

# Dates of the Bible

- James Ussher (1581-1656), archbishop in the Church of Ireland, dated Creation at **4004 BC**
- The Hebrew Calendar since the 300's AD sets Creation at **3761 BC**
- Early Syrian Christians dated Creation at **5490 BC**
- Eastern Greek Orthodox Church in the 600's dated Creation to **5508 BC** until the 1800's
- "Answers In Genesis" uses 4004 BC

We begin in 853 BC with the Battle of Qarqar where Assyrian King Shalmaneser III coming from the east faced an alliance of western kings including Hadadezer of Syria (Aram) and Ahab of Israel. Shalmaneser III describes his battles in chronological order on the Kurkh Stela. The date of the battle of Qarqar is 853 BC. Ahab was there according the Assyrian inscriptions. Later that year Ahab dies at Ramoth Gilead according to 1 Kings 22:37:

***"So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria."***

This was Jehoshaphat's 17<sup>th</sup> year (853 BC) as king of Judah (1 Kings 22:51).

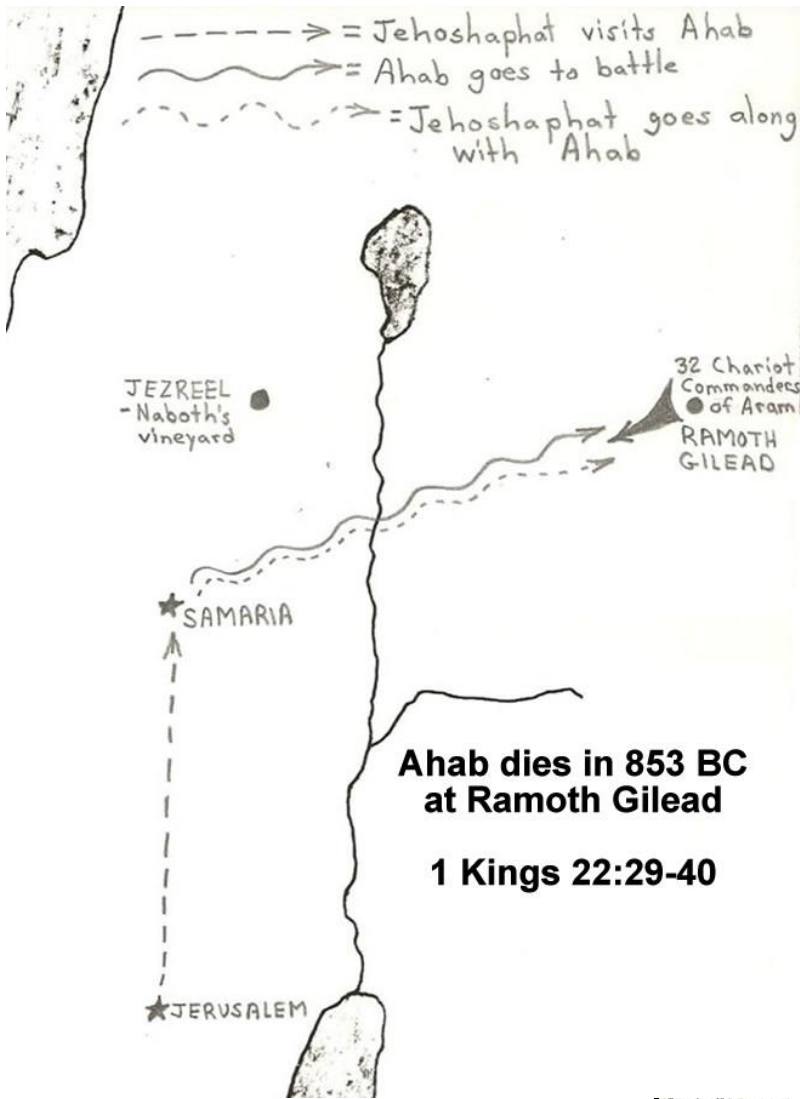
Ahaziah, Ahab's son, began his two-year reign that year in 853 BC.

In Jehoshaphat's 18<sup>th</sup> year (852-851 BC) Jehoram (Ahab's second son) replaced his brother Ahaziah as king in Israel.

