

God's Great Week of Time (GWT)

Introduction

Most Biblical prophecies are associated with some timing message. Christ's birth, as an example, came when the "**fullness of time**" had come and Jesus became man (Galatians 4:4). What "*time*" was that? Daniel 9 provides the clues.

1. A timeless God introduced time **periods** at Creation.
2. The world was given nights and days in a segment we call a week.

In the context of that *perfect creation*, the sun and moon were to be: "... *for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years*" (Genesis 1:14).

- When sin entered that Creation, God expanded the timing purpose of those celestial objects.
- They initially formed a symbolic framework for how God would accomplish His redemptive purposes within the number "seven." These were illustrated in the feast cycles of seven months and then the Jubilee cycles. They taught elements of the plan of salvation and unfolded His restoration themes.

When these "*times*" were ignored, God reacted.

- "*And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years*" (Jeremiah 25:11).
- "*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*" (II Chronicles 36:21). One year captivity for each Sabbath year missed.

We are advised:

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand" (Romans 13:11-12a) (60 A.D.).

Why is all that important? Because mankind procrastinates. Time brings a sense of urgency and "It may soon be too late!" Remember the parable of the ten virgins – five foolish came late and the door was shut.

The Sacred Seven

God introduced the number “seven” at Creation!

- This number is mentioned several hundred times in the Bible.
- It became so **sacred** that ancient people would even take an oath with it: “I ‘seven’ that ...!” “Seven” – *sheba* (Heb.) (Genesis 21:28, 30).
- The seven seals, seven trumpets and seven vials illustrate its continued use in end-time prophecy in the book of Revelation.

In addition, new phrases and expressions were given to man to describe **timing periods, many associated with a “seven”!**

- “Time of the end” (Daniel 12:9)
- “Tarrying time” (Habakkuk 2:2-3)
- “Fullness of time” (Galatians 4:4)
- “Appointed time” (Daniel 8:19)
- “Hour of judgment” (Revelation 14:7)
- “Time is at hand” (Revelation 1:3)
- “I come quickly” (Revelation 22:20)
- “A thousand years” (Revelation 20:2-3, 5, 7)

Divinity Encircles Time – A Post-Sin Declaration

*“I am **Alpha and Omega**, the **beginning and the ending**, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.... And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the **first and the last**”* (Revelation 1:8, 17).

- These declarations are all-inclusive.
- “I control time.”
- “I surround time.”
- “I’m sovereign over all man-oriented time.”
- “I am over all of history.”
- “At the end, I will have full control.”

Most expositors see this as God encircling **redemptive history**. (Yet God’s eternal nature has no beginning or ending.)

Because God is Creator and because He controls time:

1. God can add clocks.
2. He can make time symbolic.
3. He can stop clocks.

4. He can delay clocks from starting.
5. He can destroy clocks.

That “*alpha and omega*” declaration has rich meaning for the Christian world. It represents the period of the “plan of redemption” in **millenniums**. That is our study today.

6000 Years – Then a Seventh? History understood this as the time to redeem man!

At the time of Christ: Jewish history reveals a long-held belief that the earth would last 6000 years, followed by Messianic deliverance.¹

135 A.D. – Epistle of Barnabus: The six days of creation that “finished” God’s work means that in **six thousand years** the Lord will make an end to all things [speaking of sin] “for a day is with him as a thousand years.”²

120–202 A.D. – Irenaeus: Though many questions related to his past exist (because of revisionism), Irenaeus is recognized as an early Christian writer. “For in as many days this world was made, in **so many thousands of years shall it be concluded**” (*Against Heresies* book V; XXVIII, 3). In early Christian thinking, designated time blocks had typological significance. One day was the shortest, one millennium the longest.

260–330 A.D. – Lactantius: Lactantius was hired by Diocletian, the Christian-persecuting Roman Emperor, to teach logic and rhetoric. He was converted to Christianity and became a famous religious writer. By then Constantine the Great, who was in power, hired him to tutor his son.

“Therefore let the philosophers, who enumerate thousands of ages from the beginning of the world, *know that the **six thousandth year** is not yet completed, and that when this number is completed the consummation must take place,*” enumerated Lactantius.

“Therefore, since all the works of God were completed in six days, *the world must continue in its present state through six ages, that is, **six thousand years***. For the great day of God is limited by a circle of a thousand years (The Divine Institutes, Book 7, Chapter XIV, XXV).

“*For **six thousand years** have not yet been completed, and when this number shall be made up, then at length all evil will be taken away, that justice alone may reign.*”³

Are these historical records theories or speculation, or are they correct?

