemonic ambitions and possibly also because of the symbolic value of the city. The texts of this period also reveal the first diplomatic network. For example, the peace treaty between Entemena of Lagash and Lugal-kinishe-dudu of Uruk (II), recorded on a clay nail, the oldest known of this kind.  )** | **[Ur I](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_58" \o "Power move from Uruck to the 1st dynasty of Ur c. 2500-2400 about same era as Uruk II. Once near Persian Gulf Ur is now well inland.  Earliest dates are late Ubaid period 3800 BC.  Excavation of cemetery from 2600-2501 BC produced royal tombs and treasures in gold, silver, bronze, and semiprecious stones, showing wealth and highly developed civilization and art. Of the 3 king in SKL:Mesh-Ane-pada: ~2500 BC-Existence likely supported by many tablets. Mesannepada the first king listed on the SKL and ousted last King Uruk-In one of his seals found in the Royal Cemetery at Ur he is also described as king of Kish.After Ur III kingship power was transferred to Elam [Awan])** | **2500** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 502 |  |  |  | 460 |  | 130 | 2577 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[ED IIIb](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_39" \o "ED IIIb  2500–2350 BCBelow is a summary of SKL and other kings list in chronological order for the ‘busy’ 250 year ED IIIb period. Selected city states have their own summary to right. AWAN-Ur I ended by this Elamite [Iran] ruler – exact location unknownKISH II-Awan was defeated kingship back to Kish before Hamazi [Elam]HAMAZI-location unknown in Zagros mountains between Elam and Assyria LAGASH-See ‘Lagash’ URUCK II-See ‘Uruk II’ UR II- short only 2 kings defeated by Adab ADAB-same time as Lagash I -on Tigris north of Uruk MARI-Mari = Syria warred with rival Ebla which was close to mediterranean-defeated and the kingship was taken to KishKISH III- brief rule then passed to AkshakAKSHAK- A Sumer state defeated and the kingship was taken back to Kish (IV)KISH IV-Kish resumed control had 8 kings last was cup bearer for Sargon I. -defeated and the kingship was taken to UrukURUK III-last dynasty under Lugal-zage-si before Sargon led him in chains to Akkad.)** | **[Lagash I](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_54" \o "The first dynasty of Lagash is dated to c. 2500-2300 BC [middle chronology], modern Al-Hiba, an ancient city state on [west side] Tigris north of Ur and gulf and west of Uruck [Euphrates]. 11 kings reigned from 2570-2350 most famous Ur-Nanshe dynasty BC and took over Sumer, Kish, Ur, Uruck, all of mesopotamia then reverted back to Uruck (II) then Sargon I. A victory Stele of the Vultures c. 2450 BC shows one of the earliest battles.Lugalshaengur: 2350 BC-Mentioned in a unique inscription from 'Mesilim, king of Kish, who 'mediated' peace Ur-nanshe [dynasty]: 2520 BC-'King' 'lugal'Eannatum:-Grandson of Ur-Nanshe,-took Sumer away from Enshagkushana of Uruk and repulsed the armies of Kish, Elam and Mari.Entemena:-Son of Eannatum. -Alliance with Lugal-Kinishe-dudu of Uruk (II) defeated Umma-Clay tablet is oldest peace treaty known with uruk (I) 'dudu' ~ 2400 BCUrukagina:- last Lagash king defeated by Lugalzagesi of Uruk then later defeated by Sargon I.)****[Uruk II](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_55" \o "Second dynasty of Uruk about same era as first dynasty of Ur was c. 2500-2400 BC. Then Hamazi was defeated and the kingship was taken to Unug (Uruk). Uruk II had 3 kings one was contemporary of Lagash ruler Entemena [see Lagash I (2500-2271 BC) overlaps era Uruk II].En-shag-kush-anu-Conquered parts of Sumer before Eannatum [Ur-nansh dynasty] of Lagash took Sumer from him and conquered armies of Kish, Elam, and Mari.Lugal-kinishe-dudu-Contemporary with Entemena [son of Enannatum] of Lagash -First peace treaty between Lagash and Uruk 'dudu' ~2400 BC-Title 'king of Kish', 'King of uruk' King of Ur'Then Unug (Uruk II) defeated and the kingship was taken to Urim (Ur II).)** | **2400** | [Tower Babel](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_82" \o "The date to assign Tower of Babel used is linked to the Septuagint Peleg birth date and death date [based on Hebrew and Ussher’s ‘Annales’ assumptions]. In Judaic tradition his death date is chosen. Note however this is difficult to fit to Nimrod's existance unless Nimrod lives to > 500 and could not have known Abraham who is  born 2166 BC 202 years after Peleg dies in 2368 BC. )  |  |  |  |  | 962 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 339 | 132 | [Serug](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_115" \o "Serug was the son of Reu and the father of Nahor. He is also the great-grandfather of Abraham thus the ancestor of the Ishmaelites and the Israelites. He died at age 230 (MT) and 330 years old (LXX). )  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **2300** | **[2368 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_60" \o "The date to assign Tower of Babel used is linked to the Septuagint Peleg birth date [based on Ussher’s ‘Annales’ assumptions]. No other biblical guidance in the literature for assigning a Septuagint based date to the Tower of Babel was found. This assumptive date however does coincide and thus allow Nimrod's association with the Tower.)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 404 |  | 339 | 2445 | [Nahor](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_116" \o "Son of Serug father of Terah and grandfather of Abraham. He died 148 (MT) or 304 (LXX) dating. Not to be confused with more frequently referred to Nahor Abram’s brother who travlled to Haran from their home in Ur with Abram and Terah and Sarai.)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| [AKKAD](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_37" \o "The Akkadian period dated to 2334–2154 BC takes its name from the city of Akkad which was in the general confluence area of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Although the city has not yet been located it is known from various textual sources. The Bible refers to Akkad in Genesis 10:10–12: ‘The beginning of his Nimrod's kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. Out of that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh, and Rehoboth-Ir, and Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah.’ Sargon’s empire reached west to the Mediterranean Sea and perhaps Cyprus, north to the mountains of Anatolia, east over Elam, and south to Magan (Oman). The empire's wealth was wheat production which was traded. The empire of Akkad fell after 180 years ushering in a ‘Dark Age’ until the Ur III. One theory associates the decline with a global centennial-scale drought sometimes called the 4.2 kiloyear event. This collapse affected the whole of the Middle East and coincided with the collapse of the Egyptian Old Kingdom.)  | [Sargon](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_131" \o "Sargon of Akkad or Sargon the Great, founder of what was said to be the very first ‘empire’ thus the first ‘king’ of the [Old] Akkadian Empire 2334–2279 BC until the Gutian conquest of Sumer. His empire included most of Mesopotamia, parts of the Levant, with the capital Akkad. He defeated the city of Uruk, tore down its walls, and led King Lugalzagesi of Uruck [Erech] in a collar as documented in a stele circa 2300 BC, Louvre Museum. Sargon I is one of the many suggested historical counter-part for the identity of Nimrod as ‘both’ were said to be the ‘first’ Kings [Nimrod was said to be first to wear a crown]-see below more on Nimrod.  ) I | **2200** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | [Ham](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_126" \o "Ham (Son Noah) ►Mizraim (Egypt), Cush (Ethiopia, Mesopotamia), Put (Libya), Canaan (Canaan \/ Phoenicia)Ham, second son of Noah and second in the table of the nations (Gen. x. 6). Ham is reported to have four chief branches: Cush (Ethiopians) settled in Ethiopia south of Egypt, some of them also migrated to an area north of the Persian Gulf (Mesopotamia). Mizraim (The Egyptians) the bible name for Egypt, settled in northeastern Africa.  Phut or Put (The Libyans) settled in northern Africa.  Canaan (The Canaanites) settled above Africa east of the Mediterranean and was later taken over by the Hebrews. The descendants of Cush (son Mizraim) being both Africa as well as Mesopotamia; the Babylonians, Accadians, and Assyrians thus same domain as Shem’s descendants. The exact basis of this classification is not clear and is a debated topic.)  |  |  | 777 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 130 | 2315 | [Terah](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_117" \o "Terah is the son of Nahor and father of Abraham. He died at age 205 per MT or LXX dating. He had Abram at either age 70 [Septuagint and Judaic tradition] or age 130 [Bishop James Ussher and KJBV] along with Haran and Nahor II (See full discussion Genesis Chapter 11 ‘Terah age problem’). The family lived in Ur of the Chaldees. One of his grandchildren was Lot, whose father, Haran, died at Ur. According to Joshua's remarks at the assembly of the Israelites at Shechem and Midrash Terah was an idolater. Terah is identified as the person who arranged and led the family to Canaan. It remains a mystery to Jewish scholars as to why Terah began the journey and as to why the journey ended prematurely for him in Haran. In Jewish tradition Abram left Ur at age 70 and then Haran at age 75 [and thus left Terah behind]. In the Christian tradition [later begetting age 130] Abram left Haran after Terah died [Terah b. 2126 - 130= 1996 BC Abram born + 75 years (Abram leaves) =1996-75=1921 BC year Terah dies thus b.2126-1921=205 years attained.)  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **[GUTIAN](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_75" \o "The Gutian dynasty uncertain time and peoples over 20 kings in SKL mentioned in many Sumerian literatures based on SKL ruled from 2138-2055 BC after Akkadian.  Adab was their capital maybe even 100 years before their rule. The end is marked by the accession of Uruk ruler Utu-hengal (c. 2055–2048 BC),marking the short lived Uruk V, followed by Ur-Nammu (c. 2047–2030 BC), founder of Ur III. The SKL lists Tirigan under Sumerian king of Adab but was likely Gutian.Imta: 2138-2135 BC-First king listed in SKLTirigan: 2055 BC -Last king. Defeated by the Uruk king Utu-hengal according to victory stele erected was short-lived Uruk (IV) before Ur III.The names of Gutian kings suggest that the language was not closely related to any languages of the region, including Sumerian, Akkadian, Hurrian, Hittite, and Elamite. Most scholars reject the attempt to link Gutian king names to Indo-European languages.)** | **[Uruk IV](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_31" \o "After Sargon was defeated the kingship was taken back to the Summerians to Unug (Uruk). Uruck IV had 5 kings per SKL before being taken over by the Gutians. Also Lagash also had its dynasty about same time [2093-2046 BC].)** | **2100** | [Flood](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_136" \o "The flood Masoretic v. Septuagint has its own discussion. Note however the masoretic flood date this late can not be correlated with the much ealrier 'Deluge' reported in Sumerian literature. )  | [Mizraim](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_60" \o "Mizraim (Son of Ham) ► EgyptMizraim son of Ham younger brother of Cush and elder brother of Phut whose families together made up the Hamite branch of Noah's descendants of Egypt. According to Islamic historians the pyramids had been built by the wicked races before the Deluge and Noah's descendant Mizraim (Masar or Mesr) was later entrusted with reoccupying the region. This Islamic claim fits the MT dating shown where the pyramids were built some 200 years before Cush-Mizraim. Mentuhotep II [2088-1957 BC] Egypt's 11th dynasty is written to have conquered 'Kush' further anchoring the MT dating. The Septuagint shows Cush-Mizraim ~ 3200 BC over a thousand years earlier thus fits from perspective it leaves plenty of time to establish Egypt and build pyramids too. If one is to believe the Mentuhotep II 'Kush' is the same as Ham’s Cush then LXX can not be correct. In short MT dating supports pyramids were before Mizraim\/Egypt and before flood.)  | 2203 | [Cush](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_127" \o "Cush (Son of Ham) ► Unclear \/ Sudan or Ethiopia or BabyloniaCush, son of Ham, grandson of Noah, brother of Mizraim, Phut, and Canaan, father of Nimrod. In rabbinical literature ‘land of Cush’ is Ethiopia. The wife of Moses, ‘the Cushite’ Queen of Ethiopia is [also] defined by Talmud as ‘black’ ‘negro’ race. Other literature places Cush more north in Nubia (Meroë) along east bank Nile in Northern Sudan. The verses where Ham’s descendants cover Africa, Arabia, and Babylonia present a much debated problem. Support for Babylonia exists as well. Recall ‘garden of Eden’ where one of the 4 rivers [along with Tigris and Euphrates] ‘the Gihon compasseth the whole land of Cush’. If this river is the Nile [Africa] it can not also belong to the system of Euphrates and Tigris yet this [Africa] is clear in scripture, Genesis 2:13-14. Babylonian Cush has been explained by the Kashshi as a nation from the Median Mountains who conquered Babylonia in the 17th century B.C. and ruled over it for several centuries. )  | 969 |  |  | 2203 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 330 | 79 | 2236 | [Abraham](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_118" \o "Abram later Abraham is the son of Terah. Terah had Abram at either age 70 [Judaism + Septuagint] or age 130 [Christian-Catholic] (See ‘Terah age problem’) discussion in Genesis Chapter 11 along with Haran, and Nahor II. The family lived in Ur of the Chaldees. Sarai his wife was barren and gave Abram her handmaid Hagar, an Egyptian, as wife who had Ishmael who later founded a great nation. God promised Sarai she would bear a son, Isaac which she did at age 90. Isaac, through his son Jacob, then founded the Jewish Nation of Israel. Abraham ('Father of Many Nations') is the patriarch of the Abrahamic religions which include Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It has been said ‘Abraham was not a Jew nor yet a Christian but he was not of the idolaters.’  He is the center of several biblical events: The Battle at Siddim [Genesis 14], the rescue of his grandson Lot and destruction by God of Sodom and Gomorrah, the sacrifice of Isaac. )  |  |  |  |  |
