

Eternity to Eternity

A Literal Approach to Biblical History and Prophecy

by John R. Ecob D.D.

for The Herald of Hope Inc.

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*“It is high time for Christians to interpret unfulfilled prophecy
by the light of prophecies already fulfilled.*

*The curses on the Jews were brought to pass literally:
so also will be the blessings.*

The scattering was literal: so also will be the gathering.

The pulling down of Zion was literal: so also will be the building up.

The rejection of Israel was literal: so also will be the restoration.

J.C. Ryle - Prophecy, Page 65.

(Written in 1867 BEFORE the Zionist movement began in 1881)

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by

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Note: This book has been produced to assist believers in their study of the Word of God and as a tool for evangelism.
Every effort has been made to maintain the highest standards of accuracy in producing the charts, however
should any reader find some inaccuracy the author would appreciate being advised. **Email:** editor@heraldofhope.org.au
All quotations of Scripture are from the King James Version of the Bible

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Introduction

The Bible is the oldest book in the world and stands apart from all other books. Over centuries of time the Bible has withstood the onslaughts of Higher Critics, and Liberal Theologians from within Christendom, and from Atheistic Philosophers and Evolutionists from within the world's scientific fraternity.

Each time the Bible has been accused of being in error, providentially, evidence has come to light supporting and substantiating the literal rendering of the sacred record.

The archeologist's spade and true science have consistently given testimony to the accuracy of this oldest literary work known to man.

It is an amazing fact that a book of such antiquity continues to be printed in vast numbers and in every language. Most other books last but for a generation before fading into literary oblivion; many are read once before being consigned to the archival bookshelf to gather dust, yet the Bible is read daily by multitudes who ponder over its every word.

Millions attend meetings weekly to hear the Bible expounded or participate in regular Bible study groups where its verses are memorized, its precepts are revered, and its commands are obeyed.

False religions have borrowed from the Bible or sought to copy its style for the purpose of gaining a semblance of credibility, while nations have fashioned their laws on the righteous standards enunciated in Scripture.

It was once said, that Evangelist W.P.Nicholson was the most loved and most hated preacher in all Ireland, and it can also be said that the Bible has been the most loved and most hated book in all the world.

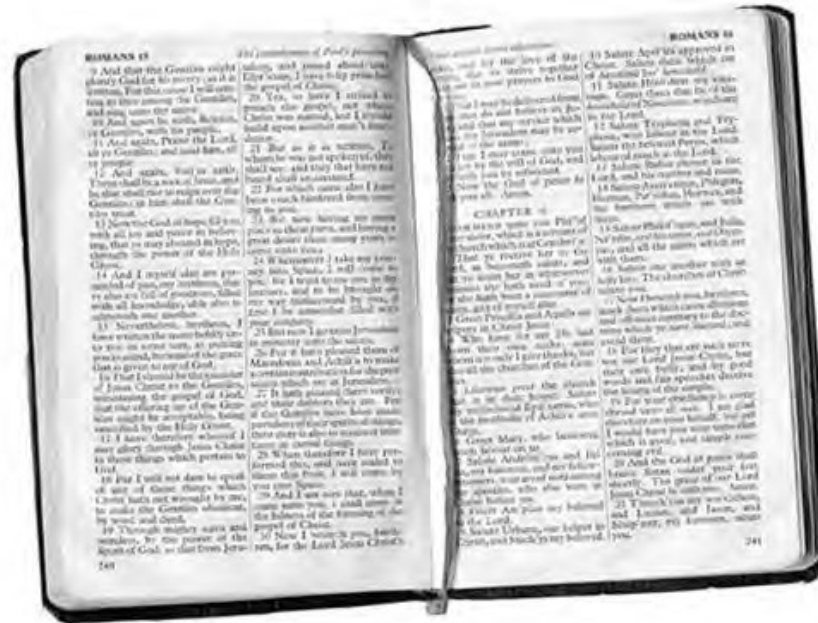
Noble men have willingly burned at the stake, been torn by wild beasts, or been cut down by the sword, rather than deny the Truth revealed in the Bible.

The secret of the Bible's unique character lies in its Divine authorship, for though the human agents who penned the sacred text, varied from men of scholarship to those who were judged "unlearned and ignorant men" (Acts 4:13), there is no contradiction within its 66 books; its

morality is impeccable, its history reliable, and its prophecy never fails of literal fulfilment.

The Bible is not just the words of men: it is the words of the Living God and the Holy Spirit is its author.

Eternity to Eternity seeks to trace the hand of God in human history, from eternity past to eternity future, as recorded in the Bible.



Adam to the Exodus

A lecturer in a Theological College told his students that the early chapters of Genesis were not to be taken literally; that the Garden of Eden was only a symbolic eastern story intended to provide us with an explanation of how sin entered the world. A young student responded: "Sir", he said, "If the garden of Eden is not literal; if the tree and the fruit on the tree of knowledge of good and evil is not literal; if the serpent is not literal or the mark in Cain's forehead is not literal; then Adam and Eve were not literal and neither are you and I!"

