

An introduction to Biblical Chronology

Scripture References and Notes

Session 1

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Note: all scriptures are from the AV (KJV)

Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.

The Men Who Have Paved The Way

Sir Edward Denny lived 1796 to 1889 (*not 1835 as stated in the talk—apologies*)

Sir Edward Denny published his work in 1818, and discovered the 'backbone' to the whole subject of Biblical Chronology, which in itself is the backbone of history!! We discuss his work here in Session 1.

H Grattan Guinness lived 1835 to 1910

We will deal with Grattan Guinness' work in later studies. Together with Sir Edward Denny he discovered the main principles that enabled the dating system to be established. (He is from the famous Guinness family.)

Arthur E Ware lived 1885 to 1978

Arthur Ware, or 'A E Ware' as he is more frequently known, came along and looked at the work of these men, made a few adjustments and — with his team of associates — sought God between 1929 and 1938 (some into 1950's) and had several critical dates revealed to him. He was then able to establish the dates of the major events in the Bible—using the patterns discussed.

These are the three main men who had revealed to them the basic framework of chronologies and calendars that make up the time periods for the last 6,000 years. Now they all made mistakes and some of their assumptions weren't always right, but if you take the work of the three of them you will get a pretty good idea of Biblical Chronology. Others, whose work may be referred to are:

Frank L Paine lived 1906 to 1983

One of A E Ware's associates. He was a real watchman. Keith and Pat knew him and his wife personally. She died in 2000 in her mid-90's. Her daughter, Joy, is still around and with A E Ware's daughter (Liz) and Roger Price's widow (Ros) they attended and contributed to a conference on Biblical Chronology in October 2000. Frank wrote two books and Keith had the pleasure of doing some serious proof-reading and typesetting correction for one, *Miracle of Time*, which he helped to publish in 1993.

Roger Price lived 1947 to 1987

A noted and very popular Bible teacher in a lot of places and fellowships in Britain (and in some European countries) from the mid 70's to the late 80's. He made the Bible (and in this specific instance Chronology) very easy to understand.

Keith had the privilege of running his Tape Ministry for eleven years and helped to send out probably around a quarter of a million of his Bible Studies on cassette tape and video during the period from 1979 to 1991. This ministry is still going and we commend his work, originally on cassette and now on CD and in MP3 format, with some also on video and DVD (and some also in book form), to you.

His excellent audio series on Biblical Chronology is a wonderful foundation and, with the blessing of his widow, Ros, I make no excuse for using the layout and much of his work on Chronology as a framework and foundation for this series of studies. Many of the charts and diagrams are based on his charts—which in turn were simplifications of many of the more complicated charts drawn up by the other men. Roger's love for the Word of God was infectious and his Bible Studies were simple yet profound, and I owe a lot of my own understanding of the Bible to him.

Lastly there are two men who are still with us who deserve a mention:

Martin Thompson, who has devised a computerised chronology, calendar and dating program, linking all the calendars and chronologies. We did hope to use this in later sessions. He also unlocked the monthly calendar system, based on the phasis, or first appearance of the moon. This is a real key to understanding the differences in calendars relating to man and God, and establishing the format of the intercalary system, which we hope to deal with later. He is also working on a Bible Chronology website (currently being reconstructed: www.biblechronology.com).

George Ewan, and his wife **Jackie**, have also done some important work establishing an accurate record of all the kings of Israel, unlocking the finer details of the accession years, and the intercalary system. Again, his work is available and we aim to introduce you to it after the sixth Chronology Session, with three pages of charts.

Genesis 1

31. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Genesis 2

- 1.** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.
- 2.** And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.
- 3.** And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Exodus 20

- 8.** Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 9.** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:
- 10.** But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:
- 11.** For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

2 Peter 3

- 7.** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
- 8.** But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
- 9.** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- 10.** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

We have a very interesting first century quote for you. It's outside the Bible, so it's not inspired, but a Bible character, Barnabas, writes it. In chapter 13 of his epistle he writes (translated into AV language!):

Barnabas 13

Sanctify the sabbath of the Lord with pure hands and with a clean heart. Even in the beginning of creation he makes mention of the sabbath. And God made in six days the works of his hands and He finished them on the seventh day. And He rested on the seventh day and sanctified it. Consider my children what that signifies: He finished them in six days. The meaning of it is this: that in six thousand years the Lord God will bring all things to an end. For with him one day is as a thousand years as He himself testifieth, saying in six days, that is in six thousand years, shall all things be accomplished. And what is it that he sayeth: "and He rested the seventh day" He meaneth this, that when His Son shall come and abolish the season of the wicked one and judge the ungodly then shall he gloriously rest in that seventh day.

