

# The Shorter Word Timeline



## of Western Civilization

He has made from one blood  
every nation of men to dwell  
on all the face of the earth,  
and has determined their pre-appointed times  
and the boundaries of their dwellings,  
so that they should seek the Lord  
in the hope that they might  
grope for Him and find Him,  
though He is not far from each one of us,  
for in Him we live and move  
and have our being.

From Paul's address on Mars Hill  
to the leading philosophical society in Athens, Greece

c. 65 AD

Acts 17: 26-27 NKJV



**ADAM**  
AND EVE, TOO,  
OF COURSE

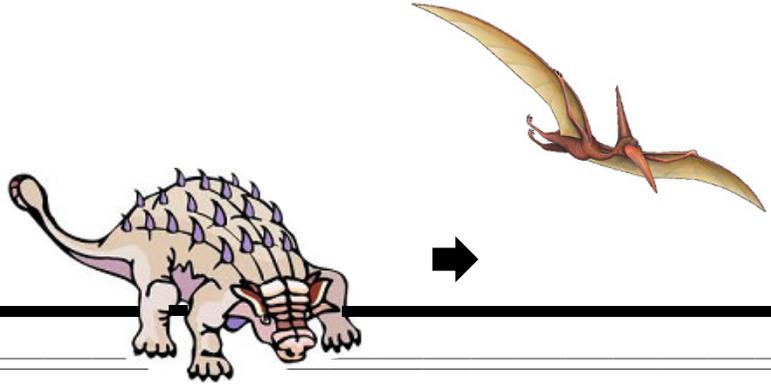
# Pre-Flood Cities

The Bible says the first city was built by Cain and named for his son Enoch. In later generations, Jabal was the first to “live in tents and keep livestock.” Jabal’s brother Jubal was the first to “play the harp and the flute.” Their half-brother Tubal-Cain “heated metal and shaped all kinds of tools made of bronze and iron.” (Gen. 4)

The world had only one language at this time.



First “gift of tongues”—Adam & Eve spoke a language they did not learn which was supernaturally given to them by God.



4000 BC

3000 BC

## CREATION & THE FALL

Sin & Death enter the story.

The serpent is consigned to slithering on the ground, but will remain a symbol of Satan who is the “prince and power of the air” and bent on deceiving the nations. (Eph 2:2).

### 2 Keys That Enable a civilization to advance—

1. The freedom and opportunity to share and exchange knowledge, ideas, & discoveries (i.e., two heads are better than one)
2. The freedom and opportunity to pass down knowledge, ideas, and discoveries to the next generation (education)

When you see the symbol of the key in other places on this Timeline, notice how at least one of the above 2 factors is prominently at work.



In the prophecy, God tells Adam and Eve that the serpent will bruise the heel of the woman’s “seed” (i.e., her child or her descendant), but he—this seed—will bruise the serpent’s head.

### Both the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers

are mentioned as being part of the **Garden of Eden**, but Eden is described as having 4 rivers and the landscape would have been drastically altered during the Great Flood.

### Nevertheless, Mesopotamia

(the “land between the rivers”) is still traditionally held to be the place of God’s lush and beautiful garden.

### Dates for creation

are debatable, and that is such an understatement, you may laugh! This timeline uses a rounded-off date for creation based on the **traditional creation date of Orthodox Jews**—3761 BC to be exact. Their calendars are even dated from that year. For example, in our year 2005, an Orthodox Jewish calendar will also give an alternate date of 5765, meaning it has been 5765 years since the Creation.\* The Orthodox Jewish date is most likely the one Jesus would have learned as a boy from his local rabbi. So whatever date you use for the beginning of the world, it’s good to know this one.

Ditto for dates related to the Flood.

\* When you do the math, you may think they are missing a year, but it is because there is no “0” year between BC and AD. This was done just to confuse students. You can blame the medieval monk who developed the system.



# Noah



## Egypt—The Old Kingdom

King Menes Unites Upper & Lower Egypt.  
This marks the beginning of the Old Kingdom.

Then Djozer comes to the throne and has his architect Imhotep build Egypt's first pyramid—the Step Pyramid.



Most of Egypt's pyramids were built during the time of the Old Kingdom.

3000 BC



2000 BC

**The Tower of Babel** was probably a ziggurat and a precursor to the Egyptian Pyramids. It is believed that the city of Babylon was built on the site of this tower. Babylon was in Sumer, the earliest civilization on earth.

### The Rise of Sumer

➔ Akadians, a Semitic people, conquer Sumer. The term "Semitic" means a descendent of Shem, one of Noah's 3 sons. Both Arabs and Jews are Semitic people and speak Semitic languages, though the term is most often used of Jews.