It was at this time the Moabites rebelled against Israel since the kingship after Ahab's death appeared unstable. This Moabite rebellion is described in 2 Kings 3 and on the Mesha Stela or the Moabite Stone where these biblical references are made:

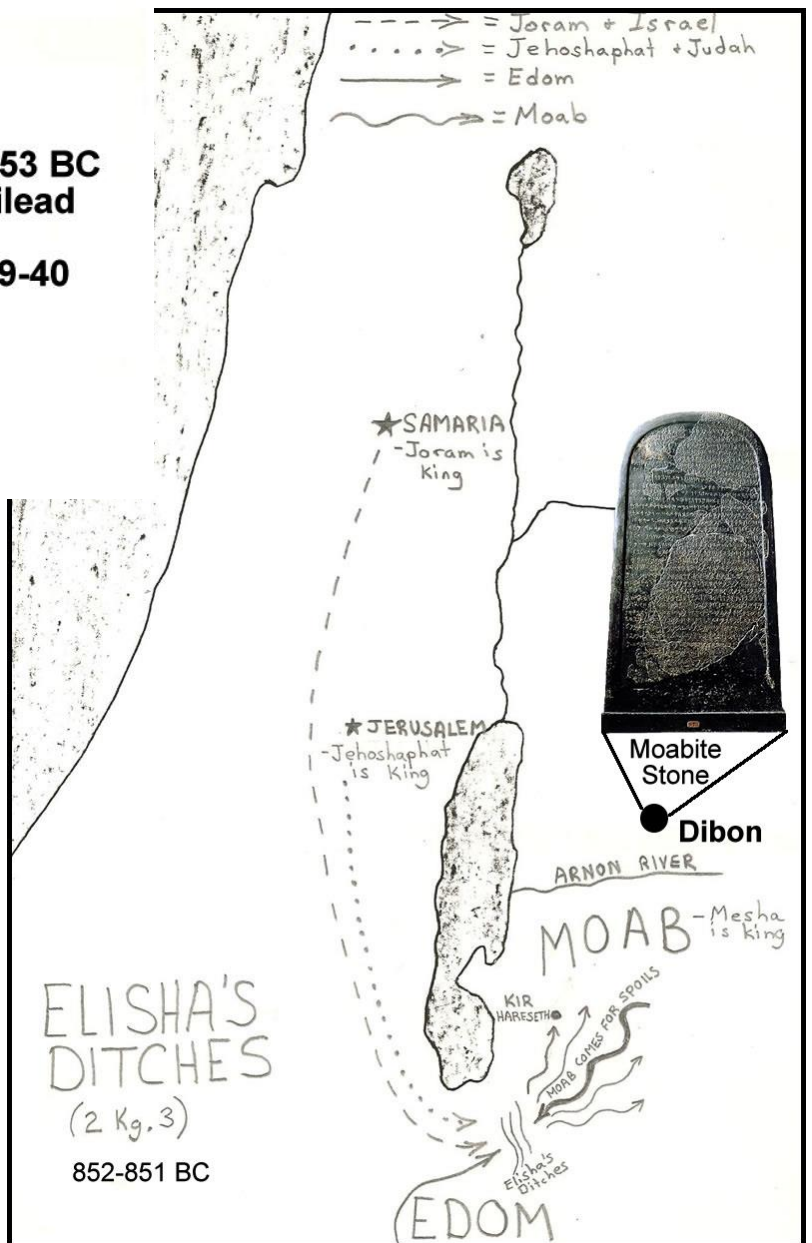
- "Omri the king of Israel"
- "Israel"
- "Omri"
- "YHWH"
- "the king of Israel"
- "House of David"





**Ahab dies in 853 BC at Ramoth Gilead**

**1 Kings 22:29-40**



**ELISHA'S DITCHES**

(2 Kg. 3)

852-851 BC

# The Kurkh Stela

## Description

Limestone worn shows Assyrian king Shalmaneser III standing before four divine emblems:

1. A winged disk, the symbol of the god Ashur (or, Shamash)
2. The six-pointed star of Ishtar, goddess of the morning and evening star
3. The crown of the sky-god Anu with three horns
4. The disk and crescent of the god Sin as the new and the full moon