| [UR III](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_130" \o "Ur III dynasty under Ur-Nammu known for the preserved ziggurat for moon god Nanna (Sin), the patron deity and divine king of Ur. Having access by river and canal to the Persian Gulf it was the natural headquarters of foreign trade. As early as the reign of Sargon of Akkad it had been in touch with India and the ‘sea kings’ of Ur carried goods to Bahrain and there picked up the copper and ivory that came from the east. The houses of private citizens under Hammurabi of Babylon the same period [Masoretic] which Abraham lived at Ur were comfortable and well-built two-story houses. ) | **[Uruk V](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_38" \o "Uruk V was very short-lived before Ur III.Utu-hengal: 2055–2048 BC-King who ended Gutian reign and took Uruk back from Gutians. Defeats Tirigan last King of Gutian dynasty and appoints Ur-Namma governor of Ur)**  | **2000** |  [2105 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_83" \o "The flood masoretic v. Septuagint has its own discussion. Note however the masoretic flood date this late can not be correlated with the much ealrier 'Deluge' reported in Sumerian literaure. ) |  |  | [2103](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_10" \o "Estimated that Ham has Cush early on based on Arpachshap and Shelah [same generation] which was also 35 years old. Note a later date for Cush causes Nimrod to be born too late to be part of Babel.) | 100 | *[2103](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_10" \o "Estimated that Ham has Cush early on based on Arpachshap and Shelah [same generation] which was also 35 years old. Note a later date for Cush causes Nimrod to be born too late to be part of Babel.)*  |  |  |  |  | 100 | 2103 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 304 | 70 | 2166 | [Isaac](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_119" \o "Isaac is one of 3 patriarchs of the Israelites and important in the Abrahamic religions, son of Abraham and Sarah, a miracle as Sarah was 90 and Abraham 100. Name means ‘laughter’ because Abraham laughed when God told him Sarah would give be giving birth. Ishmael, Abraham's son from Hagar, was oldest, but Isaac inherited the patriarch title. Isaac married Rebecca, before he was 40, daughter of Abraham’s nephew Bethuel (son of Nahor Abrahams brother). After 20 years Rebekah was barren. Isaac prayed and she conceived twin boys, Esau and Jacob when Isaac was 60. Isaac favored Esau and Rebekah Jacob. Isaac is only patriarch whose name did not change, did not move out of Canaan, and had no concubines. Other: Isaac’s sacrifice ‘The Binding of Isaac’; he ‘lived near Egypt in Philistines (Gerar) under King Abimelech, was driven out, lied that his wife was his sister to protect himself, formed covenant with Abimelech, all same as his father Abraham had done beforer him with his wife. Isaac died at Hebron at 180 buried in cave of Machpelah.)  |  |  |  |
| [ISIN-LARSA](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_66" \o "Ur III fell to the Elamites and the capital was relocated to Isin. The Dynasty of Isin [1953-1717] associated with nearby and contemporary dynasty of Larsa [1961–1674 BCE] often grouped Isin-Larsa. Neither exercised hegemony and had to coexist with other less powerful kingdoms such as Uruk, Babylon. Initial King was Amorite and language Akkadian but culture Sumerian. The location was central Sumer between Uruk and Kish. There were over 20 kings first and last  below. Ishbi-Erra: 1953-1920 BC -Founder of Isin an Amorite from Mari. -Founded line Amorite rulers that ended Sumerian rule -One of his acts was to expel Elamites from Ur and the region. Rim-Sin: 1828-1763 BC-The longest-ruling monarch in [Larsa] Mesopotamian history.-of Elamite descent-fell under Hammurabi, a contemporaryThe exact events of Isin's disintegration are unknown before succumbing to Larsa but before Babylon period there was overlap with the Old Assyrian period in the north, Syria in the west, and Elam, all who maintained some power during babylon.) | [Isin](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_17" \o "See Isin-Larsa period.)  | **1900** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 250 |  |  |  | 35 |  | 2068 | 2038 | 2004 |  |  |  | 275 | 100 | 2066 | [Jacob](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_120" \o "Jacob (Israel) is famous patriarch and prophet in the Abrahamic religions. Son of Isaac, grandson Abraham, had twin Esau already fighting in the womb and Jacob came out holding Esau’s ‘heel’. Jacob tricked Esau and Jacob both for the birth-right and blessing. Esau thus hated Jacob so Rebecca sent him to her brother Laban in Haran. On way Jacob had ‘Jacob's Ladder’ dream and God promised him Canaan. In Haran he has 12 sons and one daughter through wives Leah + Rachel (Laban’s daughters) and concubines Bilhah + Zilpah. After 20 years he leaves Haran and meets Esau who has 400 men and they eventually reconcile. Jacob wrestles with an angel all night injuring his thigh. The angel names him ‘Israel’. Israelites do not eat ‘the sinew of the thigh’ to this day. Later Rachel gives birth to last son Benjamine and dies. Jacob + family lives in Hebron like his parents. Later he moves to Egypt with all 66 descendants at age 130 and dies age 147 and is buried in the Cave of Machpelah. Jacob is mentioned 16 times in the Quran.)  |  |