➔ The **City of Ur** in Sumer grows in power, conquers neighboring cities, and establishes a second Sumer Empire. Abraham was called out of Ur during the peak of this period.

A huge library containing thousands of cuneiform tablets was found when Ur was excavated in modern times.

Abraham was from a wealthy family and probably knew how to read and write in cuneiform.

### THE FOUR EARLIEST CIVILIZATIONS ON PLANET EARTH:

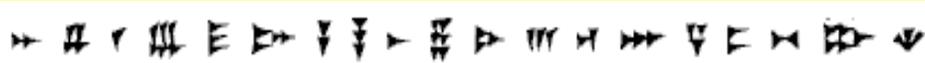
1. SUMER— on the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (also called Mesopotamia, "between the rivers")
2. EGYPT—on the Nile
3. INDIA—on the Indus River
4. CHINA—on the Yellow River (Huang He)

*These early civilizations grew up along rivers which acted as "liquid highways" for commerce & trade. Rivers enabled the exchange of ideas and knowledge between towns, as well as providing water for washing, drinking, and the irrigation of crops.*



*The four civilizations above also represent the four earliest types of writing, with Sumer having the first.*

### Early Writing



The earliest form of writing was cuneiform (shown above) developed by the Sumerians in Mesopotamia. "Cunei" means wedge, so cuneiform literally means "wedge form" writing. Using a wedge-shaped stylus, the writer would impress wet clay with small wedge-shaped marks. The clay would then be baked and thus preserved for thousands of years for archaeologists to find today. Cuneiform was used through the time of the 2nd Babylonian Empire and the time of the prophet Daniel.

Meanwhile, Egypt was developing its own writing system—hieroglyphs. The pictures below are examples.



# Abraham

Horus was the falcon-headed god of Egypt. It was believed that his eye kept watch over the people. The Ankh is probably the symbol most often identified with Egypt. It stood for life.

## Egypt—The Middle Kingdom

Conquest by the Hyksos



## The New Kingdom—Egypt's Golden Age



2000 BC



Bk. Of Genesis ends

1500 BC

Exodus, Lev., Num., Deut. Joshua... Judges..... Ruth

I&II Samuel

1000 BC

Joseph is sold into slavery and that's how the people of Israel all end up in Egypt →

Old Babylonian Period  
↓  
The Code of Hammurabi  
c. 1772



## MOSES

& THE GREAT EXODUS OUT OF EGYPT



(c. 1446)

Moses writes the first five books of the Bible, known as the Torah, or Law.

Remember: "Moses in the Middle" of the 2nd millennium

Living in the Promised Land— (This is the time of the Judges)

40 years in the wilderness

Israel becomes a kingdom "like other nations" when it gets its first flesh and blood king— **Saul.** (c.1051— 1011) Saul is the first of 3 kings of the united kingdom.

## Greek History Begins

### The Minoan Age

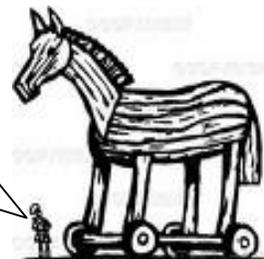
King Minos rules the whole Aegean Sea area from his island kingdom of Crete. His palace had bathrooms and running water. The story of **Theseus and the Minotaur** is derived from this period.

### The Mycenaean Age

This era includes the time period of Homer's epic poems the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

The *Iliad* tells the tale of **The Trojan War.**

Finally, those Greeks have given up and left Troy! And look at this horse...so nice of them to leave a peace offering!

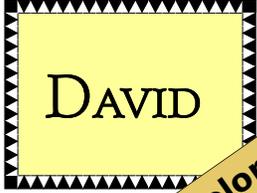




From the Star of David to the Star of Bethlehem



Herod died in April of 4BC, so Jesus was born *before* that.



King Solomon & Israel's Golden Age



The first temple is destroyed and the second temple is rebuilt within a century.

Books of Kings... &... Chronicles

Destruction of Solomon's Temple

and all of Jerusalem by Babylon 586 BC



2nd Temple—Rebuilt in 515

Death of Alexander the Great

323 BC



Assassination of Julius Caesar on the "Ides of March"

1 BC there is no zero

1000 BC

Civil War splits the country

Israel—the north—Golden Calf worship becomes the state religion

Judah—the south—people still worship the LORD (off and on)  
—Jerusalem & Temple are in Judah  
—Messiah to come through Judah

A B P Greece ROME

Daniel

Homer wrote The Iliad & The Odyssey c. 800

First Olympics: 776

City of Rome was founded c 753

(See Daniel 2) King Neb's dream:

Babylon Persia Greece Rome  
Head of gold... chest of silver... thighs of bronze... legs of iron.  
(and the feet of clay + iron = Post Rome Europe)

Cuneiform is still being used!