¹ Edersheim, Albert; *Life and Times of Jesus*, vol. 5, chap. 6 (19th century Jewish Christian Theologian) (emphasis added).

² *Epistle of Barnabus*, Section 15:4, 135 A.D.

³ *The Epitome of the Divine Institutes*, Chapter 70. References of Commodianus through Lactantius.

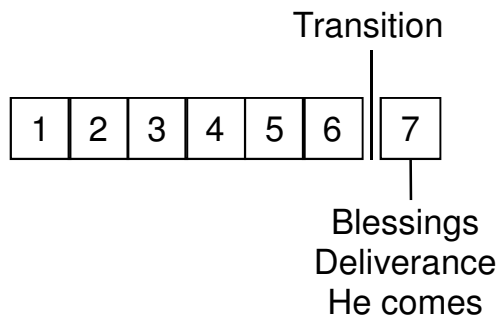
Biblical Allusions to the GWT that the Disciples Apparently Missed

1. Jesus comes after six days

- Jesus told his disciples, “*There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom*” (Matthew 16:28; cf. Luke 9:27).
- Then a fascinating fulfillment occurs with a number: “*And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John ... unto an high mountain*” (Matthew 17:1-2). There He was transfigured in His glory.
- What does that mean?
 - After six, Jesus is “transfigured” – is changed, glorified.
 - **He comes** at the seventh – i.e., that occurs at the seventh.

That expresses God’s **design module of redemptive time**.

- Many expositors believe this story represents that *a day = 1000 years*.
- This timing comes from the Creation week template.



2. Sin is eradicated after six months:

In the Jewish theocracy there were **seven feasts** over **a seven-month period**, symbolizing the plan of redemption.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| a. Passover | Plan inaugurated |
| Unleavened Bread | Invitation to repent and put away sin |
| First Fruits | Choosing of saints – judgment begins |
| Pentecost | Power for all |
| Trumpets | Final chance to repent |
| Atonement | Choosing of saints – judgment ends |
| Tabernacles | Plan completed – we’re with Jesus – celebration harvest |

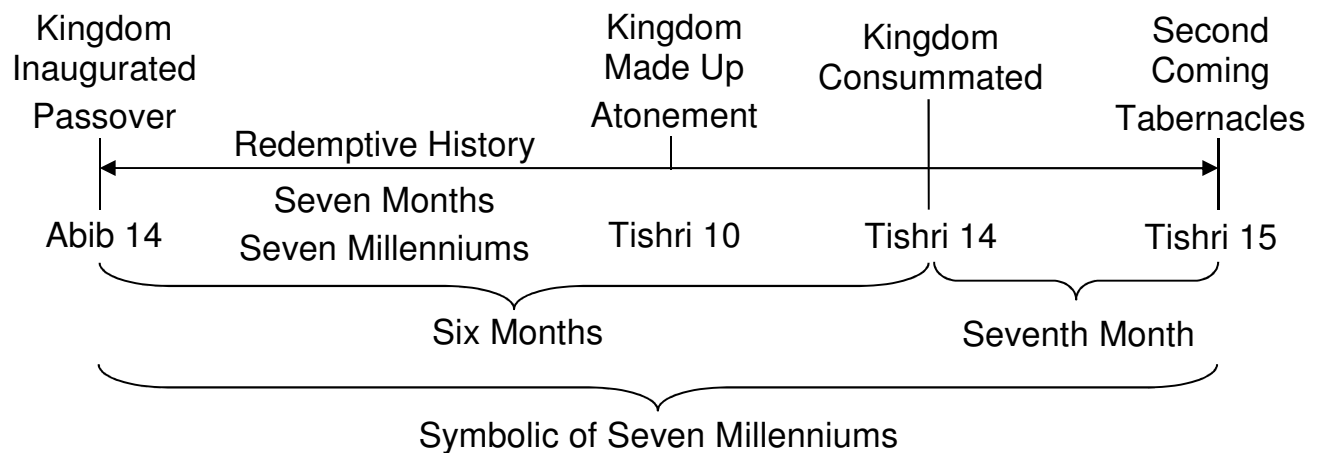
b. Passover was on Abib 14 (the first month).

Trumpets was the first ten days of Tishri (the seventh month). That was the last call to repent.

Atonement was on Tishri 10 – probation closed.

Feast of Tabernacles – Tishri 15

- Celebration of the harvest – Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:8)
- **Exactly seven months after Passover!**



Jesus comes at the Feast of Tabernacles when harvest will be celebrated – on the seventh.