| [OLD BABYLON](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_42" \o "The Old or First Babylonian Empire c. 1894–1595 BC comes after the end of Sumerian Third Dynasty of Ur. They were Amorites rather than Akkadians. Initially when King Hammurabi came to power 1792-1750 BC Babylon only consisted of a few towns in the area near Babylon: Dilbat, Sippar, Kish, and Borsippa. By Hammurabi's thirtieth year as king he conquered Larsa gaining control over the lucrative urban centers of Nippur, Ur, Uruk, and Isin all Southern Mesopotamia for over a thousand years. The first Babylonian dynasty eventually came to an end from Hittites who were trying to expand outside of Anatolia. The Kassite Period then followed. By the time of Babylon's fall the Kassites had already been part of the region for a century and a half, acting sometimes with Babylon's interests and sometimes against.) | [Hammurabi](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_50" \o "Hammurabi died c. 1750 BC was the sixth and best-known ruler of the 1st (Amorite) dynasty of Babylon reigning c. 1792–1750 BC. Like all the kings of his dynasty Hammurabi was an Amorite. Hammurabi conquered the cities Uruk (Erech) and Isin, held by Rim-Sin, and clashed again with Rim-Sin the year after. Genesis 14: ‘Battle of the Valley of Siddim’ where ‘A King of Shinar’ King Amraphel with Chedorlaomer, king of Elam, and others, destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. The prevailing scholarly opinion among Assyriologists [Catholic Encyclopedia (1907) and The Jewish Encyclopedia (1906)] is that Amraphel is Hammurabi who ruled from c. 1792-1750 BC. Hammurabi’s reign however is the subject of much dispute where others place him at 2376-33 BC or 2248-2194. Note also under Nimrod hover text-Chedorlaomer, King of Elam, was Nimrod's general. The prevailing [non scholar] Judaic tradition [Rabbinic] claim is that Amraphel is Nimrod [‘they called him Amraphel’] as it is written in the Book of Jasher.) | **1800** | [Tower Babel](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_29" \o "The date assigned is taken from the Hebrew calendar listed as the date of 'dispersion'. James Ussher was unclear on assigning an exact date only to menion it in Peleg's birth date linked to bible verse stating 'divided world' but no other guidance is provided. The Hebrew assignment of 1765 BC for the Tower of Babel coincides with death of Peleg [same year].)  |  |  |  |  |  | [Nimrod](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_128" \o "Nimrod (Son of Cush) ► MesopotamiaNimrod has his own verse thus is of importance. Son of Cush who was son of Ham [brother Shem, Japheth] was the mighty hunter. Kingdom was Babel, Erech, Akkad and Calneh ‘land of Shinar’ (Mesopotamia). Legend is he was first to eat meat and make war. He was an idolater and directed building the Tower of Babel. In Jewish tradition after Babel Nimrod either remained in Shinar or left for north Assyria before the tower and built four cities, namely, Nineveh, Rehobot, Calah, and Resen. Nimrod persecuted [Yhwh] Abraham-threw him into a heated furnace- he came forth uninjured and then left with his family to the land of Canaan via Haran. Chedorlaomer, King of Elam, in the war with the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah, was Nimrod's general, and defeated by Abraham. Nimrod was slain by Esau (also hunter) who took his head. One theory is Nimrod's is Gilgamesh other Marduk. Historians have failed to match Nimrod with any historical figures. )  |  |  |  |  |  | 30 | 34 | 30 | 1974 | 1942 | 1912 | 1883 | 175 | 60 | 2006 |  |  |
|  | **[Babylon](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_138" \o "Babylon would remain the contiguous capital for many centuries. See Old Babylon, the 'Period' for more information. )** | **1700** | 1765 BC |  |  |  |  |  | [1853](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_20" \o "The birth date shown and Nimrod data is pure conjecture. Per Book Jasher- Abraham is 52 when Nimrod \“renews\” his rule over Babel=Abraham born 1813 BC is 52 in 1761 BC the year Nimrod begins his renewed rule over Babel four years AFTER the Tower dispersion in 1765 BC. Using Genesis chronologies; Ham begets Cush age 100 [assume same as Shem-Arpachshad] so Cush is born 2103 BC [same as Arpachshad]. If Cush lives same as his contemporary Arpachshad 438 years we get 1665 BC he dies. If Nimrod then born \“in old age\” say when Cush is 250 age Nimrod would be born 1853 BC. He would be 88 years old at Dispersion or start of Babel rule and 40 years older than Abraham. He would die in 1638 BC at age 215. Esau born 1653 BC would be 15 when he kills Nimrod at age 215. These are just guesses engineered to ‘fit’ Jasher!!!! If we make Cush have Abram even later in life than age ~250 Esau is not old enough to kill him.) |  |  | 950 |  |  |  |  |  | 239 | 32 | 30 | 29 | 70 | 1813 | 180 | 147 |  |  |  |
|  |  | **1600** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | [1638](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_97" \o "Per Book of Jasher we assign death Nimrod at age 215 at hands of Esau who was 15 at the time, same year and in fact same day Abraham dies and Esau comes back from 'hunting' trip in which he kills Nimrod and Jacob trades birthright from Esau for red stew- per Sages\/midrash.)  |  | [Essau](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_129" \o "Esau was born same year as his twin Jacob so it is written in scripture. Our assigned date for Nimrod's birth makes esau 15 years old when he kills Nimrod at age 215. Here we depict Ham-Cush-Nimrod life spans in the MT version using Ham 2446 BC as anchor point. The birth of Nimrod is not reported so we estimated. The same LXX scheme showing Ham-Cush-Nimrod in upper right of chart we can see is some 1000 years earlier. It has been stated Jasher Yasher 27:4 states that Nimrod was killed by Essau when he was a boy. This can not be possible if we assume LXX timelines as LXX Essau lives some 800 years before Essau born. MT dating however allows this as they [would have] lived in same period overlapped as shown under MT timing. Note Book of Jasher is of medieval era thus not an ancient text thus is not even considered Apocryphal status among most \/  all? scholars.)  | 600 | 438 |  | 433 |  |  | 239 | 230 | 148 | 205 | 100 | 1713 |  |  |  |  |
| [KASSITE](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_85" \o "The Kassite dynasty also known as the third Babylonian dynasty was a line of kings of Kassite origin who ruled from the city of Babylon and who belonged to the same family that ran the kingdom of Babylon. It was the longest known dynasty of that state which ruled throughout the period known as Middle Babylonian 1595-1000 BC. The Kassites origins are unknown although many authors theorize that they originated in the Zagros Mountains. Despite their external origin, the Kassite kings did not change Babylon's ancestral traditions. The Kassite period is still very poorly known, due to the scarcity of sources relating to it, of which few are published. ) |  | **1500** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1653 |  |  |  |  |  | 464 |  |  |  |  |  | 175 | 60 | 1653 |  |  |  |
|  |  | **1400** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 180 | 147 |  |  |  |