A B P Greece Rome stands for the succession of nations: Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome. Each nation gobbles up the territory of the one before it and exceeds it in greatness and power.

- **Assyria**—the first of these nations—was infamous for its extreme brutality and use of terror to conquer new lands. It conquered the northern Jewish kingdom of Israel (722 BC). The northern 10 tribes of Israel were forced to leave & settle in other lands. *They never returned to their homeland.* The land was then resettled by other people who became known as the Samaritans—hated by Jews because they adopted a pseudo Judaism with truth and falsehood all mixed together. That's one reason "The Good Samaritan" was a rather shocking parable to the Jews who were listening when Jesus told it.
- **Babylon**—This brief revival of Babylonian supremacy is called the Neo-Babylonian Period. **Babylon** conquered Assyria and then God removed His protection from Judah, and Babylon went on to conquer the southern kingdom. The Temple and Jerusalem were destroyed (586 BC). Daniel & friends, Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego (Dan. 1-3), were all taken to Babylon during this era. Daniel prophesied the succession of kingdoms to follow—**major evidence that the Bible is the unique Word of God.**
- **Persia**—grew in strength and conquered Babylon. Persia, being more "enlightened" than the previous kingdoms, had a national policy of allowing conquered people to remain in their homeland, and thus the Persian king **allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and build a new temple.** God promised to give "greater glory" to the second temple than to the first, and He did just that—because eventually God Himself in the person of Jesus walked and taught in that temple with His disciples.
- **Greece**—was next up and it became a world power under Alexander the Great. Greek culture spread throughout the Mediterranean area and beyond, a process known as **Hellenization.** **The Greek language became an international trade language** even after the **Romans** (whose language was Latin) took over. That's why simple fishermen living in the small state of Israel knew Greek as a second language. That is why the New Testament was written in Greek. The spread of the gospel was faster because of the international trade language of Greek.
- **Rome**—conquered Greece but loved Greek culture and spread it even more. When the Roman Empire finally fell, it marked a cataclysmic change in society and the beginning of the longest depression in history. **Historians use the fall of Rome to mark the close of ancient history and beginning of the Middle Ages.**

"Veni, Vidi, Vici."  
"I came, I saw, I conquered."

That is Caesar's famous line about conquering Gaul. Then Cleopatra probably said it about him.

After Caesar is assassinated, she romances Mark Antony. Everybody ends up dead. And it all made for a good play—one of Shakespeare's most famous tragedies— 1600 years later.