3. The wonderful Passover deliverance (saving blood) – another millennial allusion
 - a. Passover recalls the deliverance from Egypt on Abib 14, which looked forward to Christ as our Passover Lamb (I Corinthians 5:7).
 - b. The Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).
 - c. Here is how the GWT is seen in the Passover (Exodus 12:2-3)!
 - A Passover lamb was chosen **four days** before Passover.
 - Jesus was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).
 - Four thousand years before the first Advent.
 - From Creation to His birth was how many millenniums? Four.
 - A day is as a thousand years (II Peter 3:8).
 - “He, the Lamb of God, was about to present Himself as a sin offering, that He would thus bring to an end the system of types and ceremonies that for four thousand years had pointed to His death.”⁴
 - d. Hosea gave us an amazing timing prophecy that adds to this understanding.

⁴ *The Desire of Ages*, p. 652.

- “Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. **After two days** will he revive us: in the third day he will raise **us up**, and we shall live in his sight” (Hosea 6:1-2).
- After the Messiah Lamb is smitten, he will heal, bind and revive us.
- When? After two days – two millenniums. We’re getting close!
- At the third day is restoration. Exactly six millenniums after sin entered our world comes the seventh, when Jesus comes (Revelation 20). Then the seventh millennium we spend with Him.

The Biblical Timing Record

Many modern scholars and expositors doubt the accuracy of the Biblical record, especially the *timing of prophetic events and periods*.

- But – look how detailed God was when informing Moses regarding *when* the Flood came.
- “In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened” (Genesis 7:11). **That’s specific!**
- That would have been in the spring of the year.

You protest: “They didn’t even have a dating system then. That is bogus!”

- No – God gave Moses a dating system.

“And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you” (Exodus 12:1-2). (This was given to Moses ~1450 B.C. and the Flood was ~2340 B.C. He could easily figure that out – as you will see.)

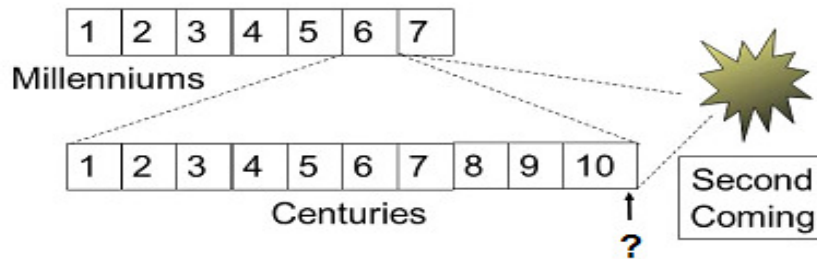
“This day [beginning of months] came ye out [of Egypt] in the month Abib” (Exodus 13:4).

- With all the information regarding **time** that is in the Pentetuch, one can figure very closely when the Flood occurred – **and** much more.

What else does the Bible say?

Our issue will not be how old the rocks, that “blank planet” or its cosmos are. We are interested in a 6000-year period since Creation and especially since the fall of Adam and Eve!

In this study we are now going to explore what is known about the “ages” of the past. If we can show that a 6000-year period is almost ended – it will be important evidence that Jesus is coming soon (at the end of the “sixth”).



Antediluvian

Patriarchs:

Genesis:

| | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|------|-------------|
| 1:27 | Adam created | year | 0 |
| 5:3 | Seth born when Adam was 130 | year | 130 |
| 6 | Enos born when Seth was 105 | year | 235 |
| 9 | Cainan born when Enos was 90 | year | 325 |
| 12 | Mahalaleel born when Cainan was 70 | year | 395 |
| 15 | Jared born when Mahalaleel was 65 | year | 460 |
| 18 | Enoch born when Jared was 162 | year | 622 |
| 21 | Methuselah born when Enoch was 65 | year | 687 |
| 25 | Lamech born when Methuselah was 187 | year | 874 |
| 28 | Noah born when Lamech was 182 | year | 1056 |
| 7:11 | The Flood came when Noah was 600 | year | <u>1656</u> |

Creation appears to have occurred 1656 years before the flood! We still don't know how long Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden before the fall. ***The fall of Adam and Eve begins the true redemptive 6000-year clock.*** We think it was brief since they had not had children until after they had to leave the Garden.

The next genealogy that seems to be fairly well established covers the time from Shem's son, Arphaxad, to Jacob (born when Isaac was 60).