* 1. **A Masoretic v. Septuagint Flood Date**

A “Masoretic” flood in c.

[2000](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_14" \o "Two popular masoretic text-derived dates given for the flood are the Hebrew dating 2105 BC and Ussher dating 2347 BC.) BC in Mesopotamia would occur at a time when extra biblical history is seemingly contiguous and no recorded floods or major interruptions are apparent that would fit a ‘restart’ of humanity after a flood. This is shown in chart for Sargon I c. 2300 BC until Hammurabi and the Old Babylonia period in 1800 BC. A flood in Egypt during this period is equally challenging, where archelogy, carbon dating, and Egyptian Pharoh dating establishes the Great Pyramids were build c. 2600 BC and the pyramids and surrounding archelogy show no flood layers [fish fossils etc]. For these and

[other reasons](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_19" \o "This discussion is limited and focused on comparing the two possible flood dates.  A more complete discussion addressing the flood itself and geology, archeology, and external history or 'feasibility' analysis is available in the link at top of web page called 'Noah’s Flood'.) a Septuagint or “3000 BC” [plus or minus several hundred years] flood is ‘easier’ to accommodate as the lack of city states and documented history this early would at least not preclude a flood event.

**Conclusions**

* *A Masoretic flood date of c. 2300-2000 BC in Egypt would have occurred after the pyramids were built c. 2600 BC yet no water penetration or flood deposits [aquatic fossils] are found. Further both Mesopotamia and [more so] Egypt have well documented archelogy and confirmed history such as King Lists none of which show disruption during this period linked to a catastrophic flood with destruction of all life.*
* *A Septuagint flood dating of c. 3300-2800 BC allows plenty of time for Mizraim to be born and establish Egypt and the pyramids by 2600 BC. This period also [mostly] precedes written history or verifiable archelogy in Mesopotamia and Egypt thus can neither be proven nor disproven.*
	1. **Nimrod**

Nimrod is summarized in our chart using hover notes. Based on claims made in Book of Jasher and other Judaic sources we have placed Nimrod’s Masoretic date of birth at 1853 BC and death at age 215 at the hands of Esau. The Septuagint estimated chronology for Nimrod is shown in the Chart but no available anchor dates make it possible to further pinpoint a Septuagint birth date.

* + 1. **Background**

Nimrod was son of Cush son of Ham great-grandson of Noah. The bible

[scripture](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_15" \o "As we will show Hebrew Psuedepigraphy sources such as Hebrew Book of Jasher and Christian Syriac Cave of Treasures do provide a lot of details on Nimrod.) [Canon] contains only vague facts on Nimrod; “the first on earth to be a mighty man”…” a mighty hunter before the Lord” and “Assyria is called the land of Nimrod” In Genesis the beginning of his kingdom is said to have been Babel, Erech (Uruk), and Akkad, in the land of Shinar. Nimrod is said to have then built Nineveh, Calah (modern Nimrūd), Rehoboth-Ir, and Resen. While nothing in canon allows one to link Nimrod to any living patriarchs and thus date him, Historians, Orientalists, Assyriologists and mythographers have long tried to find links between the Nimrod of the bible and a real historically attested figure in Mesopotamia. No king name of Nimrod [unambiguously] appears in pre-biblical, extra-biblical or historic Sumerian, Akkadian, Assyrian or Babylonian king lists, nor in any other writings from Mesopotamia or its neighbors during the Bronze Age, Iron Age or pre-Christian Classical Age. While we summarize a few of the more

[popular](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_74" \o "See Chart hover notes on Amraphel, Hammurabi,  Sargon I.) hypotheses on the identity of Nimrod there is no consensus on when he lived and who his historical counter-part may have been so we do not further pursue this. The bible itself never even links Nimrod with the Tower of Babel explicitly. The only sources we can turn to for Nimrod reside with the ancient Jewish writers Philo of Alexandria, Flavius Josephus, as well as the Pseudepigrapha Book of Jasher and Christian Syriac Cave of Treasures, and Talmud, and other midrash sources, some of which we summarize below.