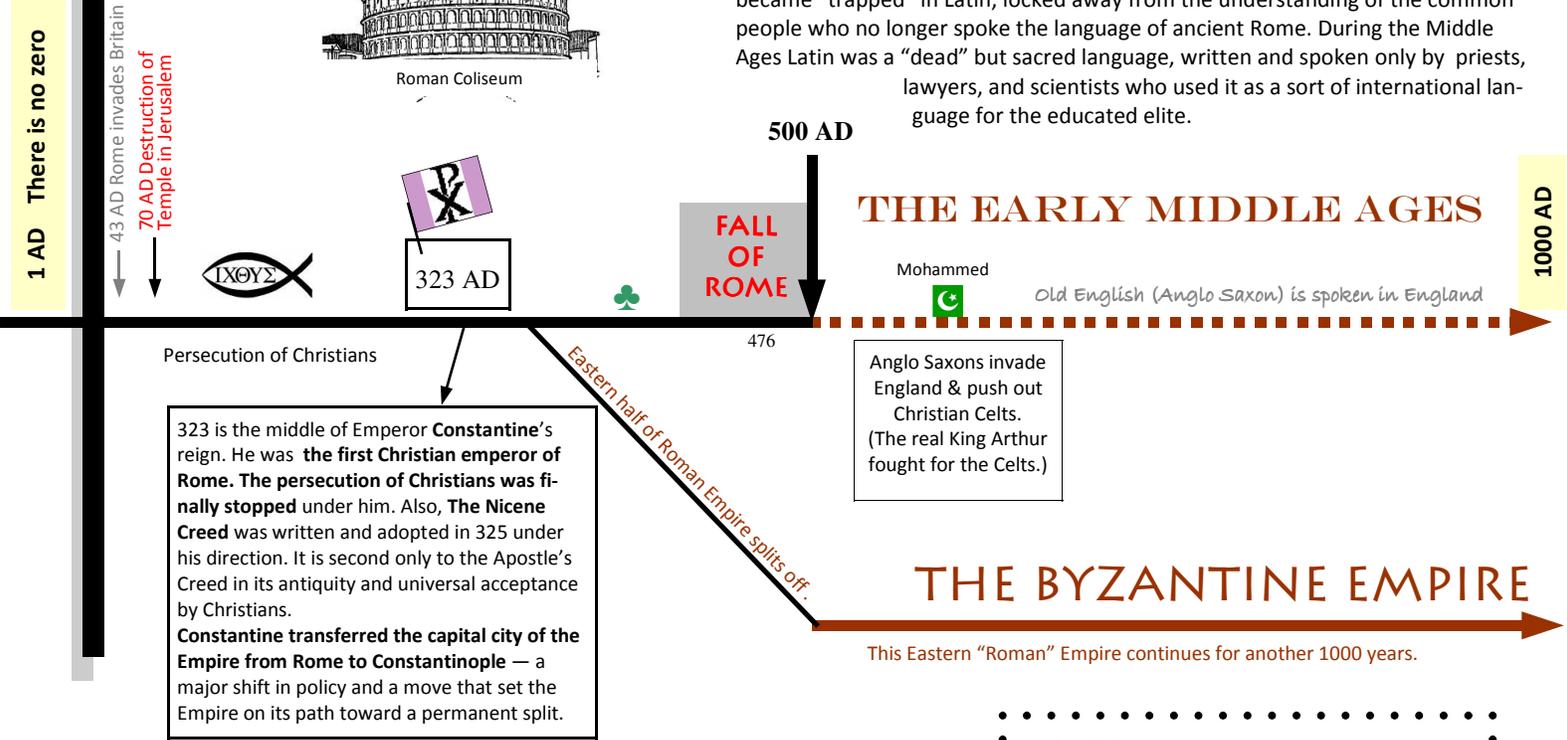
## THE BIBLE BECOMES "LOCKED AWAY" IN LATIN

The Bible was translated into Latin at a time when Latin was the living, spoken, common language of the Roman Empire. Then, as Latin gave way to the various languages which descend from it (French, Spanish, Italian, etc.), the church (Roman Catholic) refused to translate the Bible into anything but Latin; the Bible became "trapped" in Latin, locked away from the understanding of the common people who no longer spoke the language of ancient Rome. During the Middle Ages Latin was a "dead" but sacred language, written and spoken only by priests, lawyers, and scientists who used it as a sort of international language for the educated elite.

The gladiatorial games ended soon after Christianity became the state religion.



Roman Coliseum



### Compelling Evidence:

There is sound documentary evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus, especially when compared to documentary evidence for the lives of other ancient historical figures, such as Homer, Plato, or even Julius Caesar. If you compare existing ancient manuscripts on Jesus with those for any other ancient person or event, the manuscripts we possess are:

- (1) *far greater in number*
- (2) *The copies were made much closer in time to when the original manuscripts were composed.*
- (3) *There are only minor differences among the various copies.*

Those are the three primary criteria used by scholars to judge the reliability of any ancient manuscript.

Then add to that a fourth persuasive component of the Christian message: those who wrote were testifying to **an event**—the resurrection—to which they claimed to be eye-witnesses. They were not just asserting belief in a particular philosophy or doctrine. Many people have died for various beliefs (like communism) which may or may not be true. But these early disciples were willing to die for something they claimed to have seen, something they witnessed. That still does not provide actual proof they saw the risen Jesus, but proves that they *believed* they did beyond question.

- In the 300's (after Constantine's reign) the
- **Roman Empire split into two separate empires**. The western half still had Rome, Italy,
- as its capital city and continued to be called
- the "**Roman Empire**." The eastern half had
- the city of Constantinople (named after Constantine) as its capital and historians refer to it as the **Byzantine Empire**. After Rome fell in
- 476, the Byzantine Empire continued for another thousand years!
- While the language of the Roman Empire was
- **Latin**, the language of the Byzantine Empire was **Greek**, so the oldest copies of the New
- Testament in its original Greek were preserved by the Greek Orthodox Church of the
- Byzantine Empire.

*It's all about the Resurrection*

Always remember—

### Historians consider the fall of Rome as the close of Ancient History.

This date ushers in the Middle Ages or medieval times. Of course, the people of that era didn't think they were the middle of anything. They thought they were living in the most modern times ever. That's what we all think. And it's true.