This is covered in Genesis 11, 21 and 25. There, eleven patriarchs bring us to the year 2168 from Creation. We are now given amazing details in the narratives of other stories that clarify more about ancient time. Noah lived another 350 years after the Flood! (Genesis 9:28-29). 2006 years after Creation, Noah died.

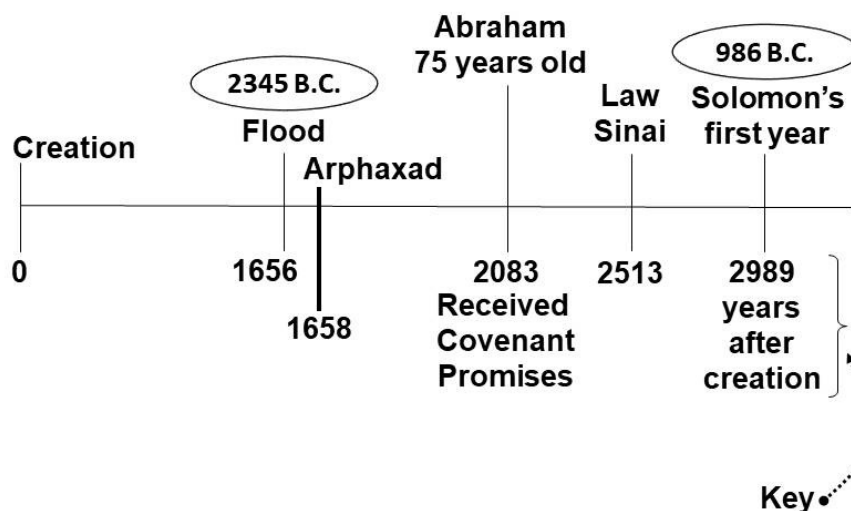
Let's now analyze more details:

1. Two years after the Flood Shem had Arphaxad (1658 years after creation). Abraham was born to Terah 350 years later (Genesis 11:10–12:4) (2008 years after creation).
2. From Genesis 10-32, timed genealogies cover nine generations from Shem (Noah's son) to the death of Terah (Abraham's father). Abraham first received the covenant promises from God (Genesis 12:1-4) when he was 75 years old (year 2081 from Creation).
3. Galatians 3:16-17 (cf. Exodus 12:40-41) reveals that the law was given at Sinai 430 years after Abraham received the promises. 2081 plus 430 takes us to year 2511 after Creation to the Sinai experience.
4. I Kings 6:1 brings us up to the fourth year of Solomon's reign, when the temple building had been started. This verse notes that that year was the 480th year from the Exodus (apparently the year the law was given at Sinai).

2513 (Exodus) + 480 = year 2993 from Creation. This was Solomon's fourth regnal year, when the temple work began. Year 2989 would then be his first regnal year (full kingly year). Can we discover historically when Solomon began to reign?

Ancient records do help us to come close. Most ancient historians suggest between 1007 and 970 B.C. That is a "scholarly range" of 37 years. 971 B.C. is a year accepted by many archeologists from the work of the late Edwin R. Thiele. 986 B.C. has been more recently presented from the work of astronomer John P. Pratt.⁵ We are using 986 B.C. for illustration purposes.

This is what we have discovered thus far:



⁵ <http://www.johnpratt.com/items/docs/lds/meridian/2003/david.html#3>

This can then give us a wonderful clue as to the age of the earth:

2989 (years after Creation that Solomon began his first regnal year)
+ 986 (years before Christ's era, i.e., 986 B.C.)
3975 (years to the transition of 1 B.C. to 1 A.D. from Creation – then adding “1” for the transition from B.C. to A.D.)

3975 + 1 + 2018 = 5993 years since Creation. If Jesus comes at the end of 6000 years, we're close! Perhaps within the next 7 to 10 years!

We are not attempting to develop an exact date when Christ will come. Our objective is to see if that 6000-year end might be near!

Interesting, isn't it!

If the seventh millennium is spent with Jesus in heaven (Revelation 20), what comes after that seventh? An eighth.

- Eight in prophecy is “a new beginning.”
- What does it say in sequence after Revelation 20?

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea” (Revelation 21:1).

The “Millennial Week of Time” – “God’s Great Week of Time” – is accurate! It is a true understanding.

Another Amazing Vision:

Daniel received a millennial vision in Daniel 8:14, approximately 3426 years from Creation (looking at the various genealogies) (549 B.C.):

“He said to me, ‘To 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be put right again’” (Daniel 8:14 – NET).

