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The age of the earth and the events at the turn if the last six millenia

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The name of Archbishop Ussher is synonymous with the dating of the age of the earth and the chronology of its history. Ussher went as far as to state that Creation took place on 23rd October 4004 B.C. James Ussher was born in Dublin 1581. At 18 he entered Dublin University. At 20 he was ordained into the Anglican Church. He was later appointed Chairman of the Department of Divinity, rising to become a Professor in 1607. From his earliest days he excelled in history, especially Church History. In 1625 he became the Archbishop of Armagh. Oliver Cromwell held him in great esteem. He is buried in Westminster Abbey. One of the many writing projects he undertook was the compiling, in Latin, of a history of the world, covering every major event from the time of creation to A.D. 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. Ussher used data from the Bible to establish a historical framework. Around this he assembled the events of the earth's history, coming to the conclusion that the world was created in 4004 B.C.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF USSHER'S CALCULATIONS.

[Taken from A.I.G. Creation ex nihilo vol. 20 no 2.]

Reference Event Age of the earth.

Gen 1:1-31 Creation **0**

Gen 5:3 Seth born when Adam 130 **130**

Gen 5:6 Enos born when Seth 105 **235**

Gen 5:9 Cainan born when Enos 90 **325**

Gen 5 :12 Mahalaleel born when Cainan 70 **395**

Gen 5:15 Jared born when Mahalaleel 65 **460**

Gen 5:18 Enoch born when Jared 162 **622**

Gen 5:21 Methuselah born when Enoch 65 **687**

Gen 5:25 Lamech born when Methuselah 187 **874**

Gen 5:28 Noah born when Lamech 182 **1056**

There were ten Patriarchs up to Noah. 2 Peter 2:5 states that Noah was the eighth preacher of righteousness. It seems that the oldest living Patriarch had the responsibility to preserve and preach God's Word. Since Enoch and Lamech were both outlived by their fathers, there were only eight men then who had this responsibility. (The Genesis Record, by Henry Morris pg 154)



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Gen 11:10 Shem born when Noah 502 **1558**

Gen 7:6 Flood came when Noah 600 **1656**

Gen 11:10 Arphaxad born when Shem 100 **1658**

Gen 11:12 Salah born when Arphaxad 35 **1693**

Gen 11:14 Eber born when Salah 30 **1723**

Gen 11:16 Peleg born when Eber 34 **1757**

Gen 11:18 Reu born when Peleg 30 **1787**

Gen 11:20 Serug born when Reu 32 **1819**

Gen 11:22 Nahor born when Serug 30 **1849**

Gen 11:24 Terah born when Nahor 29 **1878**

Gen 11:26 Abraham born when Terah 130 **2008**

Gen 12:4 Abraham enters Canaan 75 **2083**

The Bible gives some large time periods which enable us to do the same calculations as Ussher, without going into all the intermediate details as he did. Ussher's explanation extended to over an hundred pages in the original document. From when Abraham left Haran to enter Canaan until the Exodus of his descendants from Egypt was 430 years, Gen 12:10, Ex 12:40, Gal 3:17 **2513**

From the Exodus to the start of the Temple, 1 Kings 6:1, 480th year i.e. after 479 years. **2992**

From the start of the Temple to the division of the Kingdom 37 years **3029**

Solomon reigned 40 years, 1 Kings 11:42. The temple was started in his 4th year, 1 Kings 6:1. The division of the kingdom into Israel and Judah took place in the 1st year of the reign of Rehoboam. Division of the Kingdom to the destruction of Jerusalem was 388 years. This figure is derived from adding up the length of time the Kings reigned. **3417**

Jerusalem was destroyed in 588 B.C. by the Babylonish armies. Hence the date of creation = 588 + 3417 = 4004 B.C.

Events at the turn of the last six millennia

Pre 4000 B.C. Creation

4000 B.C. Adam and Eve outside Eden. Cain and Abel born sometime around this. Seth was born to Adam when he was 130 years old.