* + 1. **Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Facts**

[Book of Jasher](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_9" \o "The Book of Jasher is a book mentioned in the Hebrew Bible often interpreted as a lost non-canonical book. Numerous forgeries purporting to be rediscovered copies of this lost book have been written most notably the one on the internet from the 1800s I and other use. A different interpretation identifies it as a reference to the Pentateuch, an interpretation which is notably favored by the Jewish scholar Rashi in his commentary on the Hebrew Bible.  Jasher is found in the Apocrypha section of the King James Bible, 1611. The book is mentioned twice in the Hebrew Bible. According to the Book of Joshua, while Joshua was winning a battle against Adonizedek (king of Jerusalem) and his allies, Joshua prayed for the sun and moon to stand still. Joshua 10:13 then states: And the Sun stood still, and the Moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves on their enemies. Is this not written in Sefer HaYashar? In summary one might conclude what we are using here as Book of Jasher can only be traced to 1800s and is not thus an ancient text and is likely a forgery. Jasher was not found in the dead sea scrolls.) [on Nimrod]

1) Nimrod was born to Cush in “

[old age](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_23" \o "Verse 23: And Cush the son of Ham, the son of Noah, took a wife in those days in his old age, and she bare a son, and they called his name Nimrod...) ”

2) Nimrod “ruled 185 years”

3) Nimrod died at age 215 at hand of Essau

4) AFTER the Tower of Babel dispersion Nimrod ‘

[renewed](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_24" \o "So the Tower build was actually BEFORE he started his reign over Babel.  ) his reign over cities, the first being Babel, where they called him

[Amraphel](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_25" \o "AMRAPHEL (Jewish Encyclopedia)In the bible he was king of Shinar (Gen. xiv. 1, 9), who invaded the West in conjunction with Chedorlaomer, king of Elam, and others, and destroyed Sodom. The identity of the name has long been a subject of controversy among Assyriologists. Scholars associate Hammurabi- see separate hover note on him in chart- as being the biblical Amraphel. Rabbinic tradition however identifies Amraphel with being Nimrod as claimed in Book of Jasher. Thus the prevailing view among both Assyriologists and Old Testament scholars is Amraphel is Hammurabi and according to Rabbinic tradition Amraphel is identical with Nimrod. Some [Judaic] say Amraphel was his real name, and he was called Nimrod, ‘the chief rebel,’ as leader of the tower-builders.) , the second was Erech [Uruk]

5) Nimrod ruled over Babel [after the Tower] when Abraham was 52 years old

[The Syriac Cave of Treasures](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_80" \o "The Syriac Cave of Treasures is the oldest known Christian pseudepigraphical work written in Syriac 600-700 AD and refers to the cave which contained gold and frankincense in which Adam and Eve were sent by God after their expulsion. Its authorship is unknown likely a Syrian living in Mesopotamia. Consistent with Septuagint the manuscript records a history of 5,500 years from creation to Christ. The author is convinced the original genealogies were destroyed by fire in 586 BC when the 1st temple was destroyed afterwhich the Jews promptly constructed new tables [Masoretic-like numbering] that the Christians and Arabs regarded as fictitious. The Arabs were interested in the matter as they descended from Hagar and Ishmael and the Nubians and Egyptians as well as descendants of Cush, Mizraim, and Ham. It is clear that medieval Syrians, Arabs, Egyptians and Ethiopians all regarded the Cave of Treasures as an authoritative work on their respective pedigrees [Author note- =reason why eastern religions to this day accept Septuagint].) [on Nimrod]

When Reu was 130, Nimrod, first king on the earth, reigned, and he reigned 69 years and the beginning of his kingdom was Babel. When Rue was 50 Nimrod built Nisibis, and Edessa, and Harrân, which is Edessa. The exact text from above summary is

1. [here](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_21" \o "It states: And Reu lived thirty-two years, and begot Serug. And in the days of Reu, in his one hundred [Fol. 22b, col. 2] and thirtieth year, Nimrod, the mighty man, the first king on the earth, reigned, and he reigned sixty nine years; and the beginning of his kingdom was Babel. This Nimrod saw the figure of a crown in the heavens, and he called Sîsân, the weaver, who wore a crown like unto it, and he set it on his head. And because of this men used to say that the crown came down to him from heaven.).
	* 1. **Nimrod Analysis: Masoretic v. Septuagint**

The summary analysis of the Apocrypha claims for each version Masoretic or Septuagint is provided below:

1) If we accept Judaic tradition and the Book of Jasher that i) Nimrod lived at same time as Abraham, ii) Was involved in the Tower, and iii) Essau killed Nimrod, then the Septuagint chronology [where Nimrod dies c. 800 years before Esau born] can not be correct.

2) The Hebrew given date for the Tower Dispersion of

[1765 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_27" \o "As to the Hebrew calendar date I use for Tower of 1765 BC in www.chabot.org I have no further evidence to support it except that this [400 year] later Tower date fits with claims in Book of Jasher and Judaic tradition. ) [[www.chabot.org](http://www.chabot.org)] and Abraham born in

[1813 BC](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_28" \o "Again in my chart I chose to use Hebrew BC chronology rather than Christian ussher so is about a 200 year difference from ussher.) is consistent also with claims in the Book of Jasher as shown below:

*Abraham is 52 in 1761 BC [1813-52] the year Nimrod “renews” his rule over Babel = four years AFTER the Tower dispersion shown in chart as 1765 BC.*

3) The “Cave of Treasures” claims that Rue was 130 is

[inconsistent](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_93" \o "Rue is born 1974 BC so he is 130 in 1844 BC and our Hebrew dating has Abraham born 1813 BC so 32 years before Abraham born.) with [Hebrew] Masoretic dating. This is perhaps not surprising as this work is identified as an ancient Christian [Syriac] Septuagint-like” timeline thus this claim applies more to the Septuagint Nimrod.