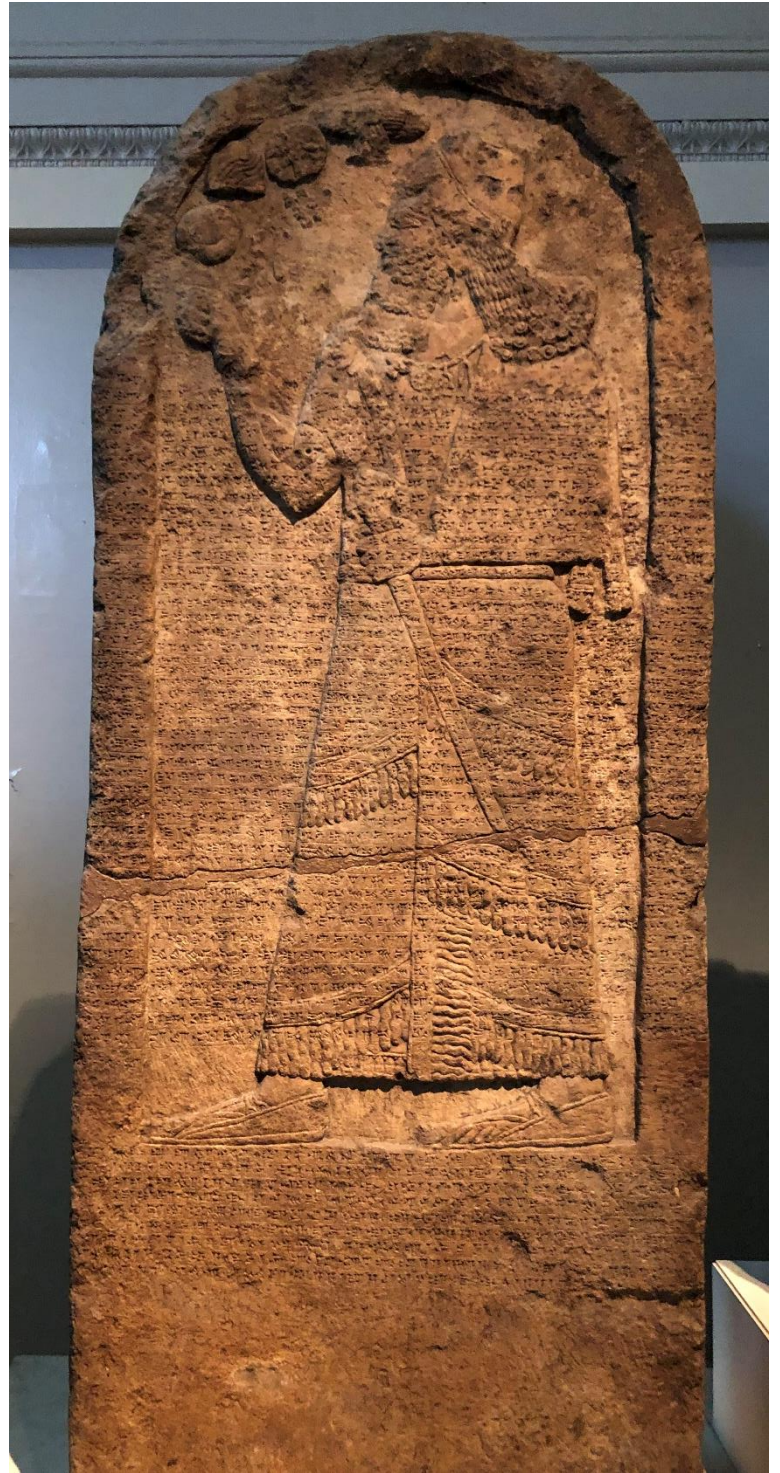
Shalmaneser III wears amulets on his collar:

1. The fork, the symbol of the weather-god, Adad
2. A segment of a circle
3. An eight-pointed star in a disk, the symbol of Shamash, the sun-god
4. A winged disk of the god Ashur.

Shalmaneser III motions with his right hand to indicate one of the following:

1. A motion indicating '*uban damiqti tarasu*', translated as 'to stretch out a favourable finger', which indicates a blessing. The extended finger here is the opposite of a motion where the index finger is not stretched out.
2. The end of the action of throwing a kiss as an act of worship
3. As resulting from cracking the fingers with the thumb, as a ritual act which is attributed to the Assyrians by later Greek writers
4. As being simply a gesture of authority suitable to the king, with no reference to a particular religious significance.

It seems fairly clear that There is a cuneiform inscription written across the face and base and around the sides of the stela.

