

Outline Studies
in
Biblical Chronology

**A Continuous Chronology
From Creation to The Cross
and
The Birth of the Church**

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Publication:
2nd Edition, March 2024

**"Thou hast magnified Thy word according to
all Thy name." *Psalm 138:2c* (NASB)**

**"Known unto God are all His works from the
beginning of the world." *Acts 15:18* (KJV)**

Outline Studies in Biblical Chronology

A Continuous Chronology from Creation to the Cross

Perspective and Overview

The outline studies assembled here were composed with several undergirding perspectives in view. These perspectives, along with the primary thesis permeating the development of each outline, are summarized in the following statements.

Perspectives:

1. The Scriptures are so breathed-out by the Spirit of God, and so organized by superintending providence, that they possess a perfect correlative coherence and form a unitary and wholly trustworthy revelation of God's purpose and working in history.
2. The Scriptures are authoritative, and completely sufficient for the creature made in God's image to discern, in both content and purpose, the Creator's redemptive plan for creation and His working in history.
3. The OT Scriptures contain not only a detailed thread-line of God's redemptive program in history, but also a continuous chronological flow line of the development of this program extending from Adam to Christ.
4. Since all chronological references in the completed and eternal record of inscripturated truth are integral to God's revelatory intentions, all references with such detail are provided purposefully to assist in guiding and constraining the understanding and exposition of these texts, particularly as they magnify the glory of the Creator and His providence in accomplishing His age-long purposes in creation.

Thesis:

The OT Scriptures contain, wholly within the received texts, sufficient detail to compose a completely consistent chronology extending continuously (i.e., without discontinuities or gaps) from creation to the cross of Christ, even continuing beyond the resurrection of Christ to birth of the Church at that historic Pentecost recorded in the second chapter of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Procedural Perspective:

Building on the perspectives and thesis stated above, all outlines included in this booklet are constructed entirely and solely through reference to Scriptural accounts, and all conclusions in cases where a surface reading of a text suggests apparent chronological ambiguity have been resolved through a persistent and unyielding commitment to sustaining internal consistency between all related Biblical texts. In no instance are accounts, data, or events from secular history employed to either bridge an apparent gap or to resolve a perceived ambiguity.

General Comments:

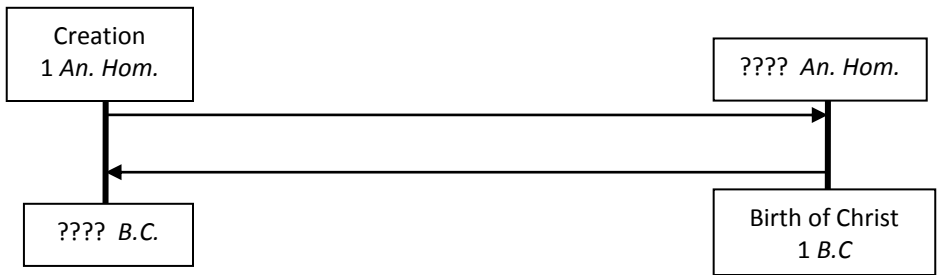
Most of the chronological outlines included here were developed as supplements to related, larger-scope studies by the author while teaching different courses in the Adult Bible Class structure of his home church. As such, some of the chapters are but bare outlines intended to accompany associated explanatory detail via a lecture, and most have relevant 'end-summary' chronologies allowing the reader to see both the immediate as well as the larger-scope chronological context pertinent to a particular book, character, or historical period. On the other hand, several chapters contain a comparatively more amplified presentation, particularly in instances where the author has encountered chronological disparities between various commentaries and study Bibles. However,

per the motivation and thesis undergirding these studies, at no point is an appeal made to data obtained from secular history to decide between contrasting interpretations, nor is any such data employed in offering a preferred resolution of supposed chronological ambiguity.

It is important to note that the foregoing comments should not be construed as implying that all outlines have been composed independent of other sources. To the contrary, multiple sources have been examined, particularly from excellent works addressing the titled subject of “Biblical Chronology”, whether in focused works on chronology or related notes in commentaries or study Bibles, and many helpful pointers have been gained thereby from a variety of scholar-authors. However, all included outlines, both in presentation form and, to various degrees, in essential content, are largely independently developed and are assembled here as a collection derived from personal study notes composed by the author.

Chronological Time-Designation Format:

Since the Scriptures begin at the beginning – at creation – and proceed forward in time with a mostly consecutive flow of history, the marking of time is naturally given in years **Anno Hominis (Ann. Hom.)**. That is, the employed time-designation format is in years measured since the era of man (since creation). The fundamental reason for marking time from creation is that a reckoning in the common format of years B.C. (i.e., years before the advent of Christ as is most widely employed) ought to (must!) await an accurately constructed history from creation to Christ based on authoritative, internal textual evidence. Only then can a reliable reference date for the birth of Christ in relation to the whole flow of foregoing history be established.