Revelation 20

- 1.** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
- 2.** And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,
- 3.** And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.
- 4.** And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Leviticus 25

1. And the Lord spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying,

2. Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the Lord.

3. Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof;

4. But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the Lord: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.

5. That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land.

6. And the sabbath of the land shall be meat for you; for thee, and for thy servant, and for thy maid, and for thy hired servant, and for thy stranger that sojourneth with thee.

7. And for thy cattle, and for the beast that are in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be meat.

8. And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years **shall be unto thee forty and nine years.**

9. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound **on the tenth day of the seventh month**, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land.

10. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.

11. A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed.

12. For it is the jubilee; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field.

13. In the year of this jubilee ye shall return every man unto his possession.

14. And if thou sell ought unto thy neighbour, or buyest ought of thy neighbour's hand, ye shall not oppress one another:

15. According to the number of years after the jubilee thou shalt buy of thy neighbour, and according unto the number of years of the fruits he shall sell unto thee:

16. According to the multitude of years thou shalt increase the price thereof, and according to the fewness of years thou shalt diminish the price of it: for according to the number of the years of the fruits doth he sell unto thee.

17. Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the Lord your God.

18. Wherefore ye shall do My statutes, and keep My judgements, and do them; and ye shall dwell in the land in safety.

19. And the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety.

20. And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase:

21. Then I will command My blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years.

22. And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat yet of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall eat of the old store.

23. The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is Mine, for ye are strangers and sojourners with Me.

24. And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land.

25. If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.

26. And if the man have none to redeem it, and himself be able to redeem it;

27. Then let him count the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus unto the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession.

28. But if he be not able to restore it to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of jubilee: and in the jubilee it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession.

29. And if a man sell a dwelling house in a walled city, then he may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold; within a full year may he redeem it.

30. And if it be not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house that is in the walled city shall be established for ever to him that bought it throughout his generations: it shall not go out in the jubilee.

31. But the houses of the villages which have no wall round about them shall be counted as the fields of the country: they may be redeemed, and they shall go out in the jubilee.

32. Notwithstanding the cities of the Levites, and the houses of the cities of their possession, may the Levites redeem at any time.

32. Notwithstanding the cities of the Levites, and the houses of the cities of their possession, may the Levites redeem at any time.

33. And if a man purchase of the Levites, then the house that was sold, and the city of his possession, shall go out in the year of jubilee: for the houses of the cities of the Levites are their possession among the children of Israel.

34. But the field of the suburbs of their cities may not be sold; for it is their perpetual possession.

35. And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee.

36. Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee.

37. Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase.

38. I am the Lord your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God.

39. And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant:

40. But as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, and shall serve thee unto the year of jubilee.

41. And then shall he depart from thee, both he and his children with him, and shall return unto his own family, and unto the possession of his fathers shall he return.

42. For they are my servants, which I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: they shall not be sold as bondmen.

43. Thou shalt not rule over him with rigour; but shalt fear thy God.

44. Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids.

45. Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that are with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession.

46. And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them for a possession; they shall be your bondmen for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour.

47. And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother that dwelleth by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger or sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family:

48. After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him:

49. Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.

50. And he shall reckon with him that bought him from the year that he was sold to him unto the year of jubilee: and the price of his sale shall be according unto the number of years, according to the time of an hired servant shall it be with him.

51. If there be yet many years behind, according unto them he shall give again the price of his redemption out of the money that he was bought for.

52. And if there remain but few years unto the year of jubilee, then he shall count with him, and according unto his years shall he give him again the price of his redemption.

53. And as a yearly hired servant shall he be with him: and the other shall not rule with rigour over him in thy sight.

54. And if he be not redeemed in these years, then he shall go out in the year of jubilee, both he, and his children with him.

55. For unto me the children of Israel are servants; they are my servants whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

So when was the Jubilee? Go back to verse 8b

8b ... and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee **forty and nine years.**

9. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land.