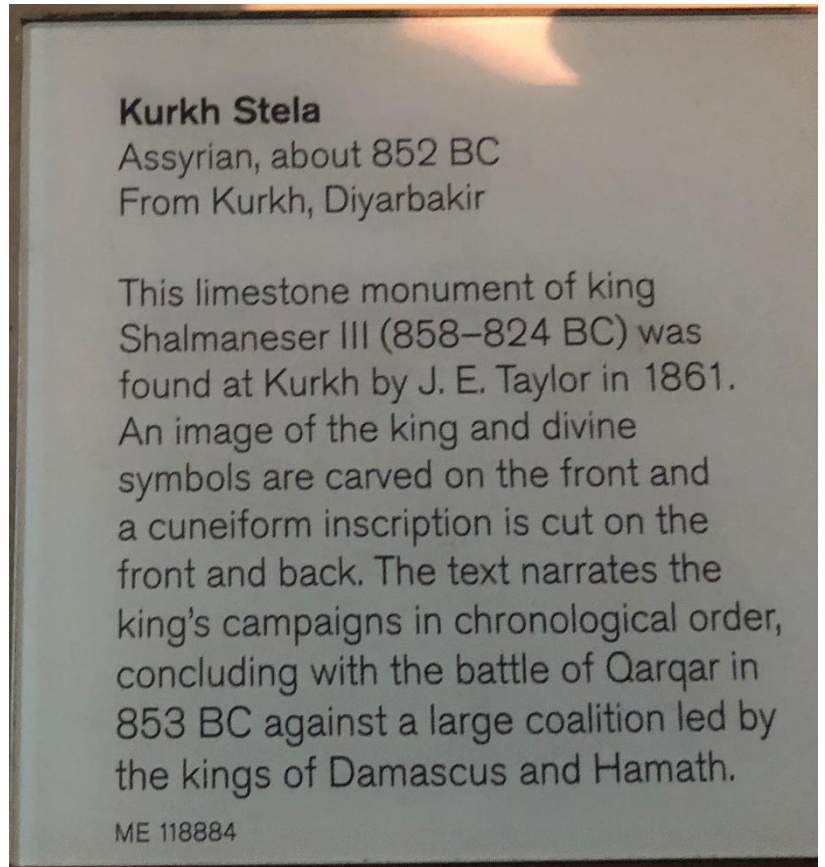


There is a cuneiform inscription written across the front surface and the base and around the sides. The inscription describes Shalmaneser III's military campaigns during his reign down to 853 BC. In this inscription Shalmaneser says that **Ahab** committed a force of 10,000 foot soldiers and 2,000 chariots to Syrian (Aram) led war coalition.

**The identification of "A-ha-ab-bu Sir-ila-a-a" is with "Ahab of Israel"**

Ahab is the third king mentioned of the allies that faced Shalmaneser III.

Also mentioned is Adad-idri of Damascus which is Hadadezer of 2 Kings.



## Mesha Stele (Moabite Stone)

- Dated 840 BC
- Discovered in 1868
- 20 miles east of Dead Sea at Dibon
- 4 feet tall, 2 feet wide and 14 inches thick
- Mentions:
  - "Israel"
  - "YHWH"
  - "House of David"

Says Mesha the king of Moab was paying tribute to Israel, but they stopped and rebelled against Israel. 2 Kings 3:5-6 says, "**When Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. So King Jehoram marched out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel.**"

King Mesha of Moab records an inscription that reads as below (each line on the Moabite Stone is numbered):

1. I am Mesha, son of Chemosh[-yatti], the king of Moab, the Dibonite.
2. My father (had) reigned over Moab for thirty years, and I reigned



3. after my father. And I made this high-place for Chemosh in Qarcho . . .

4. because he has delivered me from all kings, and because he has made me triumph over all my enemies. As for **Omri**

5. **the king of Israel**, and he humbled Moab for many years (days), for Chemosh was angry with his land. And his son reigned in his place; and he also said, "I will oppress Moab!" In my days he said so.

7. But I triumphed over him and over his house, and **Israel has perished; it has perished forever!** And **Omri** took possession of the whole land of Medeba,

8. and he lived there in his days and half the days of his son (Ahab): forty years.