* + 1. **When did Nimrod Live and Die?**

A date of 1853 BC for the birth of Nimrod using arbitrary

[assumptions](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_94" \o "All these assignments are arbitrary and based on biblical avaiable first born data. No biblical ages are given typically for anyone but the first born so we are forced to 'guess'. I think Jubilees maybe has some ages in it but have not yet went thru those data to see if they agree with the numbers I have here.) is consistent with all Apocrypha

claims except Cave of Treasures:

1. We assign birth of Ham in same year as first born brother Shem=2203 BC
2. We assign birth of Cush when Ham is age 100 same as when Shem has Arpachshad = 2103 BC.
3. We assign birth of Nimrod when Cush is 250 ‘in old age’ = 2103-250 = 1853 BC
4. Esau is born 1653 BC making Esau 15 when he kills Nimrod who then dies at age 215:

1853 BC (Nimrod b.) -215 (age Nimrod d.) = 1638 BC (Year Nimrod d.)

1. Nimrod would be 88 years old at the Tower Dispersion in 1765 BC and 92 when Abraham is 52 when he resumes rule in 1761 BC over Babel.

 *A date of 1853 BC for the birth of Nimrod is consistent with biblical and ancient Judaic apocrypha claims allowing Nimrod to have taken part in the Tower of Babel in 1765 BC and then go on to rule Babel and later die at the age of 215, the same year Abraham dies, at the hands of a young 15 year old Essau.*

[Hover Note](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_90" \o "If you take note Abraham born in 1813 BC would also die this same given year as Nimrod in 1638 BC at age 175. Talmud and Sages claim that the red stew that Jacob was cooking was to serve to his father Isaac who was grieving the death of his father Abraham who died that same day. On this same day Esau returns from hunting after he kills Nimrod and claims the cloak from Nimrod once owned by Adam and also on this same day Essau loses his birth right to Jacob on account of a trade for the stew.)

1. DID ABRAHAM LIVE AT THE SAME TIME AS NOAH?

The question of whether Abraham co-existed with Noah or Shem or any other of his ancestors has three different answers depending on your bible and faith. In the Septuagint Genesis 5 & 11 numbering scheme, the version used by the *Early Catholic & Present day Eastern Orthodox Churches,* Abraham DID NOT co-exist with Noah or Shem or Eber as they all died hundreds of years before he was born- Eber 271 years before Abraham and Noah 800+ years prior thus no ‘table’ is required to portray this simple case. This reality is also ‘seemingly’ reflected in the bible where only Abraham’s father Terah and Nahor his grandfather are mentioned.

The Masoretic case however is more complicated and has two possible answers depending on your faith and

[bible interpretation](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_46" \o "We do not cover here the logic of Ussher choosing 130 as the age he had Abraham versus the biblical age of 70. The interested reader is referred to Genesis Chapter 11 where this topic is fully discussed. ) of the age Terah had Abraham [70 for Hebrew and 130 for Christian tradition]. Both cases are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Patriarchs Who Lived with Abraham

NOTE: A negative age [red] are Patriarchs that die before Abraham is born. A positive **bold** number is age of Abraham when the Patriarch dies. Bracketed [Green] indicate patriarchs that outlive Abraham.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Patriarch | Year Died (AM) | Abraham’s Age When Patriarch Dies |
|  | (in order death) | Christian [Abram b.2008 AM] | Judaism [Abram b.1948 AM] |
| Peleg | 1996 | -12 | 48 |
| Nahor | 1997 | -11 | 49 |
| Noah | 2006 | -2 | 58 |
| Rue | 2026 | 18 | 78 |
| Serug | 2049 | 41 | 101 |
| Terah | 2083 | 75 | 135 |
| Arpachshad | 2096 | 88 | 148 |
| Shelaha | 2126 | 118a | (3)a |
| Shem [Ham, Japheth]b | 2158 | 150b | (35)b |
| Eberc | 2187 | (4)c | (67)c |

a In Christian Ussher dating Abraham is 118 years old when Shelah dies. In Hebrew dating Shelah outlives Abraham by 3 years..
b In Christian Ussher dating Abraham is 150 years old when Shem dies. In Hebrew dating Shem outlives Abraham by 35 years.
c In both cases Eber outlives Abraham by 4 years (Ussher) or 67 years (Hebrew) version.

The Table

[shows](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_95" \o "Note whether we use the Masoretic Ussher date of 2008 AM or Hebrew 1948 AM both chronologies in Table 2, the ‘earlier’ begetting ages [younger parents] coupled with long lifespans, results in an Abraham who would co-exist with [many more] of his forefathers than seen in the Septuagint case where all pre-decease Abraham by many hundreds of years. ) that only in the Hebrew case does Abraham co-exist with Noah, who lives until Abraham is 58. In the Ussher [Christian] version Noah would die 2 years before Abraham was born [60 year difference]. The high level summary of the two Masoretic versions is shown below.

*Judaic Tradition* [Terah is 70 when he has Abraham]

* Abraham DID co-exist with Noah and was 58 when Noah dies.
* Abraham DID co-exist with Shem who would outlive Abraham by 35 years.
* Eber would outlive Abraham by 67 years.

*Christian Tradition* [Terah is 130 per “Ussher” when he has Abraham]

* Abraham DID NOT co-exist or know Noah who died 2 years before he was born.
* Abraham DID co-exist and know Shem who dies when Abraham is 150 years old.
* Eber would outlive Abraham by 4 years.

Other take-aways from Table 2 are using the Christian [Ussher] chronology, Abraham would have ‘known’ and would ‘witness’ starting at age 18 the deaths of Rue, Serug, Terah, Arpachshad, Shelah, and lastly

[Shem](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_12" \o "[and thus presumably Shem’s bothers Ham and Japheth]) who dies when Abraham is 150. Eber would outlive Abraham by 3 years. Using instead the Hebrew tradition, Abraham would have ‘known’ and would ‘witness’ starting at age 78 [60 years older] the deaths of Peleg, Nahor, Noah, Rue, Serug, Terah, and Arpachshad. Three however, Shelah, Shem, and Eber would all outlive Abraham by 3, 35, and 67 years.

So which Version is True?