The Vice Principal threw his head back and laughed but had no answer.

There is no more accurate history than Biblical history because the Bible is Divinely inspired and its author is God Himself. Other histories from the ancient world are the records of men who, early in time, turned away from the true and living God to worship the heavenly bodies.

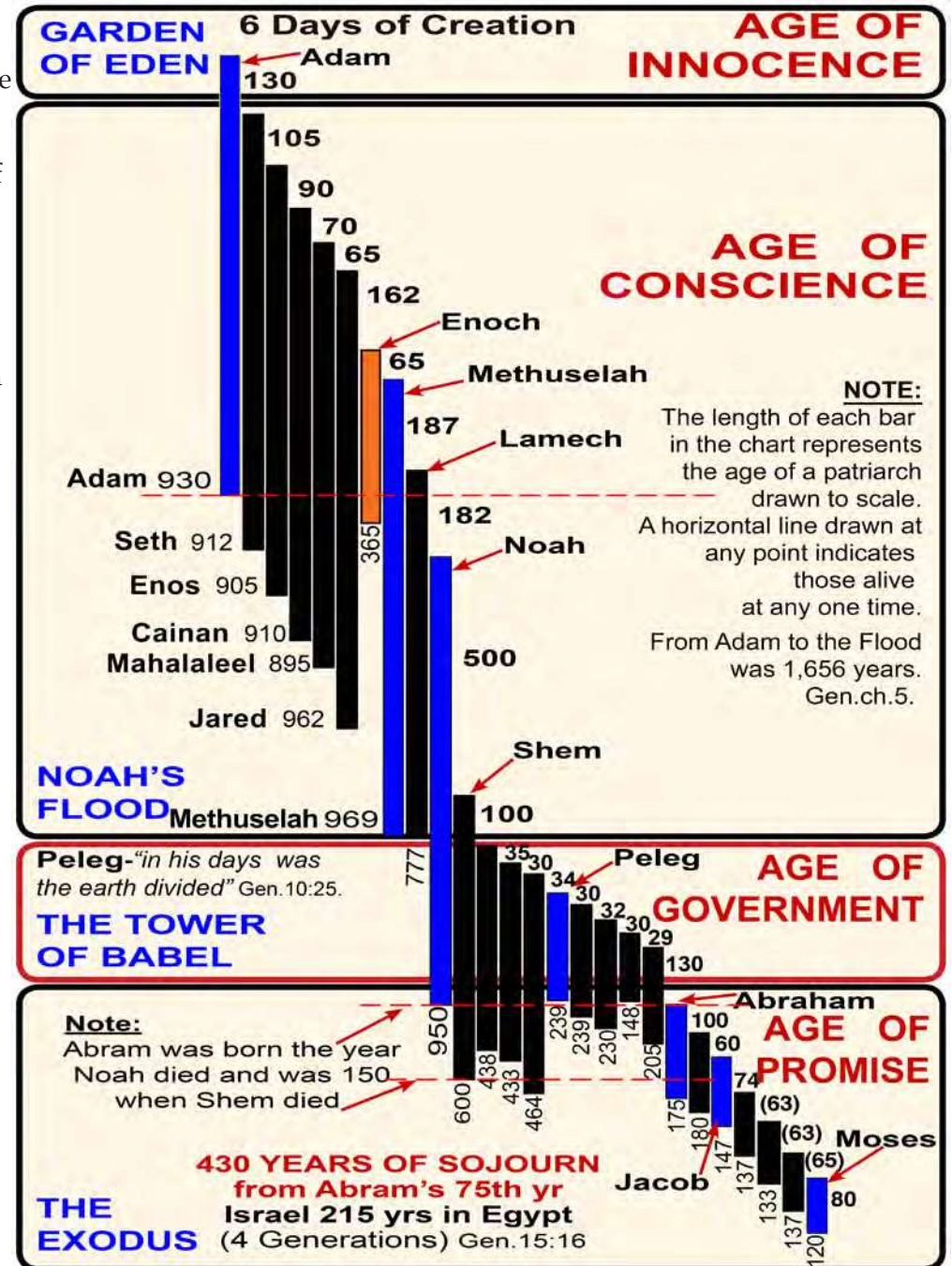
Before the Global Flood in Noah's day, Satan infiltrated the human race to corrupt the human blood-stream. The materialized sons of God (fallen angels) had intercourse with the daughters of men and bred a race of giants. It happened before the Flood and after the Flood. Secular historical records such as the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the King of Erech, written a few centuries after the Flood, bear ample testimony to this fact. The *Epic* claimed Gilgamesh was two-thirds a

god, one third a man and twice the size of a man. Many documents recovered from the great library of 22,000 documents found in the ancient city of Nineveh, and from Babylon, confirm all the major elements of the Biblical record. Even the 10 generations with great longevity before the Flood are confirmed.