9. But Chemosh restored it in my days. And I built Baal Meon, and I built a water reservoir in it. . . .

17. For I had devoted them to destruction for (the god) Ashtar Chemosh. And from there I took the

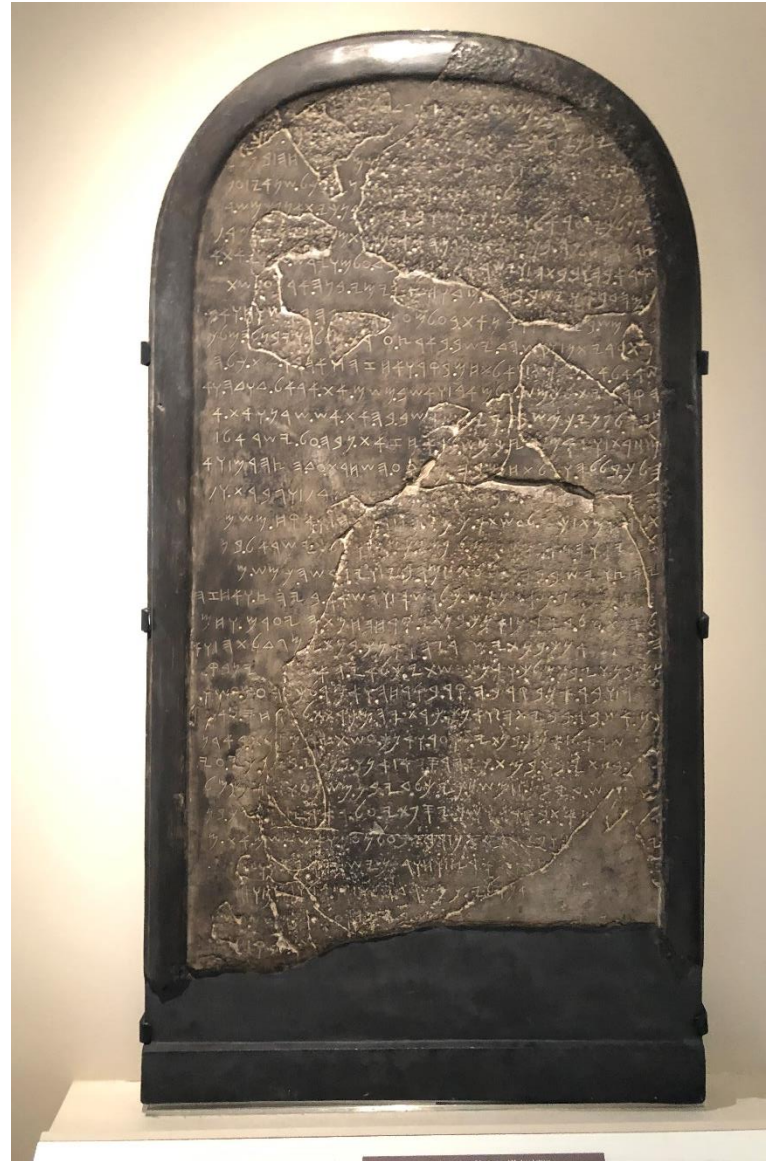
18. vessels of **Yahweh**, and I presented them before the face of Chemosh. And **the king of Israel** had built

19. Yahaz, and he stayed there throughout his campaign against me; and Chemosh drove him away before my face. And . . .

30. Beth-Medeba and Beth-Diblaten and Beth-Baal-Meon, and I brought there . . .

31. flocks of the land. And the **House of [Da]vid** dwelt in Hauranen, . . .

32. Chemosh said to me, "Go down, fight against Hauranen!" I went down . . . and Chemosh restored it in my days . . ."



The Moabite Stone is important for several reasons:

1. It is a secular account of events that agrees exactly with what is recorded in the Bible. People and places such as Omri, King of Israel, Ahab.
2. The "House of David" is mentioned (line 31).
3. The name of Israel's God, YHWH is mentioned (line 18).
4. The often heard boast of vanity by a heathen nation, "Israel has perished; it has perished forever!" (line 7) Today, in the 21st century, Moab has perished forever but Israel lives forever.

**Gypsum stela of the Assyrian king  
Ashurnasirpal II (883–859 BC)**

From his capital city of Nimrud  
(now in Iraq).  
9th century BC

ME 118805

Ashurnasirpal II is protected by symbols of his principal gods: Assur, Shamash, Sin, Adad and Ishtar. The cuneiform inscription covers all faces of the monolith.

A bombastic description of the king ('I am important, I am magnificent..') is followed by a graphic account of his first five military campaigns:

'With their blood I dyed the mountain red as red wool, while the ravines and torrents of the mountain swallowed the rest of them!'