If the “Masoretic” version is the correct one and Abraham lived with Shem, Ham, Japheth, possibly even Noah [as in Hebrew tradition], and certainly Eber because he outlives Abraham in either version, why then does the

[bible](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_73" \o "Note however other sources do make this connection for example Book of Jasher which states that Abraham lived with Noah in his house until he was age 50 at which time he left to join Terah in Ur. In an Ussher timeline scenario Abraham would never have known Noah who had died 2 years before Abraham was born. ) make no mention of these important figures that they never

[once](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_48" \o "We refer readers to the story of Melchizedek who rabbinic Judaism cites as being Shem. If true why disguise his name? ) cross paths? No mention of Noah or Shem’s passing or interment? Would they not have [also] lived in Ur of Chaldees or at least close by? Note this argument also extends to Isaac. If Abraham has Isaac at age 100, then Isaac co-exists with Shem who dies when Isaac is 50 and Eber dies when Isaac is 54. In this respect the Septuagint version is better supported as the bible only refers to Terah and Nahor at same time as Abraham ‘implying’ only these two lived at same era as Abraham.

One argument frequently proffered by supporters of the Septuagint bible is a verse in Genesis 25:8 which states that [the 175 year old] Abraham “died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years…”. This biblical claim is hard to square with the [Masoretic] reality shown in Table 2 where Abraham would have ‘grown up with’ and ‘witnessed’ the deaths of as many as 6 patriarchs all of which lived to be [many hundreds of years] older than 175! Using the Masoretic chronology Abraham would have been neither “an old man” nor “full of years”

[compared](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_22" \o "Note however Nahor Abraham's grandfather dies at a younger age 148 than Abraham's 175.) to the world around him. In the Septuagint chronology, as the argument goes, Noah had been deceased for nearly 800 years, Shem for about eight centuries, Eber for about four centuries thus is a much better fit with the claim that Abraham lived to an ‘old’ age. Note however while this verse remains as a strong argument against the Masoretic Genesis 5 & 11 [numbering] version it also does not fully support the Septuagint where Abraham witnessed his father Terah living to 275 and Nahor his grandfather to age 304.

In summary we must conclude the Septuagint [again] seems to be a better fit than the Masoretic case however *neither* adequately support this verse [claim].

1. **CONCLUSIONS AND AUTHOR’S NOTES**

The over-arching theme we see from our analysis in comparing a Masoretic or Septuagint world for the time period of Adam to Abraham using the Genesis 5 & 11 numberings shown in Table 1 is that ‘most’ of the early biblical events like the Flood, Tower of Babel, and figures like Nimrod, Shem, Ham, Japheth [founding of nations], for a Septuagint version is ‘

[centered’](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_53" \o "Just a high level look at chart as to when flood occurred in 3238 BC then assume the 500 year period covering lifespans of Noah, Shem [and brothers Ham, Japheth] we get range of ~ 3300-2800 BC or centrum of 3050.) more or less on a period, ‘3000 BC’, that [mostly] precedes written history or verifiable archelogy thus can neither be proven nor disproven. A Masoretic world [used by modern Christians and Jews] centered on ‘2000 BC’ however is a period where history as well as archeological evidence is ample, thus biblical history [must] now *agree* or *disagree* with the existing extra biblical facts. The other way of describing this is the timeline for Adam to Abraham is about “2000 years” for the Masoretic [Judaic and KJB] and about “3000 years” for the Septuagint version. As to which version matches history best, with the exception of reconciling a “2000 BC era” flood, the Masoretic - derived numbers for the most part agree with both biblical scripture [canon] as well as apocrypha such as Book of Jasher and Talmud. Still, both Masoretic or Septuagint chronologies have their strengths and weaknesses with the Masoretic version perhaps best surviving the scrutiny of extra biblical history.

As a final note it is critical to put into context that this analysis pertains to a ‘very early’ period from Adam to birth of Abraham where history is sparce. Old Testament history has been verified by archeology, C-13 dating, and written history- biblical figures and wars for example going back as far as c. 900 BC some examples are

[Ahab King of Israel](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_28" \o "Identified in the contemporary Kurkh Monolith inscription of Shalmaneser III which describes the Battle of Qarqar and mentions 2,000 chariots, 10,000 soldiers of Ahab the Israelite defeated by Shalmaneser, though the actual number of chariots is disputed.) [c. 874- c. 853 BC],

[Ahaz King of Judah](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_47" \o "Mentioned in a contemporary Summary Inscription of Tiglath-Pileser III which records that he received tribute from 'Jehoahaz of Judah'. Also identified in royal bullae belonging to Ahaz himself  and his son Hezekiah.) [c. 732- c. 716],

[Jehu King of Israel](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_84" \o "Mentioned on the Black Obelisk.) [c. 841- c. 814], and many more up to and including the more recent periods where both theologians and secular scholars can agree, dates for example from

[Xerexes I King of Persia](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_88" \o "Called Ahasuerus in the books of Ezra and Esther. Xerxes is known in archaeology through a number of tablets and monuments, notably the 'Gate of All Nations'  in Persepolis. He is also mentioned in Herodotus' Histories.) [486-465 BC],

[Cleopatra Queen of Asia](#_DocTools_ScreenTip_89" \o "First married to Alexander Balas, later to Demetrius II and Antiochus VII, she became sole ruler after Demetrius' death. Her name and portrait appear on period coinage.) [126–121 BC], and on and on through the final last fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD. Given this level of veracity in the Old Testament is it an errand of logic, science, history, or even basic human reasoning to claim earlier figures such as Noah or Abraham or Nimrod are myth? Just because no evidence has yet been found to support them? Is a ‘lack of evidence’ *proof* of its absence? And even if we accept this “flawed” logic that these figures never existed where do we draw the line between fact and myth? 2000 BC? 1000 BC? 900 BC? 800 BC? If we have evidence that David lived does not logic suggest his father Solomon and wife Beersheba also existed despite a lack of evidence? And if David and Solomon, why not Abraham or Nimrod or Noah? A scientific theorem is proposed because it fits “some” observed data. A theory or hypothesis however can never be *proven* rather only *disproven* by a fact and not because of the *absence* of such a fact. Is not then the bible our best “primary” historical source and as such should we not be accepting all as truth until “disproven” as opposed to assigning the claim as myth “first”? In summary, whether a theologian, bible critic, impartial historian, or a scientist like myself, the Bible has “earned” its status to be accepted “first as truth until *disproven”* rather than “first as myth until “proven”.