3000 B.C. Methuselah was alive. Just over 300 years old, but a youth!!!! Adam dead approximately only 74 years. Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Methuselah and Lamech were still alive. Enoch had been translated a short time before. Enoch was the man who walked with God and the prophet who spoke of the coming of Christ with ten thousand of His saints and the destruction of those who oppose God, Jude 14-15. Methuselah was the living warning about the coming judgment. His name means when he is dead it shall be



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sent, i.e. the deluge of water. Is it any wonder that Enoch walked with God in the light of coming judgment?

2000 B.C. Pre-Abrahamic times. His father Terah was then alive. Job also lived around this time. Some Bible scholars would put Job chronologically between Genesis chapters 11 & 12. He lived to be over 200 years old, Job 42:16. There is no reference to Sodom which would not have been omitted in an argument like that conducted between Job and his friends. The worship of the sun and moon is the only form of idolatry mentioned, Job 31:26-28. The manners and customs referred to in the book of Job are those of the earliest Patriarchs. Babylon is a force on the earth. Gen 14:1-2 mentions 'Shinar'. Assyria became a kingdom about 2000 B.C. Stonehenge supposedly dates from this time.

1000 B.C. The days of Solomon's reign. He reigned 40 years. His magnificent Temple was a millennium project!! It was commenced in the 4th year of his reign, completed in the 11th year 1005 B.C., sixteen years into his reign, 1 Kings 6:37, 38. According to Ussher this was the last year of the 3rd millennium of the world's history, counting forward from Creation. Who can forget the splendour of that Temple or the wonder of the dedication of that place for the worship of Jehovah God? Two years after this, 1003 B.C., he completed his own house. It had taken 13 years to build, 1 Kings 7:1. He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon. This was all during the time when Israel had a peace never known before or since.

The time of our Lord. This was the time of the Roman Empire and the reign of the Caesars. Augustus had become Emperor of the East and West in 29 B.C. It was his decree that brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Herod the King was the ruler of Palestine. He was a wicked and cruel tyrant. This is the Herod who ordered the massacre of the infants. He died of a terrible disease in Jericho shortly after our Lord was born. There had been the rebuilding of the Temple in the years leading up to the birth of our Lord. It is often referred to as Herod's Temple. The building was commenced by Herod in 20 B.C and continued for 46 years, John 2:20. The age of the Maccabees had come to a close. They were a militant group who instigated an uprising against the occupation of Israel by Gentile nations. You have a reference to a remnant of them still in existence in our Lord's time. Acts 5:36-37 refers to Theudas and Judas in the day of the taxing. We read of Simon the Canaanite or Zelotes, a reference to his political opinions. The Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes were well established groups by the time of our Lord.

1000 A.D. -- The middle of the Dark Ages. Popery was at its height. Silvester II, a Frenchman, was Pope. One of his immediate predecessors, John XII, was charged by the Roman Synod with almost every crime of which human nature is capable. He was said to have drunk to the devil's health. He was called a monster of iniquity. Another Pope of this time, who strangled his predecessor, was described as 'a papal monster, who in his abject depravity exceeds all mortals'. This was the time of Anglo-Saxon Britain. Alfred the Great was dead about 100 years. In 1016 Canute became the first king of England. There was in circulation at the turn of this millennium the first translations of the Scriptures into English. Alfred, although more often referred to as the man who burnt the cakes, was the King who said: 'All free born people of this kingdom should be able to read the English Scriptures'. He began a translation of the Book of Psalms. He also placed at the head of his 'Code of Laws' the ten commandments. The Vikings are said to have reached Newfoundland in 1000



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A.D. The Waldenses were active at the turn of this millennium. There in the Alpine valleys, a remnant remained who had not bowed the knee to Popery. They were active in their evangelising of the regions about them. It was the policy among them that before a minister could be placed into a congregation in one of the valleys, he had to spend three years in evangelising the regions of Europe.