There follows a peaceful account of his rebuilding programme at Nimrud ('this city had become dilapidated; it lay dormant, turned into ruin hills..').

As was traditional, elaborate curses safeguard the monument itself.

The monolith was found by A. H. Layard at the entrance to the Ninurta Temple at Nimrud. Such a public political statement about the king's reign could only have been read and understood by a minority of people at the time.



853 BC	Ahab dies	Asa's 38 <sup>th</sup> year	1 Kings 16:29
875 BC	Ahab's first year	Asa's 31 <sup>st</sup> year	1 Kings 16:23
882 BC	Omri's first year	Asa's 27 <sup>th</sup> year	1 Kings 16:15
886 BC	Zimri's first year	Asa's 26 <sup>th</sup> year	1 Kings 16:8
887 BC	Elah's (son of Baasha) first year	Asa's 3 <sup>rd</sup> year	1 Kings 15:33
909 BC	Baasha's first year		

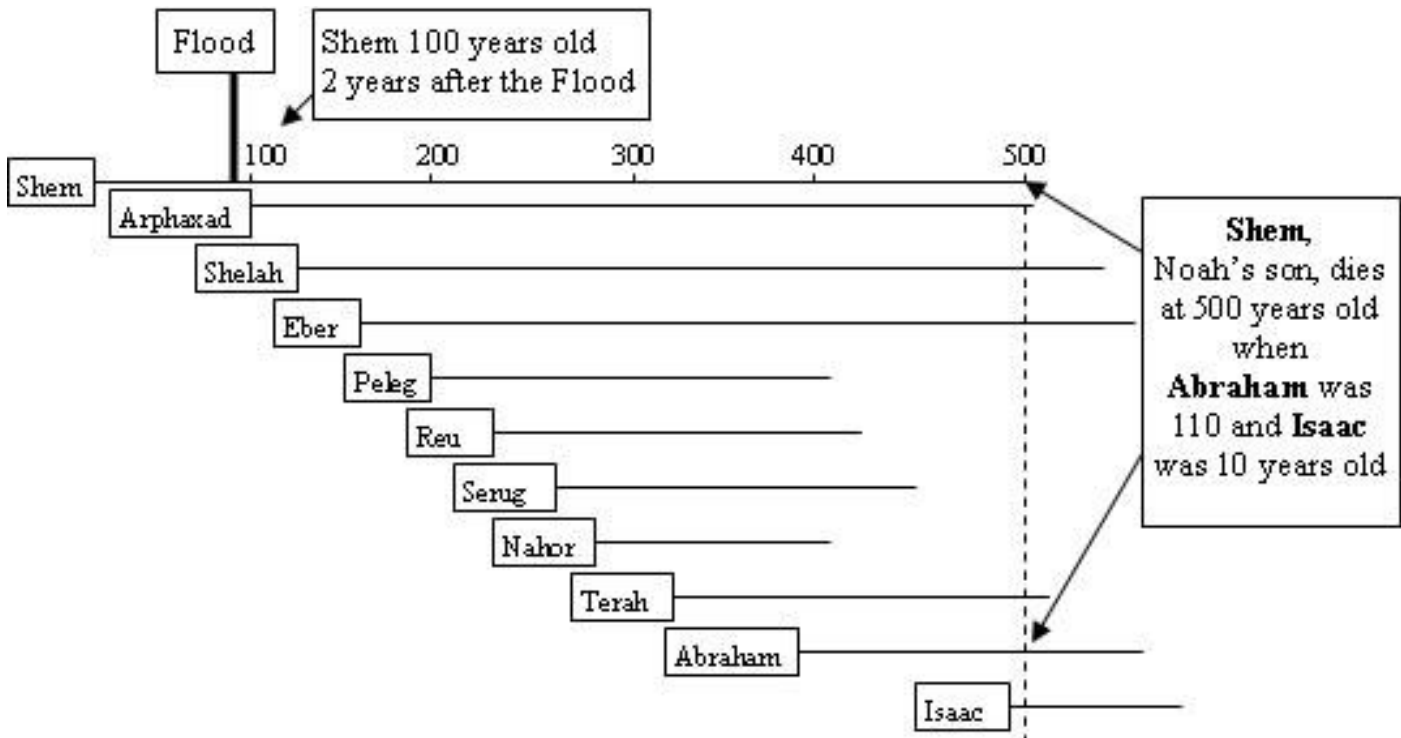
911	Nadab's (son of Jeroboam) first year		1 Kings 15:25
912	Jeroboam's 20 <sup>th</sup> year	Asa's first year	1 Kings 15:9
915	Jeroboam's 18 <sup>th</sup> year	Abijam's first year	1 Kings 15:1
931	Jeroboam's first year	Rehoboam's first	1 Kings 14:21
967-966	Solomon <b>Builds Temple</b>		1 Kings 6:1 (480 yrs after Exodus)
971	Solomon's first year		1 Kings 11:42
1004	David <b>Conquers Jerusalem</b>		1 Kings 2:10
1011	David's first year		1 Kings 2:10
1406	Joshua enters Israel; Jericho Falls		(40 years wilderness)
1446	Moses leads <b>Exodus</b>		1 Kings 6:1
1526	Moses born	(Pharoah Ahmose 1550-1525; Amenhotep I 1525-1504)	
1805	Joseph dies		
1871	Joseph's Famine Ends; Joseph 44		
1876	Jacob goes down to Egypt; Joseph is 39 yrs old		Exodus 12:40 (430 Jacob > Exodus)
1878	Joseph's Famine Begins		
1885	<b>Joseph enters Pharaoh's service</b>	(Pharaoh Sesostri II 1894-1878, or Sensusret II)	
1898	Joseph sold into Egypt		
1909	Jacob returns to Promised Land		
1915	Joseph born		
1929	Jacob age 77, goes to Laban in Padan Aram		
2006	Jacob born		Gen. 47:9 (Jacob goes to Egypt at 130 yrs old)
2066	Isaac born		Gen. 25:26 (Isaac was 60 when Jacob born)
2166	Abraham born		Gen. 21:5 (Abram was 100 when Isaac born)
2236	Terah born		Genesis 11:10-26
2265	Nahor born		
2295	Serug born		
2359	Reu born		
2388	<b>TOWER OF BABEL</b>		
2389	Peleg born		
2423	Eber born		
2453	Shelah born		
2486	Arpachshad born		Genesis 11:10-26
2488	<b>FLOOD</b> (and, Methuselah dies)		Genesis 7:11
2586	Shem born		Genesis 5:1-32
3088	Noah born		
3211	(Adam dies)		
3270	Lamech born		
3457	Methuselah		
3519	Enoch born		
3681	Jared born		
3746	Mahalalel born		
3816	Kenan born		
3906	Enosh born		
4011	Seth born		
4141	<b>CREATION</b> Adam created		Genesis 5:1-32