After the Flood, men like Nimrod from the line of Ham, defied the living God and polytheism flourished. The tower of Babel was constructed to provide a place to worship the heavens; the sun, moon and stars. The Jewish Talmud states that Terah, Abram's father, worshipped idols and after Abram turned from worshipping the heavens, he fled to Shem for protection.

Asshur, from the line of Shem, went out of the land of Shinar and built another civilization more than 400 km to the north at Nineveh; probably in protest.

In order to preserve the Truth from the abounding deception, God called Abram out of Ur and gave him the land of Canaan. Without Abram's seed there would be no Saviour to redeem mankind. Israel, as God's chosen people, is therefore central to God's plan for the human race and He assures us that only if "the heavens can be measured" or the sun, moon and stars cease to exist, will "the seed of Israel...cease from being a nation before Me for ever" (Jer.31:35-36).



Longevity before the Flood

John Ecob

The ages of men before the Flood has puzzled some and it has been suggested that their years may have been shorter than our years. Methuselah lived 969 years whereas today the average lifespan in Australia is just over 80 years; one-twelfth of the age of Antediluvians.

If Antediluvians years were shorter and they really only lived the same life span as us then the year would have to be one month long and summer and winter would occur each month.

The earth would need to travel the 584 million miles (940 million km) around the sun 12 times faster.

The earth is travelling around the sun at 67,000 mph and would need to increase to $12 \times 67,000 = 804,000$ mph. After the Flood it would need to slow at a variable rate until longevity reduced to about 80 years. It is much easier to believe the Bible that men lived longer before the Flood.

The great ages of Antediluvians is supported by the fact that after the Flood **longevity reduced on a sliding scale**; first to approximately 450 years and then 239 years reducing down to 120 years at the time of the Exodus suggesting that changes took place at the time of the Flood that shortened human and animal life. These changes may have been environmental, hereditary or both.

There is evidence that before the Flood the earth enjoyed greater protection from Gamma-ray bursts that kill living cells and damage the protective ozone layer. A canopy of water (cloud) existed before the Flood (Gen.1:7) and it would seem that when the Flood came the canopy was removed as the *"windows of heaven were opened"*.

Protection was thus reduced after the Flood accounting for a reduction in lifespan.

Other Ancient Records

The Bible is not the only document that indicates men lived very long lives before the Flood; ancient Chaldean records agree with the Bible that there were **10 generations** from Adam to the Flood and even give the names of each of the kings.

The length of the reign of each Antediluvian King is not however, given in years but in a **unit called Sari** which archeologist thought had a value of 3,600 years and when multiplied by the number of Saris gave a total of 432,000 years from Adam to the Flood!

Later the length of a Sari was found to be only $18\frac{1}{2}$ years. When this value was applied to the ages of each of the ten Kings given in the Chaldean record the total period from Adam to the Flood was only 2,220 years; still higher than the Biblical figure of 1,656 years, but supporting the fact that the Antediluvians lived very long lives.

It is significant that:

- i) both records support the creation of the first man.
- ii) both records agree that the earth was destroyed by a universal Flood.
- iii) both records agree that there were 10 generations from the first man to the Flood.
- iv) both records agree that the Antediluvians lived to a great age.

As one would expect, the entire human race after a universal Flood would be **fully aware of of**

BIBLICAL ANTEDILUVIAN PATRIARCHS	Year of the Birth of the eldest son of each Patriarch according to the			CHALDEAN ANTEDILUVIAN KINGS	SARI		
	Hebrew Pentateuch	Samaritan	Septuagint		Reckoned at $18\frac{1}{2}$ years	Their Reigns in Sari	Reckoned at 3,600 years
Adam	130	130	230	Alorus	185	10	36,000
Seth	105	105	205	Alaparus	55.5	3	10,0
Enos	90	90	190	Almelon	240.5	13	46,800
Cainan	70	70	170	Ammenon	222	12	43,200
Mahalaleel	65	65	165	Amegalarus	333	18	64,800
Jared	162	62	162	Daonus	185	10	36,000
Enoch	65	60	165	Edoranchus	333	18	64,800
Methusalah	187	67	167	Amempsinus	185	10	36,000
Lamech	182	53	188	Otiartes	148	8	28,800
Noah's age at Flood	600	600	600	Xisuthrus	333	18	64,80
Total	1,656	1,302	2,242		2,220	120	432,00

the Flood. Parents would relate the facts to their children for many generations. Shem lived for 500 years after the Flood to give an eye-witness account. Abraham was 150 years old when Shem died and Jacob was 40 years of age when Shem died.

Two other ancient records describe the period of history from the creation of Adam to the Flood; these were **translations** of the Hebrew text and both agree there were 10 generations from Adam to the Flood but they have different ages for some of the Antediluvian patriarchs. Nevertheless they agree on the major items.

The corrupt Samaritan Pentateuch has only 1,302 years from Adam to the Flood and the 278BC Greek translation from the Hebrew text known as the Septuagint, allows 2,242 years from Adam to the Flood. We must remember that both these records are only translations that have suffered corruption and **the original Hebrew is the accurate Divinely inspired record.**