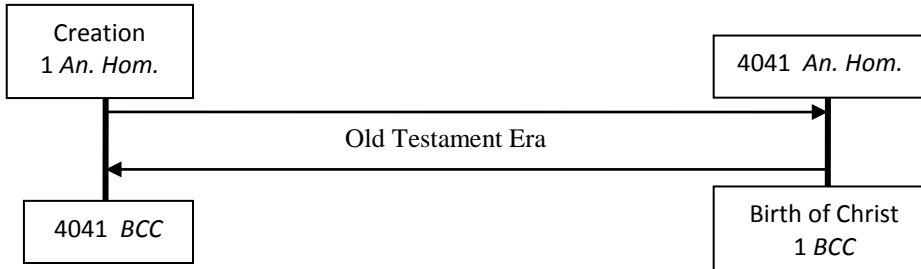


Any alternate marking of time, say proceeding backward in time from the birth of Christ using the received chronology of Ptolemy, and the less than fully-consistent reckoning of Biblical events prior to the fall of Jerusalem under the sieges of Nebuchadnezzar, is undoubtedly vulnerable to a mix of conjecture, presumed dating from fallible interpretations of archeological discoveries, and subsequently attempted “mixed” harmonies with Biblical data. Such an approach to the construction of a “Biblical Chronology” falls short, in this author’s opinion, of the implied meaning of the titled term. As already noted, the present compilation of outlines flows out of the author’s longer-standing desire to explore a construction of what might be termed a *true* “Biblical Chronology” – a chronology that is devoid of internal inconsistency and the intrusive employment of data from secular (i.e., non-Biblical) accounts of the temporal flow of history.

The reader will observe that, in later chapters in this series of outlines, two different B.C. time designators appear. One is denoted by the acronym BCN – “before Christ nominal”, and the other is denoted as BCC – “before Christ corrected”. The distinction between these two dating systems arises because the nominal BC dating system that is prevalent in virtually all historical references derives from a largely uncritical acceptance of the Ptolemaic system as factual; that is, as historically validated. Dates of persons and events before the Christian era presented as “truth” in that system is found, as detailed in chapters 6 through 9 of this study, to be inconsistent with the constructed chronology appearing in these outlines. The inconsistency proposed herein arises particularly with the nominally accepted dating of monarchs and events in the later part of the Persian era. As argued

in those chapters, a rigid reluctance to insert any gaps to enforce consistency with the Ptolemaic system requires a correction, leading to the BCC dates appearing in several chapters.

It is shown in Ch. 6 that a Biblically consistent understanding of the great prophecy of Daniel, the prophecy of the 70 weeks (i.e., weeks of years), requires a reduction of the nominally assigned length of the Persian era by 83 years. Furthermore, it reveals that the Old Testament era, extending continuously from creation until the first year in the Anno Domini (A.D.) reckoning, encompasses a span of 4041 years. Or, stated in another way, creation occurred in the year 4041 BCC.



The reader will find several summary chronologies in latter chapters where the dating of key events is presented in parallel columns, thereby revealing the derived dates in all three systems: An. Hom., BCN, and BCC. The distinctions are, in the author’s opinion, vital to any presentation of a “true” Biblical Chronology.

Comment: The near-universal acceptance of the Ptolemaic system and the BCN accounting of years within many writings on Biblical Chronology stems, quite likely, from restricting one’s analytic focus to narrow historical segments and only more-immediate contexts of Biblical texts. That is, it arises from examining particular chronological details mostly in isolation, and not requiring a consistently connected, continuous chronology that insists on correlative coherency between all differentiated times and events – between times and events that, in God’s grand plan for the ages, are necessarily never unrelated and never disconnected.

Summary Question Exposing Motivation:

A question that has risen to the fore in the author’s study and review of a number of published Biblical Chronologies is as follows:

Why resort to an accounting of years, often by a somewhat contrived appeal to secular constructs of ancient history (i.e., particularly prior to the Grecian era), or attempting especially to enforce consistency with secular history, when a detailed connection of events and periods can be set forth precisely in literal calendar years through careful and consistent correlations of Biblical texts alone?

Stated in another way:

Should not the construction of a Biblical Chronology first settle the question of authority, an issue that goes to the heart of reliability of conclusions, and only then proceed to elaborate details of the sequential flow of events as ordered by divine providence and in accordance with infallibly recorded texts of sacred Scripture?

The author contends that such question ought to be settled affirmatively up front, and so with expressed clarity and vigilant adherence, in any study under this title.

Explanatory Note: All Scriptural texts quoted in these outlines, unless otherwise noted, are taken from the NASB, 1977 version.

About the Author

Dr. Redekopp is a retiree from a career-long engagement in engineering education and research. He earned a baccalaureate degree in mechanical engineering from Montana State University and post-graduate degrees (M.S. and Ph.D.) from UCLA in aerospace engineering sciences. During his professional career he has been a principle investigator on multiple research projects, served as chair of engineering departments, taught more than 25 different undergraduate and graduate courses in aerospace engineering, mechanical engineering and mathematics, directed or co-directed more than a dozen research students to successfully earned Ph.D. degrees, supervised a number of post-doctoral associates, authored or co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed research publications, chaired professional scientific societies, served as associate editor of an international scientific journal, and was a consultant on scientific projects in the corporate sector. He has received awards in recognition for excellence in teaching, research impact, student mentorship, and university service.

However, and much more apropos to authorship of the present manuscript, he has been active in teaching adult Bible classes in his home church for more than five decades. He has served his church congregation as chairman of the elders for an extended number of years, and in the role of interim pastor on several occasions. Albeit without any formal Bible school or seminary education, he has composed lesson outlines and lecture materials through self-study involving a range of Biblical texts, diverse theological writings, multiple commentaries, plus a variety of other study materials related to Biblical exposition, church history, etc. He has developed extensive lecture notes pertaining to Biblical chronology, the doctrine of God, Biblical and scientific creationism, the doctrine of salvation, character studies, and eschatology. He and his wife Judy have three married children and seven grandchildren.

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