Methuselah born 3457 BC  
 Lived - 969 years  
 Died **2488 BC**

Noah born 3088 BC  
 Flood in - 600<sup>th</sup> year of Noah  
 Year of the Flood **2488 BC**

### From "Framework":

PERSON or EVENT	DATE
Adam	About 4000 BC
Enoch	About 3400 BC
Noah's Flood	About 2400 BC
Tower of Babel	About 2300 BC
Abraham	2000 BC
Jacob	1900 BC
Joseph	1800 BC
Moses and the Exodus	1446 BC
Israel Crosses Jordan	1406 BC
Judges	1380-1050 BC
Samuel	1100 BC
Saul begins Reign	1051 BC
David begins Reign	1011 BC
Solomon begins Reign	971 BC
Judah and Israel Split	931 BC
Elijah	870 BC
Assyrian Conquers North Israel	722 BC
Jeremiah's Ministry	627-584 BC
Babylon Destroys Jerusalem	586 BC
Daniel in Babylon	605-530 BC
Return from Babylonian Captivity	538 BC
Temple Rebuilding Completed	March 12, 516 BC
Esther Queen of Persia	474 BC
Ezra Goes to Jerusalem	458 BC
Nehemiah Completes the Wall	Oct. 2, 445 BC
Malachi	430 BC







**“Answers In Genesis” uses 4004 BC and these dates below:**

Event	Date
Creation	4004 BC
The Flood	2348 BC
Tower of Babel	2246 BC
Abraham	1996 BC
Joseph	1745 BC
Moses and the Exodus	1491 BC
David	1085 BC
Monarchy Divides	975 BC
Assyrian Destruction of Israel	722 BC
Babylonian Captivity of Judah	586 BC
Jesus	4 BC