Remember, the Middle Ages go from the middle of the first millennium to the middle of the next: 500 to 1500 AD.

# THE AGE OF THE OPEN BIBLE

From the Reformation onward, the Bible is translated into the common languages of the people.

1066

## William the Conqueror

conquered England and Norman French became the language of the ruling elite in England for 300 years! That's why one half of our English vocabulary comes from French.

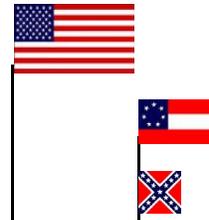
1500

## THE REFORMATION

*The Light of God's Word rises again*  
"Sola Scriptura" and "Sola Fide"



July 4, 1776



1861-1865

2000 AD

## THE LATE MIDDLE AGES

Or, High Middle Ages, when knights, castles, and chivalry reach their peak in Europe



Middle English (Chaucer) →

Modern English →

1000 AD

The Crusades



1400 to 1600

## The Renaissance

c.1450—the Printing press was invented and became the fuel for both the Renaissance and the Reformation.

1453— Byzantine Empire fell to Ottoman Turks

1492—Col. discovered Am.; Muslims & Jews are driven from Spain

1516—Luther's 95 Theses and Erasmus's Greek NT

1543—Copernicus—beginning of scientific revolution

1607—founding of Jamestown

1611—King James Bible;

1616—Shakespeare died

WWI 1917-18 (US involvement)  
WWII 1941-45 (US involvement)

1968

## The Computer Age

"The Mother of All Demos" Is the name given to Stanford researcher Douglas Engelbart's demonstration of experimental computer technologies that were just then on the horizon but are commonplace today.



First home computers came out in the mid-70's.

The Apple I was presented to the public on April Fools Day 1976.

### The Muslim Religion —

The crescent moon and star are the symbol for Islam, the religion of Mohammed, which was like a fire spreading everywhere, even conquering the south of Spain where it threatened to take over the rest of Europe.

Finally, even the **Byzantine Empire** fell to the Muslims when it was conquered by the Ottoman Turks. But its downfall at the end of the Middle Ages brought Greek speaking refugees to western Europe along with knowledge of Greek and also *Greek manuscripts of the Bible*.

1516—Erasmus was the first to publish a complete Greek New Testament printed side-by-side with a fresh Latin translation. Western scholars could now study the NT in the original Greek for the first time in 1000 years!

### Renaissance Scientists:

Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo were all Christians. Kepler wrote praises in the margins of his scientific notes. Scientific inquiry was seen as possible only because a creator God had made an orderly universe that operates according to discoverable laws.

1859—*Origin of Species* was published. Darwin's evolutionary theory soon became the paradigm for all the sciences as well as philosophy, history, and sociology. Scientific naturalism catapulted us into an age of unprecedented atheism. Random forces are seen as the "maker of all things." All truth is discoverable—nothing is "revealed." There are no absolutes.

*The Renaissance* was fueled by many factors. Here are five of the most important—

1. The Crusades—brought knowledge of foreign lands and new ideas back into Europe.
2. The fantastic invention of the printing press—Gutenberg, c. 1450. The printing press changed society (the way computers are changing it now) by exponentially expanding the opportunities to share and exchange knowledge of every kind.
3. The break up of feudalism —because it freed people to move upward in their station in life, a big motivator for entrepreneurial creativity, exploration, and experimentation in every field.
4. A shift in the population from the farms to the cities. Moving to the cities meant people were less isolated and had more opportunity to exchange information.
5. Fall of the Byzantine Empire—Greek speaking emigrants, including scholars, came to western Europe bringing with them copies of ancient Greek manuscripts and knowledge of the Greek language. Scholars in the west began to rediscover the mathematical, scientific, literary, and philosophical works of the ancient Greeks and Romans, works which had been virtually lost to them for a thousand years!

ALL FIVE of the above factors are strong examples of the key factors needed for a civilization to advance.

# THIRD MILLENNIUM ANNO DOMINI

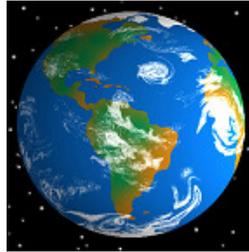
A new millennium and  
the time of YOUR life!

2000 AD

Eventually...



Gen.3:15—  
Final  
Fulfillment



New Earth  
Rev. 21



Creation Restored

It's all about the  
Resurrection

“*In the past God overlooked such ignorance [worshipping idols], but now he commands all people everywhere to repent for he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.*”

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.”

At that, Paul left the Council.

Paul's closing remarks to the Council on Mars Hill