11. A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you:

NOW When was it? It was proclaimed on the **10th day of the seventh month.** The holiest day of the Jewish calendar: The day of Atonement. A very significant date; and it is in **the middle of the year.** It then went on until the 10th day of the seventh month in the next year. It lasted for one complete year from one Day of Atonement until the next.

Now here is the glory of the pattern. The Jubilee was celebrated **ON TOP** of the pattern of 49 years, not between the patterns. So that 50th year doesn't stick out. There are no sore thumbs here!! It sits on top like this:

The 50th year was half of the 49th year and half of the 50th year. **It starts in the middle of the 49th year and goes on until the middle of the 1st year of the next cycle.**

This is glory. This is what was revealed to Sir Edward Denny. It was not counted as a separate year. **It was an overlapping year.**

That's why you don't have to wait for your redemption until Jesus comes again. The Jubilee — the time of release — has already been proclaimed. It has been proclaimed early! You can enjoy the benefits of it now. God had 50 years; Man had 49 years, plus one Jubilee Year.

The 50th year wasn't a separate year — it overlapped the 49th and 1st years of the cycles.

Leviticus 25

9. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the Day of Atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land.

10. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land

Let's see what the result is:

Man's Time: **49 + 1** God's time: **50** God counts the extra year, but man doesn't.

Peter's 490 times of forgiveness

Matthew 18

21. Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22. Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

An amazing 'coincidence' of numbers – Jacob's age

Note the **Exodus** (below the Birth of **Abraham**). You can see that the period that Israel was **free and blessed** was from the Exodus to the Cross. Israel was therefore free and without bondage for **three periods of 490 years** – 1,470 years. There was a man called 'Israel' in the Bible.

Genesis 28

10. And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran.

11. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

12. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

This was a picture of the Lord Jesus as a ladder between the earth and heaven.

This was the same phrase that Jesus used when speaking to Nathanael "**You shall see the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man**" from John 1:51

This is therefore a picture of Jesus.

Back to Genesis 28:

13. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

14. And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

16. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.

17. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

18. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

19. And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

20. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

21. So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God:

22. And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me **I will surely give the tenth unto thee.**

A tenth of everything that was going to be Israel's (Jacob's) was going to be God's. The Exodus to the Cross was going to be 1,470 of these years.

Genesis 47

28. And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was **an hundred forty and seven years.**

He lived to 147!! **One tenth** of the period from the Exodus to the Cross was given to Israel!

One tenth of the whole period of peace from the Exodus to the Cross was actually the life of Israel.

Shall I show you another one?

This concerns the time when Judah had sinned against God and they were taken into captivity by the Babylonians. The Babylonian captivity occurred nearly at the end of 490 year period. Actually it was closer to 600 years before the Cross rather than 500, but it was near the end of this 490 year period, which is important. Jeremiah was telling them "you will be taken away into captivity because you've been so rotten: You will be taken right away out of the land."

His prophecy to Judah — in Jeremiah 29, verse 10:

Jeremiah 29

10. For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

So Jeremiah says to the Jews: you're going to be out of the land for 70 years, then you're going to come back.

Now we see this phrase **again** at the end of 2 Chronicles, **but there is a bit added**.

Here we get the description of the beginning of the captivity, when Judah was going to be taken into Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar:

2 Chronicles 36

17. Therefore he (*God*) brought upon them the king of the Chaldees (*Nebuchadnezzar*), who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

18. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.

19. And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

20. And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

21. To fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, **until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths:** for as long as she lay desolate **she kept sabbath**, to fulfil **threescore and ten years**.

Notice that phrase: 'enjoyed her sabbaths.....to fulfil 70 years'.

What were the Sabbaths that the land hadn't been enjoying? They were God's Sabbaths; they hadn't honoured Him. They were the Jubilees. They had forgotten all about the Jubilees. In fact there is no record of them **ever** keeping a Jubilee, even though Leviticus was so clear about it. God arranged for the 70 years of Jubilee to run their course.

Add all the jubilees up from Creation and you get to 70 years. The land had its sabbath—here God counted the jubilees. **You can't understand that phrase in 2 Chronicles 36 unless you understand this.** It's not coincidence; it is design. There were 7 periods of 10 years missing. God took them out of the land and the land then enjoyed its sabbaths.