- The 2300 Atonement years would begin with a decree of restoration (Ezra 7).
- That wouldn't occur for another 100 years from Daniel's 2300 vision in 8:14.
- 3426 + 100 = 3526 years from Creation that occurred approximately 458–457 B.C.
- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 3526 – from Creation | → | 2018 – now | → | 5827 from Creation (1843) |
| 2300 – prophecy | → | <u>1843</u> – end of 2300 | → | <u>175</u> to now |
| <u>1</u> – B.C./A.D. | | 175 | | 6002 years |
| <u>5827</u> – years from | | | | |
| Creation takes us to 1843 | | | | |

Again, we're not setting a date, but can you say, "He is even at the doors"? (Matthew 24:32). Can you say, "Summer is nigh"? (Matthew 24:32). How long Adam and Eve were in the Garden before they were expelled is not known.

The 6000-year redemptive history is accurate.

Evidence from the Secular World

1. Tree History – If the Flood was 1656 years after Creation (2340 B.C.), then we question: "Could any living thing be *approximately* 4350 years old? (2340 + 2018)
 - This is studied by dendrochronologists.
 - These are scientific estimates.
 - In the Methuselah Walk, CA, is a tree called Methuselah.
 - It is estimated as 4300+ years old.
 - It is similar to another tree, WPN-114, in Wheeler Park, NV.
 - Both are *Pinus longaeva* – Bristlecone pine.
 - This helps to substantiate approximately 6000 years as earth's age.
2. Human History
 - This is a sensitive area – lots of questions and disagreements exist because of evolution.
 - By the Biblical record the Flood occurred 1656 years after Creation.
 - There are no *written records* antedating that time that details man – except the Bible.
 - Archeological fragments found in China appear to be from the Chinese Tchow Dynasty, 1000 B.C.
 - Some historians note clay cylinders in the Mesopotamian region (lowlands of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers) that date to ~2000 B.C. of the Sumerian peoples – approximately 4000 years ago!
 - It is interesting that Kramer (1960's) and subsequent colleagues note that the "literate era" of civilization began with the "Sargon Dynasty" with those Sumerian people.
 - They then dated this beginning of civilization with Sargon, King of Akkad, as 2300 B.C.⁶
 - That would mean 1656 (time of flood) 2300 + 2017 + 1 = 5974 since Creation.

⁶ *The Colombia Encyclopedia*, 2001–2005 edition.

Fascinating question: Why do all ancient writings reveal a highly organized society? Why are archeological findings within the last 3000–4000 years and not beyond, “except” for human bones?

- The movement of people seems to have begun from the Mesopotamian area, just south of the Ararat Mountains where Noah’s ark rested.
- This is seen by many scholars as the movement of language groups, supporting Genesis 11:9, when God divided humanity into language groups.

Objective findings suggest that civilization (organized economic groups of people) began around 2200-2300 B.C.

- This would then be consistent with our understanding of the era of Creation and the Flood.

3. Earth’s Rotation

- The speed of earth’s rotation is gradually decreasing.
- Currently it is 1000 mph at the equator.
- If the earth had been millions of years old, it would have been spinning so fast that nothing could be kept on its surface.
- The age of the earth with its appropriate gravitational pull is consistent with 6000 years.

4. Magnetic Fields

- The magnetic fields are slowly weakening.
- 20,000 years ago the electrical field would have been so strong the planet would have been liquefied because of heat.
- No life would have been sustainable.
- The 6000-year age is consistent with Biblical understanding.

5. Earth’s Surface

- It takes an estimated ~500 years to build 1 inch of topsoil.
- The average depth of topsoil is 8 inches
- Thus, the planet can’t be older than a few thousand years old.

6. Niagra Falls erodes the cliffs it cascades over.

- The canyon and rate of erosion have been studied extensively.
- Its origins appear to be \pm 4375 years ago – thus, a 6000-year old earth.

7. Delta Wash from Rivers

- The Mississippi River dumps 300 million cubic yards of mud (estimated) into the Gulf of Mexico annually.
- Yet the delta is not large.

- Its age by Gulf studies and delta size is approximately 4000+ years old (consistent with flood).
8. Inside the cell nucleus is our genetic material on the helical coils of DNA.
- Many fossils and old bones contain DNA material that ***can be biologically analyzed.***
 - Many of these are dated millions of years by evolutionists.
 - Yet, DNA can't exist more than "4000–6000" years (estimated) before it degrades or decays and can't be studied.
 - This is consistent with the 6000-year old earth.

Conclusion

Jesus is coming soon – within the next few years – based on God's Great Week of Time. That will end the 6000-year period and begin the seventh millennium that we will spend in heaven with Him (Revelation 20).

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